**Minutes of July 5, 2023 Meeting of the Worship & Music Committee**

**In Attendance:**  Adeline Bailey, Martha McGovern, Maggie Meyer, Suzyn Mills,

**Theme Question for 2023-2024:** “Beginners” by Denise Levertov #648 “How could we tire of hope? – so much is in bud.”

Chalice Lighting: President Biden on essential needs: All of us have common needs: Something to do; Someone to love, Something to hope for, to strive for.

1. Minutes of June 7 were approved.
2. Assessment on progress with methods of increasing involvement:

* Martha will continue in efforts to recruit and line up Worship Associates in time for The Confluence.
* Time for All Ages – team, schedule, suggested readings

Time for All Ages is included in all services (as is possible). We will start a list of recommended books (often featured in a worship service) to be shared as a reference.

Other actions are to request suggestions from members and friends (Emily Keller is willing to help. Cindy Burton) and to provide additional guidance on how most effectively to present children’s books.

1. Correspondence: Martha – A thank you note has been sent to Steve Free for his music, stories, and information shared in the June 25 worship service.
2. Financial Matters:

Martha requested reimbursement from the General Music Special Fund for $160, the amount that equals the donations for the remaining 8 copies of Singing the Journey. Doing so, keeps the General Music Special Fund at the same level.

Martha submitted a request for payment to Steve Free of $125 (speaker - $75, guest musician - $50) for the worship service of June 25.

1. Reflection on Recent Worship Service/Event: July 2 Spirit Play

What went well – The service created a light spirit and mood. The words of Sophia Lyon Fahs [#657] presented a strong frame for consideration of Religious Exploration and Faith Formation, especially for the young people. During the Time for All Ages, playing with the inflatable globe illustrated concepts (learning through experience, inclusion of all, following rules, taking turns) that were reinforced throughout the service. Presenting the pattern of a spirit play session was helpful.

What to improve, change – Consider the congregation’s experience of the service more consistently. Provide the words to the Responsive Reading – handout and/or on screen. A clearer definition of Spirit Play and stronger examples and/or explicit analysis of an example would be helpful. Three hymns might have been too many, especially because they are not familiar to the congregation.

Issue of how the service will draw to closure.

Consensus on order for end of service:

* + Benediction
  + Postlude
  + Announcements
  + Facebook Live ends
  + Joys & Sorrows/Circle of Life
  + 2nd Closing Words/Benediction
  + Invitation to Coffee Hour

1. We are still unsure how to deal with Facebook Live and Facebook in terms of interaction, privacy, permitted content, and outreach, and, with feedback from users collected, will continue discussion at a future meeting.

On Facebook, is there another way to convey announcements to that audience – e.g., a link, a screen share display? For Joys & Sorrows and connection, how can we encourage interaction, such as that on Zoom or in-person? Should/can the service be recorded and then only selected parts posted on Facebook or YouTube?

1. Annie caught us up on Chalice Lighter Grant plans and how they coordinate with W & M Committee endeavors. The Family Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 5. The kick-off reflection for Active Hope workshops will be August 27. The workshop will be led by Hilary Krivchenia, Amy Davis, and Laurel Hobson. Adult RE discussions will be scheduled for January, February, March, April. Major initiatives for the RE program will be OWL and art as well as family events. A formal RE curriculum will have a longer lead-up time. Possible reflection in November by RE Director from Wooster, OH.
2. ALERT for service planning: Mike Bailey will be out of town July 30-August 6.
3. The committee members pondered what our role should be in the dialogues scheduled for July. In our discussion, we realized that we had many unanswered questions. Thus, we brainstormed those questions and submitted them to the group that is facilitating that July dialogue.

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

**JUNE (*LGBT Pride Month, Delight, Ritual)***

**\*4 Kat Flower Communion** WA: Andrew Clovis

**11 Kat**  “We Are a Welcoming Congregation”

New Member Signing Ceremony WA: Martha McGovern

**Adult RE – Article II (invitation to delegates – Karen B, Rebecca P, Ted G, Kat)**

**Two Options** 9:30-10:45 OR 12:30-1:15

**18** *Father’s Day* Multicultural Festival & Picnic Prayer Service

**25 Steve Free** -“Music with a Message” **WL: Suzyn Mills**

**JULY (*Play)***

**\*2 Kat** What Is Spirit Play? WA: Jane Tumas-Serna

**9 [no Kat] GA Recorded Service** WL: Rebecca Phillips

**16 [no Kat]** UU Humor WLs: George Banziger, Martha McGovern, Ginny McNeil

Karen Binkley et al. – musical parody (Gilbert & Sullivan)

