

West Church News

Church Council Report

Main points from 2/20/20 Church Council meeting:

Safe Church Training will be on Wednesday 3/4 at 6pm in Tenney/Roper Hall for Sunday School Teachers and assistants, all are welcome to attend. An additional training can be scheduled following services if desired.

Safety issue – we need to make sure that everyone understands that pictures are being taken during church services for the purpose of posting them on Face Book and on the WCC website. The 4 people authorized to post pictures on FB and website will meet to develop a policy to determine rules for posting pictures.

Church By-Laws need to be reviewed this year.

All Boards will review the portion of the By-Laws most relevant to their work and make recommendations with the Pastor.

The Council will review all other sections of the By-Laws. 20 minutes will be devoted to this work at all Council meetings until the full By-Laws are reviewed.

Proposed changes to the By-Laws will be reviewed and approved by the Congregation at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting – a plan was developed to ensure that the Annual Report is made available to all for review at least 10 days before the Annual Meeting in 2021.

Stained Glass Restoration – Church Council will review the side-by-side comparison of the 2 bids to determine which bid will be accepted. Moving forward with fund-raising will need to wait until a financial plan for the church is developed.

Church Council will continue to meet on the 1st Thursday of every month except July. The snow date for winter meetings is the Sunday following the cancelled meeting.

Recycling materials: only the items listed on the wall by the recycling bin can be recycled. Anything with food on it is trash.



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About West Church

- We meet every Sunday at 10
- Open and Affirming Church, Everyone is Welcome
- Food Pantry hours: Friday: 10-12. All are welcome.
- Our Mission: "To increase love and hope for all through growing faith in Christ"
- Our Pastor: Rev. Dr Rhonda Macleod

Published by:
Phil Lawrence
Send letters to:
Rhonda MacLeod
<west.pastor19@gmail.com>
<http://www.westcongr.org/>

Pastor's Page

March is finally here! I really like this month. Even though it still often snows, will melt quickly. This is the month where the sugar houses are making syrup (and maple cotton candy...). T. This is the month where it is noticeably lighter and lighter at the end of every day. This is the month where SPRING arrives!!! Spring....with it's promise of new life. Spring with flowers and lilacs, warm days and new leaves, green grass and the return of ducks and geese. Spring when everything seems fresh and new and energy returns to the world.

March is also the time of year when we observe Lent – the exact opposite of all I just named. Lent is a quiet time of introspection. It is a time when we think about how we are human, and we make mistakes. It is a time when we think about the impermanence of things and our own mortality. Lent is a time when we realize that we are not perfect and that in our imperfection we have hurt others. Lent is the time set aside for us to reflect on all of this and to come humbly before God and ask for forgiveness. We come before God and ask, in the ancient words of a psalm "Make in me a clean heart O God..." We ask for help in living our lives so that we can love more.



We set aside forty days for reflection on our lives. Forty days to think about who we are and how we are in the world. Forty days to daily ask for forgiveness from God and from those we, in our human imperfection, caused pain. We do all of this, not only to have a clean start each year, but to prepare ourselves for Holy Week and Easter. We get ourselves ready for the excitement of Palm Sunday, and for the gathering and celebration of Communion on Holy Thursday. We need this time to be ready to contemplate the events we remember on Good Friday. How Jesus, a man of love and peace, was crucified because He put God before all else and called for His people (and us today) to do the same. The sins of the world, sins of power and greed, sins of pride and thinking that people are above God and God's way, sins that we are a part of by the way that we live, crucified Jesus on that dark day so long ago.

This March, while you celebrate the return of Spring, I encourage you to immerse yourself in Lent as well. Take the time to reflect on your life. Ask God to be with you. Ask God and those you may have hurt for forgiveness. Ask God to be with you in your humanness and brokenness and to heal you. Take the time each day to reflect on what is coming – Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday - and seek for the deeper meaning to be found in these events.

Also, please know that God IS with you and that God will forgive you and create in you a new and clean heart. May you have a reflective and blessed Lent.

Blessings

Pastor Rhonda

March Interim Process Update

We are finally getting down to the real work of this interim time by beginning the process of looking at our by-laws. I don't think that this will take more than a couple of months. Once we are past this piece we can begin looking at some of the other tasks of this time.

If you are on a board or committee, please bring a copy of the by-laws to your next meeting so that we can review them and make changes if we need to.

Thank you

Pastor Rhonda

RECYCLING ITEMS

Empty Aerosol Cans
Aluminum Foil
Bottles
Brown Bags
Cartons
Cardboard
Folders
Glass
Jars
Junk Mail
Magazines
Notebooks
Newspaper
Paper
Paperback Books
Paperboard
Phone Books
Plastic (#1-7)

2020 Pledges

Amount

Totals	2020	2019
Pledges	23	34
Amounts	50364	56136.04

Pamela J Brett

March 15, 1958 to February 14, 2020

Pamela J Brett passed away on February 14, 2020 after a period of declining health.

Pam was an active member of West Church for many years. She joined the church in 1990. She was active as a board member, serving our youth, chairing the search committee following the retirement of Pastor Charlie Heslem and serving as Moderator. She also staffed the nursery for several years faithful providing a respite for young parents to practice their faith.

