

June 2020 – May 2021

**ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF
MARLBOROUGH, U.C.C.**

Congregational Church of Marlborough
United Church of Christ
35 South Main Street
P. O. Box 57
Marlborough, CT 06447



June 13, 2021 @ 11 a.m.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Annual Meeting Agenda

June 14, 2020, Annual Meeting Minutes

Report of the Music Director

Report of the Music Director
Report of the Pastor
Report of Care Ministry
Report of the Moderator
Report of the Seminary Intern
Report of the Worship Team (Deacons)
Report Charity and Service Team (Missions)
Report of the Christian Education Director
Report of the Youth Enrichment Team (Youth)
Report of the Senior High Youth Group
Report of the Junior Youth Group
Report of the Trustees and Finance
Report of Dorcas Women's Fellowship
Report of the Church Gardeners
Report of <i>Hilltop Echoes</i> and Publicity
Report of the Thrift Shop
Report of the Nominating Committee

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MARLBOROUGH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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274th ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, June 13, 2021

The 274th Annual Business Meeting will be held in the Meetinghouse on June 13, 2021, immediately following the worship service.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings, events, and worship services were suspended starting March 15, 2020. Reopening has slowly begun, and we resumed our first in-person worship service in the sanctuary (Meetinghouse) on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021.

The June 2020-May 2021 Annual Report is being sent as an email attachment to all church member families who have provided the church office with their email address. Hard copies are available for pickup at the June 6, 2021, Confirmation worship service at Blish Park and at the church.

Call to Order

274th Annual Meeting of the Congregational Church of Marlborough,
Church Moderator, Jessica Trusz

Devotions Senior Pastor, The Reverend Bob Faulhaber Jr.

By-Law Revision

Article 7, Number 5 (Treasurer(s)): The Treasurer(s) shall be elected by the Church at the Annual Election and Program Meeting to serve *an unlimited number of one-year terms*.

Article 7, Number 6 (Financial Secretary(ies)): The Financial Secretary(ies) shall be elected by the Church at the Annual Election and Program Meeting *to serve for an unlimited number of one-year terms*.

Presentation of Reports (excluding Nominating Committee Report)

Acceptance of Reports and June 14, 2020, Minutes of Annual Meeting

Old Business

Presentation of Reports (excluding Nominating Committee Report)
Acceptance of Reports and June 14, 2020, Minutes of Annual Meeting
Old Business
New Business

1. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of Slate
2. Any business duly brought to the Chair

Recognition and thank you to those who have served

(Not currently serving in any elected position.)

Pat Able, Alana Armfield, Dean Casella, Katherine Cragnotti, Mary Lou Hassan,
Melanie Hathaway, John Hathaway, John Henrikson, Stacy Henrikson,
Kim Maltis, Rick McMahon, Sue McCaffrey, Wayne Nichols, Teresa Odoy,
Pete Peterson, Kristin Spinelli, Shari von Liebler,

Adjournment

Benediction

The Reverend Bob Faulhaber

Jr.



**Meeting
Minutes**

**Congregational Church of Marlborough
United Church of Christ
273rd Annual Election and Program Meeting
June 14, 2020**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an in-person meeting could not be held; therefore, voting for the June 14, 2020, Annual Meeting was done via email and telephone call-in.

An email blast with the annual report attached was sent to 174 church members who had given their email address; two reports were mailed.

A quorum was reached (32 responses) with all approving the 2019 June meeting

minutes, the board and committee reports, and slate of officers.

There were no comments.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice O. Rowley, Clerk



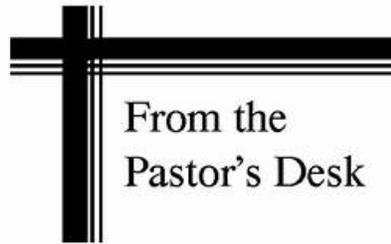
REPORT OF THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Many thanks to all the musicians who have contributed throughout the pandemic to our on-line and lake services.

A special thank you to Carolyn Brodgerski, who has provided the lion's share of music, and has also coordinated by scheduling other musicians.

I'm looking forward to working with both the Bell Choir and the Chancel choir again this Fall.

Respectfully submitted,
David Mulligan
Music Director



Pastor's Annual Report 2021

It wouldn't be much of a challenge to describe the year 2020 in one single word....
PANDEMIC....

I suspect that this single word would sum most of it up. We know what it means, and we know what it has done. And I could spend the rest of this page and possibly a few more thanking individuals for all that they did to help our church survive this deadly global event, but I hope to do that in a more official way in our permanent record which will survive a number of generations beyond us. They may not recognize most of those names [including my own], but they WILL know that good people, through small acts of love and devotion, kept the light given us alive in our time shining brightly and bravely, when a darkness arrived. And that's the story I'd like to tell in this report.

WORSHIP never stopped, it just expanded. Though we lost the ability to gather as a family of faith in person, we continued to gather in Spirit and worship with creativity and humor. We've worshiped all around our facility, around town and in a variety of different formats. We've filled the pews with cardboard cutouts, done dialogue sermons talk-show style, created "good news" video clips, provided anthems and scripture readings from the homes of our members, Confirmed teens and baptized babies from the lake [not in it], and managed to draw more people to worship than ever before! And music continued to enhance our worship and lift our spirits throughout 2020 as musicians stepped up to record or play live nearly 100 anthems and hymns which added inspiration to everything we offered.