**23 Kat** *Let’s Play Together*(musically)WA: Tom Cunningham

(potential participants: Sophie, Elsie, The Tria, Chase)

**30 Kat** Play Stations WA: Jane Tumas-Serna

**AUGUST (*Activism)***

*Chalice Lighter Family Picnic – August 5*

**\*6 Kat** Getting to Know Our Beloved Community WA: Maggie Meyer

**13 UUMFE –** “A Season for Sacred Activism” WA:

**20 Kat** Why UU? WA:

**27 Active Hope** – Workshop kick-off Annie Warmke WA/WL: Suzyn Mills

**SEPTEMBER (Welcome, Repair)**

**\*3** *LABOR DAY* **WL: Martha McGovern** WA:

**10 Kat –** Water CommunionWA:

15 Rosh Hashanah

**17 Kat -** Forgiveness Yom KippurWA:

24 Yom Kippur begins at sundown

**24 Kat -** Robin Bozian **-** Homelessness*SECOND**COMMITTEE FAIR*

**OCTOBER (Heritage/Ancestors)**

**1 ?** Sukkot Harvest metaphor + members returning WA:

**8 ?** WA:

**15 ?** WA:

**22 ?** WA:

**29 ?** DAY OF THE DEAD WA:

**NOVEMBER (Generosity/ Sin & Atonement***)*

*Jenni Papp, RE Director, Wooster, OH possible speaker* dre@uufwc.org

**5**

**12**

**19**

23 *Thanksgiving*

**26**

**DECEMBER**

**3 Advent 1**

7 *Hanukkah begins*

**10 Advent 2**

**17 Advent 3**

21 *Winter Solstice*

**24 Advent 4**

*25 Christmas*

26 *Kwanzaa begins*

**31 Fire Communion ??**

**2024**

**JANUARY**

**FEBRUARY**

**MARCH –** Pre-recorded Reflection by Rebecca Phillips for Women’s History Month

**BRAINSTORMING:**

“Open the Window, Let the Dove Fly In” could be the basis of an entire service.

Annie recommended Luther Krueger as a speaker on solar energy (Ambassador for Solar

Cookers International)

\*Cory Sampson – Reflection on topic of choice, date TBD

Mike Tager – Marietta College, Political Science – guest speaker in 2023

Include a service on Ways to Meditate

June – Have a service with women from Uganda on Women in Agriculture (Annie Warmke)

Continue to make contacts with other faiths, cultures

Need to talk with other groups (Building & Grounds, BRIDGES) about taking part in or taking responsibility for worship service?

Establishing Chalice Circles, perhaps interest-based

Re-thinking Circle Suppers

Create a book of Graces, resources – for this Thanksgiving and keep adding

e.g., Darryl Ting’s Community Meal grace, *Earth Prayers, Life Prayers*

Reacquaint ourselves with our “liturgical calendar” **Shared at October meeting**

Perhaps establish quarterly goals, projects **UUA Holidays, Holy Days & Worship**

**Themes for 2022-2023 shared at October meeting**

Suggested Books:

*A Grand Old Tree* by Mary Newell DePalma (Martha)

*Because of an Acorn* by Lola M. Schaefer and Adam Schaefer, Illus by Frann Preston-

Gannon (Martha)

*Folktales for a Better World: Stories of Peace and Kindness* retold by Elizabeth Laird,

illus. by Mehrdokht Amini

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

*I Am Thankful: A Thanksgiving Book for Kids* by Sheri Wall, illus. by Holly Clifton-Brown

*If You Plant a Seed* by Kadir Nelson (Rebecca Phillips)

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

*Outside In* by Deborah Underwood, Illustrated by Cindy Derby (Mark Krivchenia)

*“Slowly, Slowly, Slowly,” said the Sloth* by Eric Carle (Martha)

*Sparrow’s Prayer* by Roger Hutchison, Illustrated by Ag Jatkowska (Martha)

*The 1619 Project: Born on the Water* by Nikole Hannah-Jones & Renee Watson, Illus. by

Nikkolas Smith (Martha)

*The Birthday of the World* by Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen (Martha – related to stories that

guide us)

*The Wise Fool: Fables from the Islamic World* by Shahrukh Husain & Micha Archer

(Martha)

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

*Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt*  by Kat Messner with art by Christopher Silas Neal

(Martha)

*We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom (Martha – inspired by Native American

legends and recent actions)

*We Planted a Tree* by Diane Mulfrow*,* Illus. by Bob Staake (Martha)

*Who Counts? 100 Sheep, 10 Coins, and 2 Sons* by Amy-Jill Levine and Sandy Eisenberg

Sasso, Illustrated by Margaux Meganck (Martha - A Retelling of Jesus’s parables)