

The First Church in Weymouth

17 Church Street Weymouth, MA 02189



The Winter Annual Meeting

January 31, 2021

for

Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2020

Interim Minister's Report

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We have begun another year albeit very differently. It was just after our Ash Wednesday Service that we had to suspend in-person worship due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Let us reflect on how we managed to succeed in God's mission as a church.

Prior to the closing we had begun a Bible Study reading and discerning the Book of Job. There were two sessions on Weds: 1pm and 7pm. Each session was well attended, and we engaged in reflective dialog upon completion of each chapter. Thank you for your interest!

Guided by The Holy Spirit, we hit the ground running. Talk about OJT (on the job training)! Necessity truly is the mother of invention. Thanks to all of you who trusted in and believed that God would find a way for us "keep a go in" with weekly worship services. We formed a nucleus of individuals that made a commitment to be present each week. The purpose was to create and produce live-stream versions of a modified worship service to honor God and to supplement the heartfelt absence of in-person worship.

From that birthed "The First Church Worship Team" comprised of: June & Mark Simmons, David & Debi Llewelyn, Jane Cleary-Kirk, Ralph Ferguson and yours truly. I feel compelled to say that each one of these faithful servants of God and First Church unswervingly stepped up and with spirit filled enthusiasm along with an occasional HUH?, forged ahead sharing careful thoughts and approaches to provide all our members and friends similar but a little different, renditions of the Church Calendar Year. Words of gratitude and appreciation will never exceed my heartfelt joy and complete love and respect for each and every one of you. Maybe we could add some food into the mix, too!

Why not? We have a huge parking lot...so... "Let's do it!" and together with all who attended, we did! What a blast!! I love live and I really love being outside! Worship, Communion, Annual Meeting and food, too!

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100

As if that was not enough. Mmm....

Palm Sunday = palms, Easter Sunday = lilies & tulips, Mother's Day = love & food, Father's Day = love & byof/b, Thanksgiving = FOOD and lots of it!

Thank you all who participated in every way to implement and facilitate each event. A special "Thank you" to Don Trudeau and the Kitchen Krew for shopping, preparing and serving these two extra special drive through meals.

Abbondanti!

We prayerfully and cautiously opened for in-person worship for a few weeks. That was so refreshing to see all who attended. I know it was difficult to stay home during this time and you were in our prayers. Everyone's personal choice to safeguard one's health and safety is paramount especially during this ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Our Advent and Christmas celebrations were blessed with music, candles and sharing in God's word. We once again welcomed the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in this new world with old world challenges. For a moment in time, we all stood still quietly holding the "light of the world" in our hands singing "Silent Night, Holy Night", to welcome our Immanuel, God with us.

May God be with us still to guide us, comfort us, hold us and heal us in His arms of unconditional love. If ever we needed you God, we need you now. This past year has been both a challenge and a blessing. A challenge in seeking ways to fulfill my obligation as your Interim Minister and a blessing by being called to do so. This would be impossible without your love and support. We may not always get it right but exploring new ideas, trying and implementing them and then learning from them is always better than just waiting around.

The peace of Christ be with you and may God be with you until we meet again.

Yours in Christ,

John

Rev John A. Robie

Interim Minister

The First Church in Weymouth

The First Church in Weymouth 2020 Church Council Annual Report

Our Church Council meets the second Tuesday of every month, except July and August, at 7:30PM typically in the small hall and anyone is invited to attend our meetings. This year started off normally but with the Covid 19 impact in March most of our meetings over the past year have been virtual meetings via Zoom. We also continued to meet through the Summer months to ensure effective communication within our Church Community. The members of our Church Council during 2020 were as follows:

Mary Chenette: Church Council elected	Robie Nickerson: Auditor
Dick Sharp: Church Council elected	Karen Keenan: Financial Secretary
Pam Pepe: Moderator Appointee	Ray Bean: Trustees Chair
Angela Service: Moderator Appointee	June Simmons: Deacons Chair
Don Trudeau: Pastor Appointee	Lisa Snow: Christian Education Chair
Tom Wilburn: Pastor Appointee	Ralph Fergason: Publicity Chair
Lisa Snow: Sunday School Superintendent	Dick Sharp: Finance Chair
Gene Hunt: Youth Director	Dorothy Pflaumer: Missions & Outreach Chair
Franklin Pepe: Clerk	John Robie: Interim Pastor
Mark Simmons: Treasurer	David Llewelyn: Moderator

Our Church's normal operation has been drastically impacted over the past year and much of the Church Council's effort has been in working through and supporting the Church during the Covid 19 Pandemic. Our Church has done a great job of reacting and supporting each other through the challenging year of 2020. Examples of this include supporting and adhering to safe practices when we were able to meet in person, moving forward with nominating and forming a Pastor Research Committee, creating and implementing a Congregational Survey to support creation of our Church Profile, Mother's Day Lunch drive through, significant progress in creating an online presence and streaming our worship services, multiple drive in Church services, drive in Fall Annual Meeting, small hall redesign, downstairs bathroom and hallway upgrades, collages of our Church Family in the Abigail Adams entrance hall, a turkey dinner drive through and our second annual One Hour of Peace.