CARE TEAM has probably never been busier than during this past year, a time that has been the most challenging for them to do what they so lovingly do. Floral arrangements were made and delivered, cards of encouragement and sympathy sent, meals were delivered, and for most of 2020 they didn't even need to meet via Zoom in order to carry this all out. Apparently, it takes very little to love your neighbor after all.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH PROGRAMS needed extra special caution at first in order to protect our most precious treasures. But as soon as we found ways to keep them safe, we reactivated those programs. A full year of Children's Messages from the back corner of our sanctuary fed the kids via our live stream services and Zoom gatherings by our Junior and Senior High Fellowship programs kept them connected until they could come together again to serve their church and community.

MISSION PROJECTS never even slowed down, much less stopped during the pandemic. Our CAST Team continue to support many of the programs we were associated with, and even though our Drive Thru Café was suspended for a little while due to food safety concerns, we started it right back up again once we figured out how it could be done. And our **Dorcias Society** continued to serve those in need throughout.

Pastor's Report, continued

TRUSTEES took advantage of our facility often being empty, to repair and refresh different parts of it. They saw too it that nothing fell into disrepair, helped address lead issues in our pipes, put in a generator at the parsonage, and are now engaged in creating a new media center in the balcony so that our enhanced capabilities to reach people beyond our doors and across the country

address lead issues in our pipes, put in a generator at the parsonage, and are now engaged in creating a new media center in the balcony so that our enhanced capabilities to reach people beyond our doors and across the country will become permanent. And that was also made possible by a great **Media Team** that has worked tirelessly to build the kind of support to put on display the Christian content we are so proud of.

OUR DEACONS hosted a party every week even though no one could personally attend most of those weeks [except at the lake until recently]. They faithfully prepared communion, changed decorations, set up the alter, and called EVERY household in our parish to keep us connected with each other. Not everyone returned those phone calls, but at least they knew we cared enough to make them and check in.

AND OUR LEADERS LED. The Executive Team took on the extraordinary task of guiding our church through one of the most dangerous storms in our history. And they never flinched. Countless hours were spent discussing and praying over difficult decisions that had to be made and new paths to take in order to survive a pandemic. And alongside them, our staff showed courage and innovation as they continued to do more than we ever could have asked them to do. Board Chairs helped us to provide council and direction, and our Finance Committee less a mint and more a coin jar these days, but we'll talk about that another time. And now that I can see that light at the end of the tunnel, I am so proud of ALL of them, and grateful for how faithfully our members remained while the world turned upside down. So proud and grateful...

2020 tested our mettle and challenged our faith in God's providence and grace. We dug deep and found our well of strength. And what bubbled up was courage, love, trust, charity, hopefulness and even joy. We will never be the same after this year, but we will also never be afraid. We held hands and followed Jesus through the storm. And I thank you all for making me a better pastor than when it started...

In the Spirit,
Rev. Bob Faulhaber Jr.



Report of the Care Ministry

Even through the pandemic, the Care Team was very active throughout the year. Needless to say, the pandemic did not slow us down! The Flower Committee made several bouquets and delivered them, thanks to the generous donation of flowers from It's So Ranunculus Flower Shoppe in Marlborough. Many cards and well wishes were sent. Meals were delivered throughout the year to those who had been hospitalized. Big hugs to a wonderful team for making this all possible. Respectfully submitted,
Edi Dole, Care Ministry Chair



Report of the Moderator

What began with a "pitch" sounding like an advertisement toting the reasons why I would be a good "fit" as Vice Moderator back in the spring of 2014, morphed into a leadership role spanning almost seven years. To say that it has been an interesting and eye-opening journey would be an understatement. I thought I knew what happened "behind the curtains" of church life, but that couldn't be further from the truth. I can't say that I feel like I've impacted the church as much as some of the former moderators in regard to large endeavors such as Open and Affirming, the Loft Project, the Chancel Renovation Project, and more.... but I believe that I have seen us through some difficult times with a positive and encouraging outlook! Who would have thought that we would be dealing with a pandemic (Covid-19) during my last year as Moderator! On top of that, the passing of some devoted and well-loved members of our congregation

encouraging outlook! Who would have thought that we would be dealing with a pandemic (Covid-19) during my last year as Moderator! On top of that, the passing of some devoted and well-loved members of our congregation.

In past years, my annual report contained the accomplishments of various groups, finished projects, new members, ordinations, etc., but this year has a different twist to it as we did not have as much going on regarding those types of achievements. Instead, our attention was mainly focused on keeping everyone safe--physically, emotionally, and mentally. I would like to think that we come through this with a better appreciation of what we can do when we work together toward a common purpose.

Some of the decisions we made might have been unpopular, but I believe that we took the appropriate safety measures needed to keep our congregation safe and healthy. This included live-streaming the service, not allowing groups physically in our building, extra cleaning (for essential people who needed to be in the building), the purchasing of the electrostatic cleaner, continually researching the newest guidelines/protocols/actions, communicating with our outside groups (Marlborough Cooperative Nursery School and Alcoholic Anonymous), utilizing ZOOM for meetings, and changing the ways in which we interacted with people and groups in and out of our church membership.

We were able to procure a PPP (Payroll Protection Plan) loan to help offset some of the anticipated income we lost because we were not able to have our bigger fundraisers. This forgivable loan helped to pay the salaries of our staff. Thanks to Keith Davis and Larry Sherman for staying on top of this process!

