

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH
CHURCH COUNCIL**

Sunday, April 2, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President April Zdanis at 11:54 am. April led devotions.

The minutes from the March 9 meeting were read. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes with the following correction: Under Worship, the first sentence should read, FBC and First Congregational Church of Plymouth will be jointly coordinating and hosting the Lenten luncheon being held on March 28 at the First Congregational Church of Plymouth.

Correspondence:

A thank you note was received and read from the International Ministries for our recent donation.

Committee Reports:

Congregational Care (Elaine Fiermonte; Cheryl Nottbohm reporting)

Continue to be in prayer for our shut-ins and sick. Update: Betty Salerno has been moved to home from rehab; Aurelia Woodbeck has continued health concerns; Debbie Dellaquilla will be undergoing some testing with new doctors; Nettie Fairchild was hospitalized again and now back at rehab. Thank you to all who have helped in ministering to our shut-ins, sick and those in need. The Membership Book is currently with Ted, who is working on the revision of the membership list.

Christian Education (Mary Rose reporting)

The children are enjoying the Children's Sermon learning about the different symbols of Easter. On Children's Sunday, June 11, the older children will be playing tone chimes and all children will sing "Shine Jesus Shine." Children's Sunday will have the children participating in as many parts of worship as possible. Tahjana Wright, who will be graduating from high school, is FBC's only graduate this year.

Finance/Treasurer (Cheryl Nottbohm/Tonya DiBella; Tonya DiBella reporting)

Tonya reviewed the March Treasurer's Report. The need for a new computer for the office was discussed; Tonya has received a donated computer but it will need Microsoft Word and Excel installed. Mary suggested checking out the non-profit clearinghouse, TechSoup, to obtain technical equipment and programs. April indicated that FBC was given half of the offering at the March 28 Lenten Luncheon, which will be contributed to GWIM's food bank.

Outreach (Ted Durley)

Our special collection for America for Christ is still ongoing and \$121 has been received as of the end of March. Theresa is currently mailing out cards for birthdays, get well, etc. Ted reviewed with Council a list of individuals who need an updated address in order to assist Theresa in this outreach.

Property (Ted Durley)

Hopefully snow removal is ended. A furnace repair was needed at the church due to a flying squirrel entering the blower motor box. Ted has been able to assist Pastor Drew in moving some items, due to Pastor's convalescence and restrictions. The new sump pump has been very active and working well.

Worship (April Zdanis)

Lenten Luncheon at First Congregational Church of Plymouth had about 60 participants; the soups were well received. There was plenty of food and leftovers were shared. Thank you to all who helped. Easter flower forms will be tallied and flowers will be ordered from Buell's Florist in

Thomaston. April will be arranging the flowers on April 15 evening and welcomes any assistance. There has been a change in venue for Maundy Thursday; it will now be held at Grace Baptist Church in Waterbury.

Music Committee (Denise Gilbert; Ted Durley reporting)

The choir group is working on hymns and special music for the Lenten season. As Ted will be joining First Congregational Church of Torrington for their Cantata, Julie has arranged for two others to join FBC choir on Palm Sunday. It was suggested that on communion Sundays we say the Lord's Prayer, rather than sing it due to the difficulty of the arrangement for so many. Mary indicated that the tone chimes are in need of tuning and requested help with tuning the chimes.

Pastor (Rev. Michael Wu)

- Pastor Mike gave an update on his recent meetings, visits and calls; Pastor Mike will distribute an Easter lily and Joel's Easter craft to the shut-ins during visits. April indicated that members can help visit and distribute these gifts as well.
- Due to Pastor Mike's new position as a lawyer, he will be doing less travel to Danbury and working in New Britain. This will require an adjustment in his office schedule with FBC, working more afternoon and evening hours. Please continue to support Theresa with this change.
- A bulletin insert has been provided and Theresa is waiting for people to return them, so an update of the prayer chain can be made.
- The final Thomaston Lenten Worship Services schedule is April 3 at Watertown United Methodist Church. On April 4 the final Plymouth/Terryville Lenten Lunch will take place at Holy Trinity Church in Plymouth.
- Maundy Thursday Worship is now changed to 6 pm Potluck and 7:30 Worship Service at Grace Baptist Church in Waterbury with Pastor Mike preaching.
- Good Friday, the Thomaston Area Clergy Association will be hosting a Cross Walk at noon through the business district/downtown Thomaston which is totally outdoors.
- Easter Sunrise Service will be held on the Plymouth Green at 6 a.m. followed by breakfast at First Congregational Church of Plymouth. FBC will have an Easter Worship Service at 10 am.
- April 30 worship – welcome a representative from a group named “Voice of the Martyrs”.
- Discussion of the use of the parsonage once Pastor Chris and Joyce have moved. Ted anticipates at least a month for maintenance to be done on the parsonage before it can be occupied again.
- Pastor Mike welcomes your thoughts and feedback.

Unfinished Business

An invitation was received from the Hartford Yard Goats to participate in a pre-game faith event to be held on August 19. There was discussion with regard to assessing interest and possibly joining with other local churches to charter a bus. It was decided that this might be coming for us too soon and we may want to plan a trip for the fall instead, possibly a Jack-o-Lantern Pumpkin Blaze in NY State.

New Business

Children's Sunday and Scholarship Presentations are a combined event during Sunday Worship on June 11 followed by a pot luck picnic with the church providing hotdogs and hamburgers. It was noted that all scholarship recipients should be notified of the picnic following worship in their notice of receipt of scholarship.

The role of Historian needs to be filled. The position will be offered to Arlene as she would do an excellent job as the Historian..

Ted indicated that a Church Clean Up Day is scheduled for Sunday, April 23, after service. Bring your outdoor gear and tools to help clean the outside of the church.

Lynn Fairchild will provide devotions for the next Council Meeting on May 21:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Fairchild
Secretary

The next Council Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2017, following worship.

Present: Rev. Michael Wu, Tonya DiBella, Ted Durley, Joel Fairchild, Lynn Fairchild, Cheryl Nottbohm, Mary Rose, April Zdanis; Absent: Elaine Fiermonte, Denise Gilbert, Chris McGavran, Betty Salerno.

These minutes will be approved at the next meeting.