We continue to work with John Robie, our Interim Minister, this past year and really appreciate the great support that John has given our Church with all our activities over this challenging year. Our covenant with John is for the position of Interim Pastor and the intent is to extend this covenant with John until we are ready as a Congregation to call our next Settled Pastor. In our discussions with John on filling the Interim Pastor position, the Diaconate made it clear that John's acceptance of the Interim Pastor position would not preclude him from also being considered for the Settled Pastor position.

Our Church made nominations and formed a Pastor Research Committee early in the year to define what our Church is looking for in our next Settled Pastor. The Pastor Research Committee created and distributed a

survey to our Congregation during the Summer to help in creating a First Church in Weymouth Church Profile that will be presented for Congregational approval at our Winter Meeting. With the acceptance of this profile, the Pastor Research Committee plans to make a motion to terminate this committee so that the Church can move forward in forming a Search Committee for our next Settled Pastor. The coming year will be an exciting time for our Church.

Our year was concluded with the nominations for our 2021 Committees and Boards submitted to the Congregation for approval. With much of our interaction over the past year virtual, continuing to staff our Committees and Boards has been extra challenging. We are looking forward to getting back to normal operations at some point in 2021 with continued good discussion and collaboration in determining how we move forward as a Church! There are significant changes underway at First Church in Weymouth and I appreciate the caring and support that you all have given to our Congregation during this historic and transitional time for our Church. There continue to be open opportunities to get involved in the various committees and boards of our Church so if you are willing to serve in the broader mission of our Church, please reach out to me or any of our Church Council members for additional information.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Llewelyn, Moderator

THE FIRST CHURCH IN WEYMOUTH

REPORT OF THE DIACONATE

JANUARY 31, 2021

"It is as exciting time at First Church. We have a great Interim Pastor and a willing and happy congregation. We have new ideas and so many people willing to help. We are approaching Lent again and we hope to have some great new additions beginning with an Ash Wednesday service. Stay tuned for all the details."

This is how my report ended in 2020. We did have the Ash Wednesday Service and it was wonderful. As we progressed further into Lent, we were all dealt a blow with the spread of a global pandemic. There is no play book, no instructions on how to deal with something like this. The news was changing everyday and it was always getting worse. Sadly, we were called upon to make an extremely fast and an incredibly sad decision. We shut down our church. It could not be helped not could the impact be denied. Thanks to some very quick thinking and some hard work, we became a remote church, coming into your home via Facebook and You Tube.

Lent was navigated and we even had a drive thru Palm Sunday where we had our service and after the service, we handed out palms and hello's by driving around the church driveway. We did the same thing on Easter Sunday by handing out the Tulips and Lily's people had ordered. We continued our remote services every Sunday and even added a Wednesday Evening Prayer Service. During the summer it became necessary to set up some in-person worship services to see if we were able to deal safely with our current restrictions. We had two in person worship services which went very smoothly and safely.

As the summer turned to fall, we had an outside "Family Picnic Sunday" held in our parking lot. We social distanced and brought our own lunches and a great time was enjoyed by all who attended. We then hosted our Annual Meeting on October 4, 2020 also in our parking lot. It was then we began discussing reopening the church for in person worship. With careful planning, and organizing, we opened our doors for in person worship on October 25, 2020. We were limited to no more than 50 people. Social distancing and masks were the proper attire for a Sunday at church. We also had to begin taking pre-registrations. I know how foreign that sounds, but we were (are) required to do that for the purposes of contact tracing.

All went well through the fall and before we knew it, it was Advent. We enjoyed a beautifully decorated church and a more "normal" feeling in our worship. We had our second annual Hour of Peace on December 19, 2020. We also had a beautiful Christmas Eve service. Sadly, this new "normal" came to a screeching halt just after Christmas as the spread of the virus became too fast and dangerous. The numbers continued to rise at an alarming rate. At the January diaconate meeting, it was voted to close the church to in person worship until further notice. Please know this is not ideal, nor a move that was made lightly. Our most profound hope is to be back worshipping together in the future.