Who knew that "filling the pews" in February would consist of cardboard cutouts of people (and some family pets), which not only brought in some extra revenue, but was a fun way for Pastor Bob and our Media Team to feel like they weren't alone in the sanctuary.

On May 23, 2021, we came through the other end of this pandemic (thanks to a vaccination roll out earlier in 2021) and we were able to reopen the sanctuary to our first group of in person congregation members. It took a lot of planning and many individuals to successfully make this happen. I would like to thank the Covid Team of Larry Zarella, Larry Sherman, Terri Reid, and Dave Peeling for Report of the Moderator, continued

making sure that we were updated in a timely manner throughout the past year. Keith Davis was essential in this entire process, and he was continually researching and finding articles relevant to our church, as well as making sure that we had enough of the hard-to-find hand sanitizer, Lysol, Clorox wipes, and masks. Larry Zarella should be commended for going above and beyond in maintaining our church grounds and parsonage, making phone calls and much more!

I would be remiss if I didn't thank the individuals who made sure that during these years I succeeded as Moderator ... and especially this past year! I wish to specifically thank Pastor Bob and Alice Rowley who were always available to answer my questions, talk me "off the ledge" with laughter and smiles, and remind me that I could do this!

It was very challenging to keep our youth involved, and Gwen Lawson and Scott Reid did a fantastic job keeping the kids engaged in unique and fun ways! Many thanks to Dave Mulligan, Carolyn Brodgerski, Jeff Gorman, Steve Pozzato, BT Odoy, Warren Thime, Seat of our Pants, and all the wonderful musicians who made sure that our service was filled with melody and cheerfulness (even when it was pre-taped).

Thank you, Val Seaver for all your support, smiles and positive accolades. I also wish to acknowledge the dedicated and extremely hardworking Media Team-- the entire Odoy family (BT, Alexa, Teresa and Bernie), Jeff Gorman, Gene LaMantia, and Ben Moreland.....without them, no one would have been able to see our service live streamed into our homes at 10 o'clock each Sunday and recorded for YouTube for later viewing.

service live streamed into our homes at 10 o'clock each Sunday and recorded for YouTube for later viewing.

Now that we have a media presence, we can continue livestreaming Sunday services for those who aren't able to worship with us on a Sunday morning and for our out of state church members, family and friends can now "join" us each Sunday.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Trusz, Moderator



Report of the Worship Team (Deacons)

It has been my pleasure to chair the Worship Team for the second year. I could not have done it with out all of you. THANK YOU!!!!

September 2020. On September 13, 2020 we started having services at Blish Park/ Lake Terramugus. We continued Sunday worship there for the remaining two Sundays in September.

October 2020. Confirmation Sunday was held at Blish Park/ Lake Terramugus October 4, 2020, where two boys and five girls were confirmed. Worship services there held there October 18 and 25 which included a baptism on October 25.

November 2020. All services were live steamed from the Meetinghouse.

December 2020. All services were like-steamed from the Meetinghouse. We decorated the inside of the church for the Christmas season. We also hung white lights on the Memorial Garden fence. We displayed two white angels outside.

Report of the Worship Team, continued

The Christmas Eve service was live steamed; then all were invited to leave their home to gather outside the front of the church for our annual candle lighting with *Silent Night* sung.

January 2021. Livestream services were going well. Deacons continued making phone calls to church members, asking if there was anything they needed.

February 2021. All services were livestreamed. After viewing the Ash Wednesday service from home, all were invited to go to the church to receive ashes and "take-away" communion elements.

March 2021. Palm Sunday unfortunately had to be live steamed instead of being held at the lake, as planned. On Saturday several groups of church members participated by waving palms and cheering *Hosannas*, all video-taped for our Palm Sunday service. The Maundy Thursday service was pre-recorded and all were able to go to the church after the service and receive Communion.

April 2021.. Easter Sunday Sunrise service was held at the lake with 60 people in attendance. The 10:00 a.m. service was live-streamed. The April 18 service was held at Blish Park/ Lake Terramugus. The remaining Sunday services were live streamed.

May 2021. The May 2 and 9 services were live streamed. The May 16 worship service was held at the Blish Park/ Lake Terramugus and was also Bible where third grade Sunday School students received a Bible. A baptism was also held that day. On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, we were ALL back in the Meetinghouse!!!! It was a joyous day to be finally back together again and again on May 30. The services were also live streamed.

I would like to Thank Pastor Bob, Pastoral Intern Val Seaver and my Vice-chair Marge Bartlett. Without all your help and support I could not do what needed to be done. I also want to thank all the members of the Worship Team for your dedication and hard work!!

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Reid, Chair



REPORT OF THE SEMINARY INTERN

I experienced another great year Interning at Marlborough Congregational Church. I was the recipient of a generous scholarship from CAST which was gifted directly to Chicago Theological Seminary. I was able to take an additional class and look toward completion of my class requirements in December of 2021.

