

## Pastor's Report to Council August 2022

### I. Changing the Order of Worship

The Creative Worship team have suggested that we begin worship with a reflective time accompanied by music, e.g., the organ or piano music. The objective is to help center us for worship.

Westfield and east have adopted similar approaches. And in both congregations the announcements occur at the start of the service.

For September we will experiment with this flow and adjust in the future as needed.

What this means?

Beginning September 11 we will offer the Welcome and then announcements. BEFORE we move into worship. If you have an announcement, please line up in the aisle as the bell is ringing us into worship.

### II. Recruiting Volunteers for Family and Children Ministry

We are excited that Heather is getting to know more of the families.

As a congregation, we will need to support the program by recruiting volunteers as our safe church policy requires two adults in the space when working with children. If you have children, grandchildren, friends or neighbors who might be good candidates to help out, please let Heather know.

### III. Ministry Plans and Budgeting (a brief introduction)

In conversation with the Trustees, I have proposed that we use Mission Based Budgeting approach for 2023. Mission Based Budgeting is also known as Ministry plans and narrative budgeting.

We would create plans and budgets for each of the major areas of ministry, e.g., worship, life-long learning, community and care, faith-in-action/service with others. Although restructuring and our vision initiative is still being developed, these areas support the further our current mission statement:

*We believe God calls us to: WORSHIP and PROCLAIM God's living presence, GROW in our awareness of God's love, CELEBRATE the fellowship of a loving, supportive community of friends, and CHALLENGE the Church and its members to use their gifts in service with the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the guide. (Mission Statement circa 1987.)*

existing Boards, Teams and Committees will be encouraged to reflect on these areas of ministry and identify ongoing items as well as new activities we might want to try in the coming year.

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We will hold a planning meeting for each of the ministry areas and create a consolidated plan and prioritized list for budgeted items, e.g., essential items, desired enhancements, and nice to have items. The consolidated plans and budgets will be sent to Trustees, who will work to balance the needs with available resources. The proposed plan and budget will subsequently be sent to council and approved by the congregation.

The results include:

- A plan for each ministry
- A narrative description of plans to help the congregation understand how their gifts and offerings will help us minister within and beyond our congregation and community.
- A better understanding of the costs of various activities and ministries,
- A meaningful way to allocate monies based on priorities (and cut back budget allocations as needed).

Items like salaries, insurance, utilities, facilities, etc. would continue to be budgeted through the trustees using the current format.

### IV. Upcoming Activities

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

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

**August 22, September/October Newsletter articles due**

*Aug 22 – Sept 1, REV KEV on Vacation*

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

September 24, 9am – 4:30pm SNEUCC Racial Justice Summit (in person and online)  
Glastonbury

September 25, 10am Baptism Andrew and Joseph Hirt

October 1, 1pm Bond/Boies Wedding

October 8, 10am Animal Blessing

October 16 Date to decide if we will hold a Christmas Pageant and if so when (Heather, Families, Pastor)

**October 18, November/December Newsletter articles due**

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

Oct 24 – Oct 30, *REV KEV on Vacation*

October 30, 10am All Saints, Rev. Debbie preaching

December 24, Christmas Eve (Saturday) 7:30pm

December 25, Christmas Day is a Sunday this year (I'm inclined to prerecord and post an online worship experience, instead of hold service)

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### V. Google Workspace Migration Update

Completed:

- 1) Pre-existing office account [FirstChurchWoodstock@gmail.com](mailto:FirstChurchWoodstock@gmail.com) merged into [Office@FirstChurchWoodstock.org](mailto:Office@FirstChurchWoodstock.org).

What this means:

- a) Remove the above GMAIL.COM account from your email lists and contact.
- b) Church Calendar updates need to be sent to Lisa
- c) If you want/need to be able to add items to the calendar Lisa will need to grant you access to the new/merged calendar

In Process:

- 2) Moving Pre-existing Worship Google Drive into Workspace

We cannot change ownership for Google Drives that were initially created outside workspace. Instead, we need to create new drives in workspace, move the content, and invite people to use the new shared drive.

What this means:

- a) From September onward, we will use a new Google Drive (WORSHIP PLANNING) instead of the pre-existing FCCW WORSHIP drive
- b) Existing users will be notified this week that the pre-existing FCCW WORSHIP google drive is being replaced by a new shared drive in Workspace, WORSHIP PLANNING
- c) Deacon, Creative Worship team, and musicians will be automatically invited to the new Worship Planning drive
- d) anyone who wishes to view and or contribute to worship planning will be granted access upon request
- e) existing content for September and October 2022 has been moved to the new shared drive
- f) Limited worship planning content for October 2020 – August 2022 will be moved. This includes Orders of Worship, Music Sheets/Lyrics, and items to support special services like intergenerational worship and Christmas Eve.
- g) Unedited Worship Videos of songs, preludes, and music will be preserved/stored on the external hard drive attached to the office computer (to support reuse)
- h) other materials will not be moved or archived.
- i) the pre-existing FCCW Worship drive will be deleted by November 1

- 3) Moving Pre-existing Council Google Drive into Workspace

What this means:

- a) From September onward, we will use a new Google Shared Drive (COUNCIL) instead of the pre-existing FCCW COUNCIL drive
- b) Existing users will be notified next week that the pre-existing Google drive is being replaced by a new shared drive in Workspace
- c) You will get a new link to post and review Council related content

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### 4) Using Google Meets instead of Zoom:

Zoom account comes up for renewal in late October. Plan is to begin using Google Meets this month and for Meetings beginning in September. You can find helpful videos, tutorials, etc. for using Google Meets here:

<https://support.google.com/a/users/answer/9282720?hl=en>

Other items to be planned:

- 5) Exploring the use of Google Groups for Creative Worship, Family Ministry, Prayer Requests and others
- 6) Replacing InstaChurch Directory with Workspace
  - a. Posting a PDF in a Shared Drive, e.g., Communications
  - b. Uploading contact information from Church Windows to a shared directory in Workspace (need to work on process to ensure MailChimp, Church Windows and Workspace are periodically synchronized)
- 7) Creating distribution lists for various teams
- 8) Moving other drives, pre-existing emails, etc. to Workspace
  - a. Council
  - b. Deacons
  - c. Trustees
  - d. Others?