**Minutes of September 7, 2022 Meeting of the Worship & Music Committee**

**5:00 p.m. – in person, in the Parlor**

**Attendance: Adeline Bailey, Rev. Kat Hawbaker, Nancy Luthy, Martha McGovern, Maggie Meyer, Suzyn Mills, Annie Warmke**

**Theme for 2020-2022: How can we be mindful and authentic in cherishing all life?**

Chalice Lighting: Rachel Naomi Remen: “And so perhaps this is about our wounds, that the fact is that life is full of losses and disappointments, and the art of living is to make them something that can nourish others.” Tikkun olam – in Hebrew, the task of “restoring the world”

1. Minutes of August meeting were approved (with correction of WLs for Oct. 16)
2. **Annie Warmke -- update on Homecoming Project**:

Plan for Follow-Up:

55 Responses were submitted and Elaine Barr, Chair of the Membership Committee, is creating a spread sheet. One clear recommendation is for inclusion weekly of information about FUUSM (e.g., how to sign up for the newsletter, expectations of friends, how to become a member)

Special after-service coffees will be scheduled in conjunction with tours of the building. The first one will be October 30, when Day of the Dead is observed.

Plans have been made for installation of Concretia and an official unveiling in early spring.

Through sale of the t-shirts, approximately $2000 have been raised for Ukrainian Women Farmers.

Shari Ballantyne will report the proceeds of the raffle for the garden stepping stone soon.

The Homecoming Committee will be submitting a request for reimbursement for the budgeted $400.

1. Assessment on progress with methods of increasing involvement: Probably the ones we need to attend to most are the **Greeters and Time for All Ages**.

* *Establishment of Greeter Team – Zoom and in-person:* Membership Committee with Elaine Barr as Chair Adeline reported that procedures and duties are being revised and a regular schedule of volunteers is being established. The committee is using a card for new comers on a trial basis.

RECOMMENDATION: Those who attend services, meetings and events are asked to report to the church office if they contract COVID. The information can then be reported via FUUSM-l.

NEED: host for second Sunday of each month

* Time for All Ages – team, schedule, suggested readings

Kat encouraged focused attention on this component of the worship service. The Committee agreed that a first step is to include Time for All Ages in planning all services.

Other actions are to request suggestions from members and friends, to design a worship service around stories, to plan a Women’s Group and a Men’s Group meeting around the question of favorite or most helpful/powerful stories, to write a piece for The Confluence. Martha McG volunteered to lead this effort.

Suggested New Books:

*No Time for Mother’s Day* by Laurie Halse Anderson (Martha)

*I Am Golden* by Eva Chen (Martha – Migration - acceptance of Asian ethnicity)

*We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom (Martha – inspired by Native American legends and recent actions)

*Time to Fly* by George Ella Lyon (Martha – A story of nurturing and independent)

1. Correspondence: Martha has sent thank you notes to all recent guest speakers and participants in worship services.
2. Financial Matters:

Martha Webster has requested reimbursement for purchase of Choir music for 2022-23. Martha McG will check with Ted Goertzel about the status of the music line in the W & M Committee budget and of the special Music Fund (Novaks). Rev. Kat will follow the paper trail to identify whether the budget line or the special fund was the source of the reimbursement.

As per her preference, Lace Lynch will receive a thank you note and a FUUSM mug in gratitude for her Reflection on July 3. – Annie Warmke will deliver it.

Per Carol Steinhagen’s request, payment of $75 for Reflection on July 24 has been donated to the local Food Bank in her name. We have received a thank you note from the Food Bank.

1. Reflection on recent services: Geoff Schenkel – Art as an Instrument of Community Building

What went well – Reflection was very powerful for its personal honesty, depth of thought, and vivid example of collaboration of diverse members of a community for the shared purpose of a common good. The Time for All Ages story, The Tin Forest by Helen Ward, was a perfect choice.

What to improve, change – We can provide additional guidance on how most effectively to present children’s books.