During this past year I began to work more closely with the Hartford East Committee on Ministry as we move toward my Ordination and complete specific

and look toward completion of my class requirements in December of 2021. During this past year I began to work more closely with the Hartford East Committee on Ministry as we move toward my Ordination and complete specific requirements as they are laid out by the Larger Church of the UCC. The challenges through the pandemic were lessons I would never have learned otherwise and feel I have grown because of it. Learning how to deliver a sermon in front of a camera was invaluable. The women's group was temporarily suspended in September, I look forward to resurrecting our group in the Fall of 2021. Respectfully submitted,
Val Seaver



Report of the Charity and Service Team (Mission Board)

The congregation continues to support our mission board endeavors and outreach to the community and beyond. In 2020, we gave a total dollar donation of \$18,246; however, the Coronavirus pandemic negatively impacted our ability to run many of the programs that are normally provided.

The Drive Thru Café ran through February 2020. March 2020 through October 2020 dates were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We began running this project again in November 2020; however, only the Senior Youth Group and a few volunteers have been preparing and handing out these meals. We also supply meals to some of the seniors at the Florence Lord housing complex.

The Charity and Service Team sponsored food and monetary donations for the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen in Middletown in lieu of preparing and serving the Sunday meal since this project has been temporarily shut down. The food items were delivered to St. Vincent de Paul and the monetary donations were mailed to them.

Our quarterly Missions envelopes were designated to the following organizations:

1st quarter: Marlborough Food Bank

2nd quarter: AHM Community Mental Health Fund

3rd quarter: Hartford East Scholarship Fund and Christian Activities Council

4th quarter: Community Partners in Action (York Resettlement Program)

The twelfth annual Summer Harvest was held on Sunday, September 20, 2020. We were able to provide the food bank with a plethora of fresh fruits and vegetables. We received produce donations from Brewer Bros/Lawson Farm, Rick's Sugar Shack in East Hampton, Paul & Sandy's Too in East Hampton as well as from our church members. The fruits and vegetables were delivered to the Marlborough Food Bank by two families.

Samaritan's Purse (Operation Christmas Child) has been an ongoing project since 2005. Based on that organization's as well as Chairman Franklin Graham's homophobic stance, Pastor Bob, the Team and others within the congregation felt that these views were inconsistent with our position as an Open and Affirming church; therefore, we will no longer be participating in this project.

We conducted the blanket sales in February and this money was given to Church World Services, which provides blankets after a disaster or in times of need.

The Charity and Service Team provided five gift cards instead of birthday bags in 2021 for children at the Marlborough food bank.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Benedetto, Charity and Service Team (Mission Board) Chair



Report of the Christian Education Director

Rally Day 2020 was the first ever VIRTUAL Rally Day! You know, a bounce house doesn't have the same effect via ZOOM...

We had the great fortune to meet together for in-person activities at the lake September and October. I was pre-recording Children's Messages with BT Odoj that were posted on the church website and doing crafts and activities with kids on Sunday to try and reach out to everyone in the best way possible each week.

It did get too cold to meet live though, so starting in November I began live streaming a Children's Message at the end of each service.

Throughout the year, I tried to keep in touch with the kids and their families. Every week I sent out an email about the lesson and the Media Team would post any activities or links that accompanied it. The Shine Curriculum went all virtual with its lessons and resources, so I took advantage of the format. I continued to send out cards to the kids for holidays or special announcements, like Sunday

School Kid Zooms, Christmas Eve bell ringing, and oh yeah, the Sunday School REOPENING in May!!

The beautiful weather brought us back out to the lake for services and I brought my tables and activities, ready for some real-live children to work with. We had Bible Sunday at the lake and were blessed with four excellent 3rd grade lay readers. On Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd, the church and Sunday School officially reopened. We had activities, played games and sang "Happy Birthday" to the church with a red candle and a Rice Krispie treat. It was a wonderful celebration of rebirth and reconnecting.

Respectfully submitted,
Gwen Lawson,
Christian Education Director



REPORT OF THE YOUTH ENRICHMENT TEAM (Youth Board)

The past year has certainly been out of the ordinary. With COVID raging across the state during 2020 and early 2021, we had to cancel most of our senior and junior youth group activities for much of the year, including our annual mission trip and the Glastonbury Applefest.

Report of the Youth Board, continued

Scott Reid and Gwen Lawson improvised as much as they could, holding meetings outdoors and via Zoom whenever possible. The senior youth were able to safely resume Drive Thru Café in November and have held at least one drive thru per month since then.

We are now finally able to start cautiously planning ahead and as long as things keep improving, we have a possible mission trip to Maryland slated for this August and Applefest is back on the calendar for October. We are all happy to get back to our primary mission: supporting the youth of our congregation as they go out into the community and grow in their service and faith.

August and Applefest is back on the calendar for October. We are all happy to get back to our primary mission: supporting the youth of our congregation as they go out into the community and grow in their service and faith.

This year our team included Sandra Girard, Michelle Goodwin, and me in addition to Scott, Gwen, and Pastor Bob. As always, it has been an honor to work with this group of caring and dedicated people.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Lynch
Team Lead, Youth Enrichment Team



Report of the Junior Youth Group

Junior Youth was back in almost full force this September. We met for outside fun for as long as the weather would let us. And when we couldn't meet together, we met over Zoom for games and a little catch-up. We were able to keep a couple of our yearly traditions, with slight adjustments due to the times, of course.

We carved pumpkins, had our "Friendsgiving" meal, made "Kindness Rocks" and even watched a movie. We added some new fun activities too! We went sledding on the giant mounds of snow from the parking lot, we had a "Guess a Wacky Gift" Christmas party and discovered that outside Hide-Go-Seek can be just as fun as inside.

