

CHURCH OF CHRIST PEWS FLASH

AN UPDATE FROM COUNCIL, TEAMS AND STAFF
FEBRUARY 2022

Greetings from Pastor Erick:

Dear friends,

I write with a sense of joyful celebration of recent accomplishments (like our collaboration with the Norfolk Lion's Club to send dozens of boxes of household items to tornado victims in Kentucky, photo to right with Lions Susanne Funchion and Sandy Evans) as well as expectation of good things to come. Please take some time to reach out to others in our church to thank them for their service and leadership, and of course ask questions. Most of all, I hope you'll mark your calendar for things that inspire or excite you, especially as we approach Spring and the hopeful prospect of being together more often!



Call to the Budget Meeting – Sunday March 6 after worship - Q&A via Zoom Sat. March 5 at 9 AM -

Please plan to attend - either in person in Battell Chapel or via online - our Annual Budget Meeting after Sunday morning worship on March 6 (approximately 11 AM). We will vote on whether to approve a budget for 2022 as proposed by the Gifts and Finance Team. We will offer a Q&A session via Zoom on Saturday March 5 at 9 AM - please email office@cofcucc.org or call the church at (860) 542-5721 if you wish to take part. Please see the attached spreadsheet detailing the proposed budget along with a narrative explanation.



Steeple Update – “Raise the Steeple”!

Check your mailbox for the “Raise the Steeple” committee's new brochure soon to be distributed to all of Norfolk's residents and learn a little about the history of our steeple. We have been successful in raising the funds to bring the steeple down and have raised one-third of the approximately \$400,000 needed to make the steeple spectacular again. We hope you will join us in helping raise the steeple.

“Revisiting and Revitalizing our Sense of Purpose” A Discernment Process for All!

Who is God calling us to be? What does it mean to be “church” in 2022 and well beyond? These questions about our identity and purpose will be our focus as we begin to discern God's future for Church of Christ, Norfolk. We will be partnering with the Center for Transformational Leadership of the SNEUCC, and they will provide a coach to help lead us through what will likely be a 6 to 9-month process of “Revisiting and Revitalizing our Sense of Purpose.” We hope to have widespread participation from throughout our community. Stay tuned!

Fellowship and Growth News

We took great joy in collaborating to bring the skin-toned chairs to our campus through this past Fall, as well as the arranging once again our pillars decorated as Advent candles leading up to Christmas. In the photo to the right, we are brainstorming an idea that we hope to announce soon (with our latest addition, Tina Olsen!). Stay tuned to hear more about it! Under the heading of Music: Choir rehearsals will resume on Thursday, March 3rd, at 7:15 in the chapel. Singers interested in joining us please contact Elizabeth Allyn, Minister of Music. We will be focusing on special music for Palm Sunday and Easter. **Newsflash**: Stay tuned for information, date yet to be determined, for a concert presentation of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* by *Chorus Angelicus* in our church sanctuary.



(See reverse side, please)

Deacon News



One of the responsibilities of the Deacons is to stay in touch with folks, especially in this time of Pandemic. Telephone calls and visits are usually most welcome. In the photo to the right, Sr. Deacon Ruth Adotte visits with Peter Vosburgh at Geer on his 92nd birthday. Nels and Phyllis White also stopped by to celebrate with Peter. Of course, you do not need to be a Deacon (or former Deacon) to stay in touch. We encourage everyone to reach out with a phone call, a text, a Facebook

message, and especially a visit. **We need each other!**



Chapel Happenings

The Senior Yoga classes sponsored by the Town of Norfolk have resumed in the Chapel. These classes led by Wendy Larsen are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:45-10:00 am and are open to all Norfolk Seniors. Stay tuned for the Wellness classes to restart in March.

Missions and Social Justice News

Afghan refugees. Six or 7 members of the church and Norfolk community are involved with the Afghan Refugee Family Resettlement in Norfolk, along with about 25 other volunteers associated with the Northwest Hills Refugee Resettlement Committee (NWHRRRC). The process of resettling a family is cosponsored by NWHRRRC and the International Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) of the World Council of Churches. Anyone who might be interested in participating needs to go through an informative 7-hour training. Further details are described in *Norfolk Now*. We are close to finishing our preparations and expect to be assigned a family soon.



Gifts and Finance Update



Gifts and Finance projects last year included renovating the 1960s kitchen at the parsonage (see photo to the left), which Erick says is now a wonderful place to prepare meals. We also celebrated the removal of the "Do Not Cross" tape from the chapel grounds, as the new belfry roof doesn't shed chunks of slate like the old one. As for the sanctuary, the bathroom in the church is now handicapped accessible, and very pretty, too. Equally gorgeous is the sacristy (photo to the right) that was built for the Deacons to prepare communion. Projects planned for 2022 include new locks on a lot of the doors in the church so



that the keys really work and installing an aesthetically appropriate but functionally useful railing to make it safe to get up to the pulpit.

Green Group - Now the Green Team!

At our February Church Council, it was decided that the Green Group should be an official Team, bringing them out from under the vast umbrella of Missions and Social Justice. Past accomplishments for this group include: more than 500 postcards sent to politicians and corporate executives on topics such as land conservation, restoring national parks and monuments, producing more electric cars and reducing plastics. We have partnered with the Norfolk Library (thank you, Kelly Kandra Hughes!) and the Norfolk HUB for film and discussion series, as well as Norfolk NOW/HUB to post tips on reducing plastic use. We are also working on educating each other about the harm done by invasive species, spurred by concern about the Norway maples on church property. One part of the solution: planning gardens that support pollinators and otherwise use native plants. We are collaborating with Gifts and Finance to explore solar power and other means of reducing our use of fossil fuels - and we are looking together at what it would mean for us as a church to divest from fossil fuels in our investments.

For ongoing updates and more news, be sure to visit our website at norfolkctucc.org and on both Facebook and Instagram.

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