

## Pastor's Report to Council June 2022

The following is a summary of things for Council to know. This is for your information only. There are no specific actions, motions or decisions needed by Council.

- I. Activities since we last met
- II. Upcoming Activities
- III. Staffing

### I. Activities since we last met

Although I do not ordinarily list such things in the Pastor's Report, I want to ensure that council is aware of the many activities that have occurred since we last met:

- Hired Children and Family Ministry Coordinator and a more permanent Communications Coordinator
- Google Workspace for Nonprofits
  - Established a Children and Family Ministry Group
  - Created an email for Heather
  - Explored setting up topical Google groups with Outreach, e.g. Racial Justice, Environment, etc.
- Restructuring Team 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour June 5
- Vision/Values Kick off May 15 and first home group June 12
- Worship themes planned through end of November
- Offered Memorial Day blessings at Hill Cemetery; invocation and benediction at Memorial Day celebration, invocation and blessing at Witness Stone installation
- Attended SNEUCC Racial Justice Training to meet Windham Association 5 year requirement
- Established an account to perform staff and volunteer background checks

### II. Upcoming Activities

June 16, 5pm Windham Association Annual Meeting (Mansfield) (see not from Liz)

June 18, SNEUCC Annual Meeting (registration has closed)

June 18, Creative Worship Team, 9am focus on September planning

**June 21 July/August Newsletter information due**

July 3, 9am at First, Rev. Sue preaching

July 10, 9am at First, Rev. Sue preaching

July 17, 9am at First, Rev. Kevin preaching

July 24, 9am at First, Rev. Kevin preaching

July 31, 9am at First, Rev. Sue preaching

August 7, 9am at East, Rev. Kevin preaching

August 14, 9am at East, Rev. Kevin preaching

**August 16, September/October Newsletter articles due**

August 21, 9am at East, Rev. Kevin preaching

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August 28, 9am at East, Rev. Sue preaching

September 4, 9am Labor Day weekend, worship at East Rev. Sue preaching

September 11, 10am Home Coming, worship at First

October 23, time?? Installation/Celebration of all who make ministry happen

My vacation schedule:

July 5 – July 11, Aug 22 – Sept 1, Oct 24 – Oct 31.

### III. Staffing

We are delighted that Lisa Morelli and Heather Lovely have joined our staff and Communications Coordinator and Children and Family Ministry Coordinator, respectively. Both will be working an average of 8 hours per week.

Lisa will be in the office Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am – 2pm.

This means that information for the **weekly email and worship bulletin** will need to be sent to Lisa no later than Wednesday at 9am. ([office@FirstChurchWoodstock.org](mailto:office@FirstChurchWoodstock.org))

Heather will spend some time during the summer to become familiar with families, leaders, our needs, and resources, and to plan the program for the next academic year. To have a successful program, we will need volunteers to help Lisa with the Sunday School programming to ensure that we are adhering to our safe church guidelines.

Maria is in discernment regarding her position as Music Director. There are a small number of changes that we are exploring that will help Maria balance her time and demands. I am prayerful that God's Spirit will continue to inspire and challenge us to think about these things together and in ways that open us up to be the church God is calling us to be today and into the future.

I have shared with the Trustees and the Deacons that we need to find a way to better balance the demands and expectations of the congregation. And I share the following points to illustrate why **restructuring and clarifying our values and vision are urgent, strategic priorities.**

Wisely, all three of these positions and that of the pastor have been reduced to fit with what the congregation can afford. In conversations that included the Trustees, Pastor, various effected ministry areas and council, we revised job descriptions, roles, and reduced responsibilities to adapt to our new realities.

However, congregant **expectations have not shifted.**