

First Church in Pembroke

February 2020 Newsletter

Upcoming Event

February 2nd – 8-10am Pancake Breakfast

February 4th - 7:30pm Bylaws Committee Meeting

February 5th -6:30 Event Planning Committee; 7:00pm CNK Board Meeting

February 9th – 12:15 Missions Meeting

February 11th -7:30pm Deacons Meeting

February 17th -Presidents' Day (office closed)

February 18th -7:30pm Trustees Meeting

February 24th -Newslettter Deadline

February 25th -7:30 Church Council Meeting

Recurring Event

Every Thursday
Creative Workshop-7pm

Choir Practice – 7:30pm

Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Thrift Shop 11am -3pm

Pastor's Corner

In a course on marriage counseling, the professor said that if someone gets divorced, and wonders whether or not they should get married again, statistically speaking a new marriage will more likely work out if they are divorced twice and are currently in a third marriage. I thought a lot about that over the years and I think there's a deep truth in that perception. Sometimes it takes two failures in a marriage, to realize that maybe there's something wrong. Now that's a lot of pain and anguish to go through only to discover that part of the reason why a marriage didn't work was because of one's own doing.

So, as a church we need to figure out what we can do now to move on. That being said, *I BELIEVE THE CHURCH COUNCIL IS DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB IN FOCUSING ON ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED SO THAT WE DON'T REPEAT THE PAST.* It is however going to take time and patience as real change happens very slowly. Much of the work that the council is doing is focusing on protocol and communication which I believe is at the heart of much of the past conflict.

It's very clear to me that several things need to happen. The bylaws committee has to be activated with representation from all parts of the church. Any potential changes in the bylaw need to be brought before the church council and the congregation before the actual vote on a new set of bylaws. Much of what I've seen over the last four months has to do with how we communicate. So being very transparent about foundational structures of the church is critical to its ongoing growth.

Secondly, the church needs to be on a regular basis transparent about what's going on financially. I know that our treasurer Burt is working very hard on this. The church owes him a great deal of gratitude for trying to put together the finances in a way that everyone can understand. My hope is that the church can be patient as he puts together the finances of the church. I've always hoped that churches have *quarterly reports to the congregation* that outline where the church is at any given point in the fiscal year. There should be no questions about where money is or how much money has been spent on any given project.

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Part of moving on is to collectively rediscover what it means to be a church. For if we are not a church that serves God, then we are *simply a social club meeting our own needs*.

In moving on, the church needs to explore its options as was voted on at the Annual Meeting. There is a lot of anger at the denomination and I am not sure that our membership can get beyond that. Many are looking to blame someone or some entity for all the conflict that has taken place. So, if the church leaves the UCC, a new pastor is hired and if many of the members who left don't come back, then the church and its leadership will have to ask the question "So what's next?" We should be asking that question now as we evolve in our self-identity.

It is in the question "So what's next?" that real transformation will take place. Perhaps Rev. Bob Naylor will help us with visioning about the future. My Question to you is "What can I do help this church serve God?" From my perspective the answer to that question is where the resurrection will occur in our beloved church community.

Still hanging in there,

Rev. Fred

Trustees

The Trustees met on January 21, 2020. Burt Palmer is still reviewing files that he received from our past treasurer. He has implemented direct deposit for the employees and received a refund from QuickBooks. He will finish inputting information in QuickBooks.

Continuing projects the Trustees are working on:

Finish the parsonage

Get quotes for the sanctuary ceiling

Work on a procedure manual for the church

Restart Working for Christ in March

Alarm system update

Surveillance cameras procedure book

Work with the CPA to finish deed restriction and start phase 3

Revisit keypads at the church entrance

Full minutes are available in the church **office**.

Search Team

The Search Team has not received any additional profiles since this past Summer. The only current profile in consideration is one that was left over from last December, who we have been in contact with. The compensation package that we will be offering is \$39,000.00; this is for a part-time pastor working 20-24 hours per week. The team is ready to continue their work however, unless new profiles are submitted for review we are in a stalemate. With the New Year starting we hope that we will be receiving additional profiles to review. If anyone has any additional questions, please feel free to reach out to the Search Team.

Community Pancake Breakfast is Back.

The griddles are warming up at First Church in Pembroke. We continue to host a Community Pancake Breakfast on the FIRST Saturday of the month from September – June from 8-10am in the church Fellowship Hall. Drop by as you head off to those sports events or on your way to do errands and join us for Pancakes, Sausage, Juice and Coffee! Short Stack (2 pancakes & 2 sausages) \$3.00 and Super Stack (4 pancakes & 4 sausages) \$5.00. A great way to start your day - and you don't have to cook! Tickets available at the door. See you February 1st 2020!

THRIFT SHOP FLASH – MID WINTER SALE – UP TO 50% OFF - NEED AN EXTRA JACKET? – WARM HAT, SCARF OR AN EXTRA PAIR OF GLOVES, MITTENS –BOOTS ALSO – WE HAVE THEM – VISIT US THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS, OR SATURDAY 11am-3pm!

