

The following is a summary of things for Council to know. This is for your information only. There are no actions or decisions from council.

- I. Opening Reflection
- II. Staffing Update
- III. Calendar and Communications

I. Opening Reflection

Daily Lectionary reading for Dec 14, 2021 ***Isaiah 11:1-9 The Peaceful Kingdom***

11 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

6 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

II. Staffing Update

I begin with saying "Thank You" to:

- Suzanne Cimochoowski, Sam Lyman, and Lyn Singleton for providing office coverage over the last month.
- Charlie Bottieri, Suzanne Cimochoowski, Carl Davis, Bob Kirk, and Sam Lyman for assisting in hiring and helping to get Jessica Weaver Boose settled in.
- Jen Beck, Rick LaMarre, Sam Lyman, Leilani Nixon, and Paula Wilmot who served as our search team for the Music Director.

Communications Coordinator

Jessica Weaver Boose has agreed to act as an interim communications coordinator through the beginning of February. This will get us through the intensive period of December and the congregational meeting. During this time, we will continue to recruit a permanent hire and Jessica will discern if she wishes to remain beyond February.

Jessica has worked in two congregational churches in Massachusetts as a Youth Leader and has experience with communications and social media. She grew up in Woodstock and moved back a little over a year ago.

Jessica is staff and is working no more than 10 hours a week. She will be out next week for a family vacation. She is using the Office@FirstChurchWoodstock.org email.

Music Director

Maria Sangiolo-Jessurun has accepted an offer to be our part-time music director! Maria is familiar with FCCW and known by many in the community as an educator and an accomplished performer. She works at Rectory School as a learning specialist and has coordinated the music program for the Vanilla Bean Café for 14 years. She has recorded several children's CDs and toured nationally earlier in her career.

Maria is gifted and feels called to have music in her life in a meaningful way. She sees music as a way of ministering to people in the congregation and community. The search team unanimously agreed to offer Maria the position. She will begin after Christmas.

We have agreed to journey together over the next six months with openness and an eye to creating vibrant, joyful, intergenerational worship services as well as a meaningful music program that feeds the spirits of people in our greater community as well.

By way of clarification, Maria is stepping into the role as Music Director. She will help us create more participatory intergenerational worship. She is not tasked with faith formation or family ministry. In the budget conversation, you will see that we are planning to address these needs separately.

III. Calendar and Communications

The following will be communicated in our weekly emails, Share and elsewhere, however I am summarizing the following upcoming activities, so council is aware. There is no action necessary on the part of council.

- Dec 19 3pm Atwater-Donnelly Solstice Concert Harrison Hall or Sanctuary
- Dec 24 7:30pm Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols
- Dec 25 morning Christmas Eve Service available online
- Dec 26 – Jan 23 Leilani will be out, guest accompanists will help with worship
- Jan 2 10am Intergenerational Children's Pageant (Leslie and Ashley coordinating, parts available!)
- Jan 4 9 – noon Windham Association Council @ FCCW
- Jan 9 Lunch and Crunch following worship
- Jan 18 2:30pm Pie with Pastor
- Jan 18 6pm Pizza and Pie with Pastor
- Jan 23 Congregational Meeting following worship
- Jan 30 Rev. Emma Brewer-Wallin, SNEUCC Minister for Environment and Economic Justice preaching and 2nd hour conversation. Here her interview on SNEUCC <https://www.sneucc.org/newsdetail/conversation-with-rev-emma-brewer-wallin-15789962>

With Jessica's arrival, we have created the following chart to help coordinate the many communications in the coming weeks.

What	When	Where/Who
Weekly Email	Monday end of day	Send to Jessica
Bulletin Items	Sunday prior, end of day	Send to Pastor, Announcements to Jessica
Sunday Worship (items that alter the flow of worship)	No less than Sunday three weeks prior	Speak with Pastor, Leilani / Maria for Music
January Share	Dec 21	Send to Jessica
Annual Reports	Jan 9	Template in Google drive; or send to Jessica
February-March Share	Jan 19	Send to Jessica

In the near term, I continue to update the website. Though this too will be something that I will no longer be doing in the not-too-distant future.