As much as we love parties and games, we know that donating our time to service is an important part of the program. We had a great time making Christmas cards for the Dorcas Society Women's Fellowship ladies. We made a "Closet Clean-Out" clothing, food and home goods donation to the Marlborough Food Bank and we supported a neighboring church's mission work by participating in their "Seeds of Hope" walk. And the JrYG helped me out as I put my CE Director hat back on in May. They cleaned up the branches in the playground, wiped down all the playground equipment and cleaned up the toys that had been sitting outside, untouched for over a year.

Respectfully submitted,
Gwen Lawson,
Junior Youth Group Director



Report of the Senior High Youth Group

September 2020. We had two ZOOM meetings where we played computer games. The youth really enjoyed them.

October 2020. Unfortunately, the Glastonbury Applefest was cancelled due to Covid-19. I kept in touch with the youth by texting and calling.

November 2020. The Senior High Youth Group had decided that with proper social distancing and wearing masks that they could start up Drive Thru Café again. They prepared ham with all the fixings on the fourth Sunday of the month.

December 2020. We dropped off poinsettias at the Marlborough Health Care Center and gave one plant to each resident. We also prepared a meatloaf meal for Drive Thru Café.

December 2020. We dropped off poinsettias at the Marlborough Health Care Center and gave one plant to each resident. We also prepared a meatloaf meal for Drive Thru Café.

January 2021. We kept in touch by texting and calling. The drive thru meal this month was bar-b-que chicken.

February 2021. The first Sunday of February we gathered in the Great Hall and made Valentine Day cards for the residents of Marlborough Health Care Center. It was decided that the Drive Thru Café would now be held the second and fourth Sunday of the month. On February 14 we made homemade individual chicken pot pies and a special valentine treat. Unfortunately, the last Sunday drive thru needed to be cancelled.

March 2021. We are back on track for serving meals at the Drive Thru Café two times monthly. The first meal was homemade chili and cornbread. The second meal was Swedish meatballs.

April 2021. Our first meal for the Drive Thru Café was mini meat loaves and baked potatoes. The second meal was pulled pork with fixings.

May 2021. We started having regular meeting again, all masked and socially distanced. Our first meal for the drive thru was pasta and meatballs. The second one was grilled hot dogs and hamburgers plus other picnic items.

I want to say THANK YOU to Deb Lynch and Jessica Trusz for helping with the Drive Thru Café while I was laid up.

I also want to say THANK YOU to all the youth for all your hard work and dedication this past year. I could not have done it without you!!

Lastly, I want to say a BIG THANK YOU to my wife Terri for all that you do!!

In The Light,
Scotty Reid
Senior High Youth Director



FINANCES

Finances were unexpectedly good in 2020 considering that the Church was shut down for in person services due to the Corona Virus.

- Pledges were \$208,142 (97% of budget)
- Non-Pledge income was \$21,638 (145% of budget).
- Total income \$240,720 (90% of budget)
- Expenses \$255,405 (93% of budget)

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising was a challenge last year due to the Corona Virus. The Maple Fest, Hebron Harvest Festival and Dinner Auction all had to be cancelled. We were able to have our Annual Tag Sale (\$1,813), Cookie Walk (\$470) and a smaller Golf Tournament (\$3,594) for a total of \$5,877 vs a budget of \$29,100.

REAL ESTATE

- Outside wooden church sign. The wooden structure that houses the sign was repaired and painted. It should be good for another five years.
- A portable generator was purchased for the parsonage and was wired to the electrical panel in the basement of the parsonage. A shed was built to house the generator.
- We had a large tree removed from the playground. The base of the tree was rotted and presented a danger to the children and our neighbors.
- New programable thermostats were installed throughout the church to control heating costs.
- To make the church as safe as possible during the Corona Virus the Trustees installed seven non-touch hand sanitizing units throughout the building and purchased an Electrostatic sprayer that was used to disinfect the Church.

installed seven non-touch hand sanitizing units throughout the building and purchased an Electrostatic sprayer that was used to disinfect the Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Zarrella,
Trustees Vice-Chair



Report of the Dorcas Women’s Fellowship

The Dorcas Women's Fellowship meets in the Thienes Lounge for lunch, business meetings, devotions, and programs on the second Friday of the month September through June. All women of the church are invited to join us. The Dorcas Women's Fellowship has four main functions: fellowship, missions, study and outreach. Our theme this year is “Living the Love and Justice of Jesus”.

We currently support the following causes:

Local Missions:

Marlborough Food Bank	\$100.00
Marlborough Fuel Bank	\$200.00
AHM Youth Services	\$150.00
Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Assoc.	\$ 50.00

Report of Dorcas Women’s Fellowship, continued

Church Fund:

Pastor’s Discretionary Fund two gift certificates \$200.00

Outreach Programs

Church World Services Blankets \$ 85.00

To support our programs, we held the following fundraisers:

- In place of our annual cookie sale, we had a foodless cookie sale
- Bake sale of muffins, cookies and brownies held during the Church Tag Sale

We thank all who helped with these events and all who supported them.

We had many special meetings from our “Welcome “Back Luncheon” to a program with Rev. Charles Ericson, Interim Connecticut Regional Minister, as guest speaker.

We were also honored to have our own Val Seaver speak about her experiences

as a seminary student.

We enjoyed a Christmas party and prepared Christmas gift bags for Horizon House (shelter for battered women).