Missions

As we begin the year 2020 and move forward with God's guidance, Missions for the month of February plans to set up the program "One Great Hour of Sharing". This program gives us the opportunity to help people in crisis. Our donations will help provide clean water, medicine, shelter, health care and educations to those in need. Our church, The United Church of Christ has joined in with others: American Baptist, Disciples of Christ, Church of the Brethren and Church World Services to help and care for others who are in desperate need of assistance. Starting on Sunday February 9th will be setting up in Fellowship Hall a table where everyone can donate to "One Great Hour of Sharing"

It is also time for us to think about collecting items needed for our Hygiene Kits which also goes to help those that have been caught up in earthquakes, hurricanes, floods and fires. The warehouses which house these kits as well as school supplies, blankets and cleanup buckets are at a very low level. First Church is again collecting items for the Hygiene Kits. Like last year we ask everyone for their help to fill a zip bag with the items that are needed. Missions thanks you again for all your support and your loving care and concern for others.

A special note - material has been donated to make and cut blankets which can be given out to people who need comfort and warmth during floods and fires. A cutting get together is tentatively scheduled after church for an hour February 9th to help put these blankets together. An announcement will be made and a reminder put in our church bulletin. Anyone who is interested in helping to put the blankets together, please see a Missions Committee member.

Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding. Proverbs 3:13 ESV

Deacons Corner

The Deacons extend thanks to our "retiring" members, Stephanie Skolnick, Jim Lapham, and Ernie Evans, for their years of service and their many contributions to the committee. They will be missed!

Please be aware that no food or drink, other than water, is allowed in the sanctuary.

Have you noticed that the Acolytes have a slightly different procedure than in past years? They bring the light of Christ into the sanctuary before our service begins and when it is completed they light their tapers from the altar candles before extinguishing the altar candles and carrying the lit tapers out of the sanctuary. This symbolizes the return of Christ's light out into the world. Please remain in the pews until the Acolytes have exited.

Many thanks to all who have met with Rev. Naylor and completed their survey. This will be of great help to him in planning a pathway to revitalization of our church.

Please remember that you can honor or remember someone by the gift of flowers to decorate the altar. We also have an active card ministry. Just let any Deacon know if you would like to brighten someone's day with a card.

Stewardship

The Stewardship Team would like to extend thanks to everyone for all you do to support First Church. Our church could not exist without your generosity and service. First Church needs your prayers and your participation along with your financial support. Your active church membership brings many rewards: the strengthening of your faith, spiritual joy, the knowledge that you are making a contribution to your faith community, and the added benefit of helping First Church to grow and thrive. Thanks once more for all you do to help First Church!

St Patrick's Day Dinner Saturday, March 14, 2020

Menu: Corned beef, Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots, Turnip, Onions, Dessert, Beverage!!

Doors open at 5pm, dinner will be served in Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm and take out is available. After dinner Irish Dancers from the Kenny Academy of Irish Dance will perform. This will be an outreach to the Community in general and to the Senior Community. We will again work with the Firehouse Food Pantry and the Council on Aging. Ticket price is \$10.00. If assistance is needed we will provide tickets through COA Outreach and food pantries, and home delivery where appropriate. Ticket reservations will be taken through First Church office at 781-293-2584 and online at firstchurchinpembroke.org.

First Church Pembroke –February 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8-10 Pancake Breakfast 11-3 Thrift Shop 12-8 Scrapbooking
2 10am Sunday Service 7pm Girl Scouts	3 4:30-6 Brownies	4 5:15-6:30 Cub Scouts 7:30 Bylaws Committee Meeting	5 5:15-6:30 Cub Scouts 6:30 Event Planning Meeting 7:00 CNK Board Meeting	6 11 – 3 Thrift Shop 7:00 Crafters 7:30 Choir	7 11 – 3 Thrift Shop 4-5:30 Juniors 7:30 AA Meeting	8 11 – 3 Thrift Shop
9 10am Sunday Service 12:15 Missions Meeting 5:30-7 Girl Scouts	10 5:30-6:30 Daisys	11 7:30 Deacons Meeting	12	13 11 – 3 Thrift Shop 7:00 Crafters 7:30 Choir	14 11-3 Thrift Shop 7:30PM AA Meeting	15 11 – 3 Thrift Shop
16 10am Sunday Service 5-6:30 Juniors	17 Presidents’ Day (office closed)	18 5:15-6:30 Cub Scouts 7:30 Trustees Meeting	19 5:15-6:30 Cub Scouts	20 11-3 Thrift Shop 7-9 Crafters 7:30 Choir	21 11-3 Thrift Shop 7:30PM AA Meeting	22 11 – 3 Thrift Shop
23 10am Sunday Service	24 3:30-5 CNK Staff Meeting 5:30-6:30 Daisys	25 7:30 Church Council Meeting	26 ASH WEDNESDAY	27 11-3 Thrift Shop 7-9 Crafters 7:30 Choir	28 11-3 Thrift Shop 7:30PM AA Meeting	29 11-3 Thrift Shop