Joy Potter talked about her friend Saturday at her Celebration of Life. She described how Pam was a stellar scrabble opponent and started a transcription service while she was also employed by the state in order to provide a better life for her daughter Jackie.

Joy also described how Pam pressed her to have a colonoscopy which saved her life and how Pam's encounter with cancer at about the same time was a challenge for the remainder of her life. Pam was a devoted Christian and helped many during her too short 61 years with us.

Pastor Rhonda assured us she was quickly embraced by God as one of the faithful members of His family.

Diaconate

The Deacons moved their meeting date for February and March, we will be back to our regular schedule of the first Sunday on April 6.

We invited potential new members to a meet and greet with us and three folks attended. We will be welcoming new members on March 22nd.

Pastor Rhonda and the choir suggested a celebration Sunday before we enter the more somber season of lent. Planning moved forward with a Hawaiian theme and Ukulele music. The Deacons thought that sounded like fun I think folks got into the spirit and we had an uplifting service.

Ash Wednesday services were planned and kept simple with just a short service as we enter the season of lent. The congregation is encouraged to be mindful of their journey as a christian, not necessarily to give up something for lent, but to look at how we behave. It may be as simple as saying please and thank-you to people you encounter, It may be trying to be more slow to anger or more patient with others. One of the neat ideas I saw was get rid of one "thing" in your life each day of lent. I am sure we all have some clothing items, among other "stuff" that we could part with. The clothes could help us fill our clothing barn. There are neat ideas online for families and individuals if you need a spark to get you thinking.

We discussed using more inclusive language and changed the word "Father" to "Creator" in a couple of spots and received feedback that the congregation did not like this so we changed it back.

Another issue discussed was the Facebook page and who may post, how we take photos/videos and getting written permissions for children. We need to make sure people know if their picture is taken and if it may be posted. We are discussing the best way to do this. A lot of folks enjoy seeing what is happening at church when they can't get here but we do not want to endanger anyone who may not want their image made public.

Respectfully submitted

Joy Potter

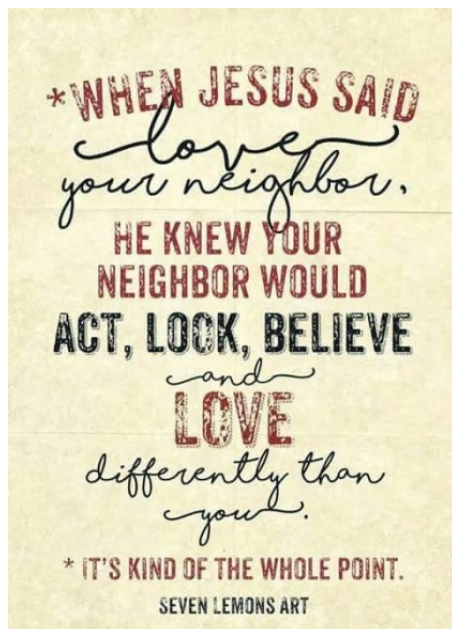
Christian Education

The Board will meet on Wednesday, March 4th at 6:30 PM. The meeting will begin with Safety Training. In addition to the board members and teachers, anyone who has not had recent safety training is welcome to attend this very important training.

Following the training, the board will discuss our curriculum and bring forth ideas to improve the experience for our students. Also on the agenda is an Easter egg hunt and recognition Sunday in May.

MARCH 2020

SUNDAY Ushers/Flowers	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNES- DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 David	2	3 Girl Scouts 5:45-7:15 pm JH Clara Cleveland room B Witham 978-5433 (1 st , 3 rd & 5 th Tues.)	4 CE 6:30 PM TR	5 Church Council 5:15-7:00 pm T/R Hall	6 Food Pantry 10-12 q Friday	7
8 Planning mtg. Holiday Fair 11:30 am	9	10 Game Night 6:30-8 pm Puim ends	11	12 <u>Brett</u> Pastor Office Hours Thursdays by appt. 1-6 pm 573-0039	13	14 <u>tentative date</u> Card Mak- ing T/R Hall 10 am
15 Missions	16	17 	18 IBEW 10 am Bob McNeff McKeage Rm 753-6679 3 rd Wed	19 Trustees 5-6  1 st Day Spring	20	21
22 New Members Sunday One Great Hour of Sharing offering	23	24 Bible Study 7-8:15	25	26 Paula	27	28
29 Diaconate	30 Girl Scouts 5:45-7:15 JH, Witham 978-5433	31 No Girl Scouts		Concord Monitor Contact- debspaulding@concordmonitor.com	Any questions or concerns call or email Pat Cutting 753-6648 pcutting@comcast.net	



Food Pantry— Ongoing Mission

	Households	Children
March	47	21
April	26	11
May	37	11
June	23	15
July	19	12
Aug	15	12
Sept	23	26
Oct	25	14
Nov	14	13
Dec	18	12
Jan	25	9
Feb	19	10
12 months	296	169
Total Value of Meals Last Year \$23,475.		



Bring your
favorite
game!



Join us for an evening of fun!



Game Night
and
Potluck
West Church

March 10, 2020

6:30 - 8:00

Hutchins Street
Entrance



Cancellation Policy:

If the NHTI (Concord's Community College) cancels evening classes, Game Night is cancelled!