General Observation: People like a positive vibe to the services and less “staid” elements. Perhaps we need more dancing, more movement, more lively singing.

The following suggested changes have been implemented:

Communicating Start of Service: Play recorded Call to Worship music as placards are shown on screens/ZOOM and perhaps add bold image or color on placard that states that the service is about to begin. Perhaps add sound (gong, church bells, chime).

Joys and Sorrows after service has drawn to close: Have clear segment with opening statement, sharing, closing statement, perhaps second benediction, invite attendees to continue sharing/conversations in Social Hall during Coffee Hour.

Making Exit from Sanctuary less awkward: Play recorded Going Forth Music briefly as attendees begin to exit the Sanctuary.

1. 100th Anniversary of The Flower Ceremony – Faithify.org fundraiser search field – flower

The committee members will view the video and be prepared to discuss it at October’s meeting.

1. Ken Walsh – ZOOM - Women in the Old Testament for Reflection? +Story for All Ages?

ZOOM – one-hour workshops on same topic and on The Big Three Characters of the Old Testament (Abraham, Moses & David) ?

The Committee felt that this topic is not of central interest at this time.

**BRAINSTORMING:**

Need to talk with other groups (Building & Grounds, BRIDGES) about taking part in or taking responsibility for worship service? Membership is considering a service after they feel stabilized.

Need to organize a committee recharge or committee fair event?

Revitalizing Adult RE, perhaps with New UU Workshop both in-person and on ZOOM

Establishing Chalice Circles, perhaps interest-based

Re-thinking Circle Suppers

Reacquaint ourselves with our “liturgical calendar”

Perhaps establish quarterly goals, projects

**FUTURE Worship Services**

Potential Services:

“LGBTQ: I Am Who I Am” – Wayne Waldeck & Lee Rector

Holy Books – Shavuot, Judaism The Torah

Forgiveness **Rosh Hashanah** New Year’s Day, first of Ten Days of Awe **Yom Kippur – Oct. 4-5**

**PATTERN:** 1st Sunday – Homecoming, 2nd Sunday – Social Justice, 3rd Sunday – Green Sanctuary

**AUGUST *[Kat away August 19 – back for September 4 service]***

**7 Overview and Retrospective on Homecoming Experience** (Annie & Suzyn)

**14 Kat -** Social Justice Sunday – Intersectionality

Afternoon – Social Justice Danielle Thrasher on Trans

**21** Our Caring CircleCathy Rees & Caring Committee, Guest Speaker Krissy Kearns

on Hospice Services WL: Rebecca Phillips

**28** Art: An Instrument for Building Community Guest Speaker – Geoff Schenkel

WL: Dawn Hewitt

Afternoon – Movie about water protectors

**SEPTEMBER**

**4** Labor Day – Our Relationship with Our Work WL: Martha McGovern

**11 Kat - Water Ceremony** Green Sanctuary

Afternoon – Social Justice – Sierra Club

**18 Kat** – Building a Beloved Community

**25 Kat --** Guest Speaker – Timber Hawkeye on Buddhist Boot Camp

(arranged by Kelcey and Chris Jacobs)

Afternoon – Timber Hawkeye (1:00 to 2:30 p.m.)

**OCTOBER ??? Topics?? UU The Vote, \*Mike Tager as guest speaker (Martha has sent**

**email), Adult RE**

**2 Kat –** Yom Kippur Forgiveness (Martha will share materials from Chautauqua)

Blessing of Animals – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard

**\*9 Kat**

**16** Supporting The Thriving of Women (WLs - Annie Warmke and Suzyn Mills)

**\*23 Kat**

**30** Kat – Day of the Dead [Special Coffee + tours – open to public]

**NOVEMBER**

**\*6**

**13**

**20 Kat -** ALL AGES THANKSGIVING

**27 Kat - Advent**

**DECEMBER**

**4 Kat** – Ribbon Ceremony

**11**

**18**

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service

**25 Kat** – Christmas Brunch in Social Hall

**JANUARY**

1. **Kat** – Fire Communion