As we look forward to 2021, and begin to prepare for Lent, it is my sincere hope we can all be together for Easter Sunday on April 4, 2021 and beyond. We have so much to look forward to. Currently, I wish to thank some of the deacons whose terms are up. We will be saying good-bye to Pat Couper and Rob Snow and thank them for a job well done. We will also be saying good- bye to Janese and Gene Hunt and welcome in their new role as Senior Deacons.

As always, please feel free to contact me at any time. I am always available to answer any questions or to discuss any issues you may have or want to share. I have been trying to reach out with cards and calls to let you all know we are still here and very much interested in what is going on with you.

Let us all pray for a kinder and gentler 2021.

Blessings to you all~

Respectively submitted,

June Simmons, Chair



Helping Hands.....together we can!!!

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH REPORT

2020 is not a year that any of us want repeated. Missions Committee began the year making plans and anticipating upcoming events.....and then along came Covid19! This is when the saying "Life is what happens while you're making other plans" becomes reality! So we adjust!

Together, First Church family and friends have once again overcome obstacles and reached out to those in need of our help.

- Organized by Marilyn Wilburn, through mail and online contribution set up by Mark Simmons, \$1,300 was donated by church family (and matched) for the annual Lenten Heifer project.
- We were still able to prepare and donate bag lunches each month to Father Bill's (with the help of Bill Pflaumer since the committee wasn't able to be together)
- Elaine Bean kept in contact with the Friends of the Homeless shelter in Weymouth, and brought baby items as needed.
- Karen Keenan organized the Christmas Gift Stars for the Friends of the Homeless online. Everyone delivered their gifts to the church and Karen and Leo delivered them to the Friends office for distribution to the families
- Church Family loaded the church Christmas Tree with hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and socks and they were taken to both Weymouth Youth and Family Services and Father Bills.
- Sandy Welch knitted baby blankets for baby baskets and Family Services.

Although several planned events were not possible in 2020, we will be hopeful that the months to come will see a sense of normalcy return, and we can again add our annual rummage sale, Church World Service projects, and breakfast with Santa to our list.

On behalf of the Missions and Outreach Committee, Thank you all!

Dorothy Pflaumer, Chairperson

The First Church in Weymouth

Christian Education Committee

Annual Report 1/31/2021

The CE committee met in January and February of 2020 with much anticipation of our upcoming planned Jerusalem Village which would have been held on April 5, 2020. Unfortunately we were faced with the Covid 19 pandemic and plans were put on hold.

The CE committed communicated through email to make decisions we felt were in the best interest of the church. We cancelled plans for Jerusalem Village, we did not have our annual Children's Day/ All Church Picnic and made the decision to not have Sunday School classes until further notice.

I believe we had all hoped that we could have our events in 2021, but here we are still faced with the same challenges of 2020 due to the pandemic. We are looking forward to when we can begin to plan for these events again.

Our Pastor offered Bible study in the afternoon and evening during Lent in 2020 prior to the pandemic. He now has offered a link to Read the Bible in a Year on his weekly email and I hope those interested have clicked on the link.

We are blessed and give thanks for all who participated in the Christian education at the First Church in Weymouth especially those families who brought their children or grandchildren to First Church and the many kind people who volunteer in our programs and committee work. We look forward to when we can resume our usual activities. Until then, stay safe.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Snow, Chair

Financial Secretary's Report

In 2020, it was my pleasure to again serve as Financial Secretary for First Church in Weymouth.

2020 was a year of unprecedented activities and decisions for First Church in Weymouth. Thanks to the initiative and commitment of the church membership we have negotiated through the suspension of in-church services and socials, and the initiation of online services, drive-thru dinners and Zoom meetings.

The good news is, despite the fears of the pandemic, the political unrest and the racial divides of the past year, the life of the church remains vital and vibrant. We recognize more than ever the importance of being part of a church community and have continued to practice our faith through regular giving. First Church in Weymouth continues to thrive because of all of you who, like Abraham, are blessed to be a blessing. We thank you for your continued support.

As usual the Finance Committee and Financial Secretary successfully performed the weekly banking and reporting responsibilities for Church income, including missions giving, building maintenance donations, church rentals and special donations and events, as well as general giving and donations to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Donors received consolidated giving statements semi-annually as recommended by the Church Council.

New this year is an online option for giving through the tithe application. We are grateful to Mark Simmons for establishing and administering this application.