With the help of Gene LaMantia and Pastor Bob, I was able to set up my computer to the screen in the lounge to hold our meetings on Zoom and also in person. The in-person meetings were held thanks to the Covid Task Team for making it all possible.

We also collected money to present Dorothy Hunt a leaf on the Living Tree.

This leaf will be placed in honor of her 100th birthday. The leaf will read “in honor of Dorothy Hunt’s many years of service to Dorcas”.

Due to the Covid-19 there were no Memorial Receptions.

Thank you to all members and friends who have helped to make this a great year, considering the circumstances. I am hoping that everyone continues staying safe and well.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Dillman
President, Dorcas Women’s Fellowship



Church Gardens Report

Throughout last year we ended up canceling all our group gardening work-days due to the pandemic. We did have individuals come out and get the gardening done though.

Also, Dorothy Hunt donated \$100 to us in honor of her one hundredth birthday, and we were able to buy loads of daffodil bulbs with that money that the Aubins planted throughout our gardens.

Now as pandemic restrictions are lifting, we plan to start up our fun gardening days again this year. We also hope to work with the Sunday school students

and we were able to buy loads of colorful bulbs with that money that the Aabins planted throughout our gardens. Now as pandemic restrictions are lifting, we plan to start up our fun gardening days again this year. We also hope to work with the Sunday school students again as they always are a great help in the spring with cleanup and mulching.

If you would like to join us in any part of the church gardening activities, we would love to have your help.

Submitted by
Carolyn Aubin and Michelle Mulligan
Co-Chairs Church Gardeners



Report of the Hilltop Echoes and Publicity

Even through the COVID-19 pandemic, an abbreviated *Hilltop Echoes* was printed and mailed each month. Thank you to Eleanor Button and Evelyn Dillman who each month willingly and cheerfully helped in the final stages of preparation and brought the newsletter to the post office for mailing.

The *Hilltop Echoes* is now in its 64th year of publication. The newsletter is mailed monthly via first class (July and August combined) to 225 homes in Marlborough, various Connecticut towns, and to members and friends in several states, five are emailed; eight are kept on-hand, and one on file. Thank you to those who have made a monetary donation or a book (or more) of stamps to help offset the cost of mailing.

We hope to again to be able to post the newsletter on our church webpage.

We are in great need in finding one or more people who have knowledge and interest in web design. Thank you to BT Odoy, Bernie Odoy and Shari von Leibler who had done this task for many years.

If you'd prefer to read the *Hilltop Echoes* on-line, either leave a message at the church office at 860.295.9050 or email the office at office@marlconchurch.org A press release is sent to the *Rivereast News Bulletin* each week highlighting the coming week Sunday worship service and other church happenings. In order to reach the entire readership of *Rivereast*, for two weeks before our tag sales, we pay for a simple announcement on the back page tag sale section. A separate press release is also placed in the Marlborough section of the paper.

Thank you to Rivereast editor Mike Thompson who did a great job in giving our church publicity during the past year, especially with our Pew People fund-raiser where one week he highlighted the project in his weekly column and a month later arranged for a front-page story about it. Thank you also to Advertising Representative Jason Baran who made sure our thrift shop display ads were prominently placed.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Rowley, Editor *Hilltop Echoes* and Publicity

SECOND BLESSINGS

Because of COVID-19 Second Blessings Thrift Shop had been closed to the public since March 14, 2020, but much was happening behind our closed doors. We continued brisk sales on eBay, thanks to Stephanie Bunting, larger items are sold through Facebook Marketplace, thanks to Geri Turner, we organized the three rooms, expanded into the hallway, and created separate selling areas: "Holiday Highlights," "Antique Boutique," "Kids Korner," "Summer Fun," "Postal Greetings," "Buy the Bag," "Home and Hearth," "Bangles and Beads." THANK YOU, Cheryl Brodell who prices our "bangles and beads." We cleaned and organized the pricing and checkout rooms, spruced up the primary selling room, created a winter holiday area in the checkout room, organized the hundreds of notes and greeting cards, created an even larger jewelry display area. A corner area in the main room now has shelving to display purses, accessories, shoes, and trinkets, thanks to Joyce and Ed Fidrych. We found an antique wicker planter to display our vintage and special framed pictures and artwork. We spent weeks filling box after box destined for the October and May church tag sales, thanks to Jessica Trusz who packaged and schlepped all the boxes and heavy items to the stage in the Great Hall and neatly arranged them. Ah, youth!

To get ready for our April 10, 2021, reopening, we bought a dozen hand baskets, making it easier for shoppers to carry their "treasures." THANK YOU, Keith Davis, who served on the church COVID/reopening team, who built an enclosure



THRIFT
SHOP

To get ready for our April 10, 2021, reopening, we bought a dozen hand baskets, making it easier for shoppers to carry their "treasures." THANK YOU, Keith Davis, who served on the church COVID/reopening team, who built an enclosure for the checkout area, purchased a HEPA filtering machine, and provided the necessary sanitizing supplies. THANK YOU, Den and Robin Rolfe who made and donated the new large magnetic door sign for the downstairs entrance. We have a great team of dedicated workers, several who are new this year. Every worker attended an orientation session, held in small groups over four days before the April 10 reopening. where every worker got acquainted with the "new" shop and streamlined procedures. Jessica Trusz led the orientation with Geri Turner and Alice Rowley assisting. For now, we're only open Saturdays from 9 to noon, a day and time when most shoppers are out and about and a day and time most convenient for our workers. A BIG THANK YOU, to our Saturday workers. We wouldn't have a thrift shop without you!

