

A. Upcoming Activities and Dates

May 17	5p	Academy rededication of Bowen Building (giving Invocation)
May 27	10a	Memorial Day (Hill Cemetery blessing)
Jun 4	7p	Online Windham Association Annual Meeting and possible Ecclesiastical Council
Jun 5	5:30 p	Justice, Revitalization, and Leadership Storrs UCC
Jun 6	2p	Elliot Planning Meeting
Jun 9	9a-3p	Offsite all church vision retreat at Crystal Pond
Jun 21	9a-4p	SNEUCC Annual Meeting UMASS Amherst
Jun 21	12 - 2p	Memorial service Dee and Denny Morrisette

I will be in Winsted for an SNEUCC Committee on Ministry gathering Wed May 22.

B. Ministry Update

1. Faith Formation

Bible Study held its final session for the season Tues. May 14. The group is exploring topics for the fall and when to start up again.

Lisa Haupt is leading a labyrinth walk Wed. May 22 as a way of intentionally opening up to God's vision.

2. Faith In Action

We've had a busy and fulfilling spring calendar of events. Earth Day service was well received, the Quiet Corner Pride booth was visited by many, and we've begun the Monday Workdays as part of the loneliness ministry.

Charles has organized an intergenerational event for June 1. And plans are to have a presence at the town Wide Yard sale June 21.

Ginny, Bruce S., and Pastor Kevin attended a workshop/conversation Wed May 8 exploring Justice, leadership development and revitalization. The focus of the workshop was to intentionally learn how to foster conversations that explore challenges and invite us to address the systemic challenges to justice in our communities. The premise is that most congregations focus on charity and advocacy, but do not know how to effectively work toward justice.

The short-term goal of the meeting was to begin the conversation and encourage the conversation to continue, the long term objective is to gage interest in forming a county-wide justice network. The Next Meeting is Jun 5 at 5:30 at Storrs UCC.

Since February we have hosted monthly meetings of community and faith leaders to work toward an event this September to commemorate the 350 anniversary of John Elliot's visit to the area. Though planning continues, we are looking at possible events Sept 15 in the afternoon on the South Common and at the Baptist Church, an event Sept 16 at pulpit rock to engage the schools and mark

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the date of the visit at the marker, and community conversations led by peoples from the Nipmuc nation. Next planning meeting is June 6, 2 pm the library.

3. Care Ministry and the Deacons

We had a productive and positive meeting with the principals of the schools in Woodstock. Our goal was to make them aware of the Benevolence Fund and discuss other opportunities to support families, teach, and students.

Jun 2 we will acknowledge Christina's service as a deacon, as she stayed on to help with the transition and is now stepping down from leadership.

4. Worship

Worship is planned through June, except for June 9 retreat. We do have, however, some ideas regarding the flow of the service and music.

The Summer planning team met in early May. We have the list of people who will be preaching each Sunday in July. They have been asked to provide their text, focus, and any suggestions they may have regarding music by May 30. They have also been asked if they desire to create the prayers for the liturgy or if the team will do so.

For August, I will offer the messages for the first three Sundays, Noah for the last Sunday in August.

East hopes to have an interim in place by Labor Day, if not, I am on standby to lead the service at East Sept 1.

C. Communications

A new web page has been created for Faith In Action that highlights the new structure.

We updated the FCCW brochure in time for Quiet Corner Pride, as well.

Ministry Moments have been well received. And we should work on a schedule for May through June to highlight various ministries, May 28, June 2 (deacons), Jun 16, 23, and/or 30.

D. Other Updates

With Pastor Sue's retirement, I have agreed to chair the Windham Association, beginning officially in June.

I will take time for a silent retreat at the Spencer Abbey July 22 to 26.

I will also take some time off midweek in mid-August the week of August 15, and the last week of August sometime between Aug 19 and the 30, likely the 25 – 29.