2021 offering envelopes, which include weekly envelopes for contributions to the General Fund, as well as monthly pink envelopes for contributions to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, have been distributed.

I want to thank the Finance Committee for their willingness to serve as needed and their commitment to providing accurate accounting of First Church's income: Laura Anderson, Fred Bonk, David Llewelyn, Robie Nickerson, Mary Obey, Anita Sharp, and Richard Sharp.

As always, if you have any questions or comments about the collection and recording of church funds, please feel free to talk to me or email me at kandlkeenan@comcast.net

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Keenan

Financial Secretary

The First Church in Weymouth Church Polity Roster

-Proposed as of January 31, 2021

-(mo/year) = end of term

Church Council

Ex officio:

Moderator
Pastor
Associate Pastor
Clerk
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Auditor
Diaconate Chair
Trustees Chair
CE Chair
Finance Chair
M&O Chair
Publicity Chair
Sunday School Superintendent
Youth Director

At large: 4-year terms

Elected

1 Mary Chenette (1/2025)

2 Open

Moderator Appointees

1 Pam Pepe (9/1/2021)

2 Angela Service (2/3/2023)

Pastor Appointees

1 Don Trudeau (5/9/2021)

2 Tom Wilburn (5/9/2021)

Board of Trustees: 4-year terms

Don Trudeau (1/2022)

Tom Wilburn (1/2022)

Ray Bean (1/2022)

Eric Remsen (1/2022)

Leo Keenan (1/2022)

Wayne Keith (1/2023)

Nancy Courage (1/2024)

Debi Llewelyn (1/2024)

Gene Hunt (1/2024)

Dick Sharp (1/2024)

Board of Deacons

Deacons: 4-year terms

Open

Open

Debi Llewelyn '14 (1/2022)

Franklin Pepe '14 (1/2022)

David Llewelyn '11 (1/2023)

Janice Canty '19 (1/2023)

Sue Belisle '19 (1/2023)

Chuck Belisle '19 (1/2023)

Mark Simmons '20 (1/2024)

Rob Snow '13 (1/2025)

Senior Deacons:

Janese Hunt, Gene Hunt,
Pat Couper, Dorothy Pflaumer,
Elaine Bean, Marilyn Field,
Annis Remsen, Marcia Stoddard,
Millie Keith, Judith Moore,
Dorinda Ferguson, Elaine Pepe,
June Simmons, Ray Bean,
Janet Trudeau, Marilyn Wilburn, Alison
Cushing, James Moore,
Don Trudeau, Ralph Ferguson,
Tom Wilburn, Wayne Keith,
Randy Cushing, Eric Remsen,
Don Pineau, Sr.

CE Committee: 3-year terms

Janese Hunt (1/2024)

Marcia Stoddard (1/2022)

Nancy Courage (1/2022)

Debi Llewelyn (1/2023)

Janet Trudeau (1/2023)

Annis Remsen (1/2024)

Sunday School Super, ex officio

Finance Committee: 3-year terms

Anita Sharp (1/2022)

Laura Anderson (1/2022)

Mary Obey (1/2023)

David Llewelyn (1/2023)

Fred Bonk (1/2023)

Richard Sharp (1/2024)

Robie Nickerson (1/2024)

M&O Committee: 3-year terms

Pam Marlowe (1/2022)
Karen Keenan (1/2022)
Sue Quinn (1/2022)
Chris Lento (1/2022)
Elaine Bean (1/2023)
Dorothy Pflaumer (1/2023)
Sandy Welsh (1/2023)
Millie Keith (1/2024)
Linda Glass (1/2024)
Marilyn Field (1/2024)
Marilyn Wilburn (1/2024)
Anita Sharp (1/2024)
Janice Canty (1/2024)

Church Officers: 3-year terms

Moderator: David Llewelyn (1/2024)
Clerk: Pam Pepe (1/2024)
Treasurer: Mark Simmons (1/2022)
Financial Sec: Karen Keenan (1/2024)
Auditor: Robie Nickerson (1/2022)

Publicity Committee: 3-year terms

Patti Lambert (1/2022)
Debi Llewelyn (1/2023)
Elaine Bean (1/2023)
Sue Belisle (1/2023)
Ralph Fergason (1/2024)
Secretary, ex officio

Church Staff:

Interim Pastor: John Robie
Music Director: Jane Cleary
Secretary: Lisa Snow
Custodian: Rob Snow
Sunday School Superintendent: Lisa Snow
Youth Director: Gene Hunt