June 2020 to May 2021

1. Our eBay Charity Account is found at <https://bit.ly/MCCebay>. Sales were \$875.00 thanks to Stephanie Bunting who does a fantastic job of researching, pricing, posting, and mailing for our "special" shop donations.
2. Facebook Marketplace sales were \$691 thanks to Geri Turner who prices, photographs, lists these items and arranges for pickup after the item is sold.
3. Thank you, Joyce Fidrych who has listed several collectible books on Etsy and recently sold a large, antique Bible for \$70.
4. Shop sales since our April 10, 2021, reopening are \$1,991!
5. We were again able to meet the \$1,200 Thrift Shop fund-raising yearly budget line-item request.
6. Donations included generic vases to Ranunculus Flower Shop and to our church Care Team, several bags of winter clothing and household items were given to Marlborough Food Bank, books, records, CDs and tapes to Colchester Library, monetary donations of four \$25 gift cards for CAST's Birthday Bag appeal for Marlborough Food Bank, \$200 to the Senior High Youth Group Drive Thru Café, \$250 to our church Media Fund.
7. With Council approval, a mutual fund through Ameriprise Financial of \$8,000 was created.

We look forward to another successful year and happily accept donations of quality items: antiques, collectibles, household, name-brand handbags, and specialty baskets (Longaberger, Vermont Baskets). We don't have room for clothing, electronics, large furniture or books (except children's books in very good condition and vintage collectible). Please save these items for the October 2, 2021, and May 7, 2022, tag sales.

The shop will be closed July and August to clean and organize. We'll reopen Saturday, September 11 with lots of new items for fall and winter. Now that the church has in person worship, we're planning to open for about a half hour after Sunday worship. New shop workers are always welcome (you don't need to be a church member) Just let us know via email to office@marlconchurch.org or call the office at 860.295.9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Rowley, Jessica Trusz, Geri Turner
Thrift Shop Team Leaders

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Moderator - 1-year term (2)

Keith Davis – 1st to 5/22

Vice-Moderator - 1-year term (2)

Cheryl Benedetto – 1st to 5/22 Linda Stachelek – 1st to 5/22

Past Moderator – 1-year term (2)

Jessica Trusz – 1st to 5/22

Clerk – 2-year term (unlimited)

Alice Rowley – 15th to 5/23

Council Members-at-Large - 2-year term (2)

(Number elected positions – 4)

Geri Turner – 1st to 5/22 Ed Fidrych – 2nd to 5/22

TWO OPEN positions to 5/23

Treasurer - 1-year January to December term (5)

By-Law proposed change to unlimited term limits.

Paid position as of September 2017

Treasurer - 1-year January to December term (3)
By-Law proposed change to unlimited term limits.

Paid position as of September 2017

*Teresa Odoy – 8th to 12/21 *Marion Spaulding – 6th to 12/21

Pam Mosdale – 3rd to 12/21

(Term extension approved by Council 5/25/21)

Financial Secretary – 1-year term January to December term (5)

Paid position (Financial Manager) as of September 2017

By-Law proposed change to unlimited term limits.

Pam Mosdale – 3rd to 12/21

Marion Spaulding – 3rd to 12/21

Auditor - 1-year January to December term (2)

OPEN position

Historians - 4-year term (unlimited)**

(Number elected positions – 3)

Two OPEN positions to 5/22 One OPEN position to 5/25

Board of Deacons (Worship Team) - 3-year term (2)

(Number elected positions – 14)

Dave Arnold - Emeritus

***Cheryl Brodell – 3rd to 5/24

Rick Jacobson – 2nd to 5/24

Terri Reid – 2nd to 5/22

Crystal Reid – 2nd to 5/22

Lisa Dann – 1st to 5/22

Edi Dole – 2nd to 5/22

Jan Sherman – 1st to 5/22

Rebecca Weller – 1st to 5/22 (Note 1)

*Marilyn Henry – 3rd to 5/22

Marge Bartlett - 2nd to 5/22

Birgitta O'Brien – 1st to 5/23

Denise Young – 1st to 5/23

**Grace Carlson - 3rd to 5/23

**Jen Carlson – 3rd to 5/23

Pastor and Executive Committee representative are also members.

Note 1: finishing term of John Henrikson

*Term extensions approved by Council 5/28/19 **Term extensions approved by Council 5/26/20

***Term extension approved by Council 5/25/21

Christian Education Board (Team) – 2-year term (2)

(Number elected positions – 6 to 9)

*Lisa Peeling – 3rd to 5/23

*Megan Smith – 3rd to 5/23

Steve Pozzato – 1st to 5/22

Jon Turban – 1st to 5/23

Megan Sullivan – 1st to 5/23

Jess Pozzato – 1st to 5/22

**Billie Bunting – 3rd to 5/22

Pastor, Executive Committee representative and Director of Family Ministries are also members.

²Removed church membership requirement except Board chair and vice-chair [approved by-law change 5/12]

* Term extension approved by Council 5/25/21 **Term extension approved by Council 5/26/20

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Board of Youth Ministries (Youth Enrichment Team) – 2-year term (2)

(Number elected positions – 10)

**Michelle Goodwin – 6^h to 5/23

**Sandy Girard – 4th to 5/23

RuthAnn Lofmark – 1st to 5/23

***Deb Lynch** – 3rd to 5/22

Six OPEN positions to 5/22

Six OPEN positions to 5/22

Pastor, Executive Committee representative, Senior and Junior High Youth Directors are also members

*Term extension approved by Council 5/26/20 **Term extension approved by Council 5/28/19, 5/25/21

Human Resources Committee – 2-year term (2)

(Number elected positions – minimum of 2)

*Jessica Trusz – 4th to 5/23 Keith Davis – 2nd to 5/23

Cheryl Benedetto – 1st to 5/23 Linda Stachelek – to 5/23

*approved by Council 5/28/19, 5/25/21

Trustees Board - 2-year term (2)

(Number elected positions – minimum of 5)

(F) Bernie Odoy – 2nd to 5/23

(R) Patrick Fenton – 1st to 5/23

(R) Scott Reid – 2nd to 5/22

(R) Doug Zybrands – 1st to 5/22

(R) **Larry Zarrella** – 2nd to 5/22

Pastor, Executive Committee representative are also members of the Board of Trustees.

(R) Real Estate (F) Finance

Real Estate Committee (Team) - 2-year term (unlimited)

(Number elected positions – minimum of 5)

Bob Fleming – 3rd to 5/23

Four OPEN positions

Finance Committee (Team) - 2-year term (2)

(Number elected positions – minimum 7)

One OPEN positions to 5/22

(F) Bernie Odoy – 1st to 5/22

(S)*Sally Zakszewski – 6th to 5/23

(F) Evelyn Dillman – 2nd to 5/23

(F) Teresa Odoy – 3rd to 5/23 Note 1

(F) Marion Spaulding – 3rd to 5/23 Note 1

(F) Pam Mosdale – 3rd to 5/23 Note 1

*Term extension approved by Council 5/25/21

Note 1: *By-Law proposed change to unlimited term limits.*

Paid position as of September 2017

(F) Finance (S) Stewardship

Memorial/Investment Committee - 2-year term (2)**

(number elected positions 5)

Five OPEN positions to 5/23

Mission Board (Charity and Service Team) - 2-year term (2)

(number elected positions – minimum of 6)

Sheryl Scheidel – 1st to 5/23

*Carolyn Barnes – 3rd to 5/23

Jean Williams – 2nd to 5/23

Sue McCaffrey – 1st to 5/22

Pat Duffy – 1st to 5/23

Cathy Ferry – 1st to 5/23

Leslie Chapman – 1st to 5/22

*Term extension approved by Council 5/25/21

Social Action Team (SAT) – 2-year term (2)

Team formed in 2019 – under Missions

DISBANDED

Music Committee - 2-year term (unlimited)

(number elected positions – minimum of 4)

Four OPEN positions

Music Director is also a member. A fifth member is appointed annually from the Board of Deacons

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Care Ministries (Visitation Committee) - 2-year term (unlimited)

(number elected positions – minimum of 5)

	Edi Dole – 6 th to 5/22
(visitation)	Birgitta O'Brien – 1 st to 5/22
(correspondence)	Colleen Sandberg – 1 st to 5/22
(music-home/hospital)	Carolyn Brodgerski–1 st to 5/22
(rides)	Bernie Trafford - 6 th to 5/22
(correspondence)	Carla Clark – 4 th to 5/22
(flowers/correspondence)	Carolyn Aubin – 7 ^h to 5/23
(meals)	Cheryl Brodell – 7 th to 5/23
(flowers)	Shellie Mulligan – 4 rd to 5/23
(meals)	Michele Sinkez – 3 rd to 5/23
	Warren Thime – 2 nd to 5/23

An additional member is appointed annually from the Board of Deacons

Hospitality Team (formerly Social Committee) – 1-year term (unlimited)

(number elected positions – minimum of 5)

(lead coffee hour/shopper)	OPEN to 5/22
(lead events caller)	OPEN to 5/22
(lead events coordinator)	Sally Zakszewski– 5 th to 5/22
(events/caller)	Deb Chaniewski – 5 th to 5/22
(events/caller)	Daphine Vail – 5 th to 5/22
(coordinator/caller/events)	Terri Reid – 5 th to 5/22
(new member coordinator)	OPEN to 5/22
(new member coordinator)	OPEN 5/22
	Sheryl Scheidel – 5 th to 5/23

Welcome/Membership Team – 1-year term (unlimited)

(formerly Membership/Hospitality Committee)

(number elected positions – minimum of 4)

Val Seaver – 3rd to 5/22

Edi Dole – 5th to 5/22

Grace Carlson – 5th to 5/22

Marge Bartlett – 2nd to 5/22

OTHER COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Gardens Team

Carolyn Aubin

Shellie Mulligan

Marge Bartlett

Carla Clark

Gwen Lawson
Sally Zakszewski

Technology Team

Jeff Gorman Gene LaMantia Ben Moreland
B.T. Odoy Bernie Odoy Jason Smith (Carillons)

- Numbers in parentheses following the length of term indicate the number of consecutive elected terms permitted by the by-laws.
- Per vote of Church Council terms may be extended.
- **Bold** indicates chair/leader.
- An individual may be elected to serve again after taking one year off. Any elected term of one year or more shall be considered a full term for purposes of the consecutive term limit.

Respectfully Submitted,
The 2020-2021 Executive Committee
Rev. Bob Faulhaber, Jessica Trusz, Keith Davis