**Minutes for February 7, 2024 Meeting of the Worship & Music Committee**

**In Attendance:**  Adeline Bailey, Nancy Luthy, Martha McGovern, Suzyn Mills, Jane Tumas-Serna

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

“Beginners” by Denise Levertov #648

Chalice Lighting: “But we have only begun to love the earth. We have only begun to imagine the fullness of life. How could we tire of hope? – so much is in bud. . . . We have only begun to know the power that is in us if we would join our solitudes in the communion of struggle. So much is unfolding that must complete its gesture, so much is in bud.”

1. Minutes of January 3 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 [Martha will find book for Feb. 25 service]

Time for All Ages is included in all services (as is possible).

We can have a regular spot in The Confluence to suggest books and to request recommendations.

We have books relevant to a topic or season on display and available for loan. We have set up a table in Social Hall and have provided a simple sign-up with title of book, name of borrower and contact (telephone or email). Dawn has stamped the books as property of FUUSM and created a sign-up/return form in paper form. The electronic form will be developed later. **Action:** By the end of March, Martha will reestablish the book display and temporary check-out station in Social Hall.

1. Correspondence: Martha has sent thank you notes to participants in recent worship services. (Nancy Luthy, Jann Adams, Hilary Krivchenia, Jay Warmke, Josie Jeffery)
2. Financial Matters:

FYI: Reimbursement paperwork for payment of drummer Riley Brumbaugh, $50 for rehearsal and worship service on November 12, has been completed for Martha and Suzyn. (Suzyn - $40, Martha - $10)

FYI: Records of Worship & Music Committee show that paperwork was submitted for the Chalice Lighter Grant to pay the $250 stipend for Jenni Papp.

FYI: Randy Kidder requested purchase of Scarlatti music from his allotment and Dawn Hewitt facilitated that order. On 12/22/23, she completed a reimbursement request for $20.95 from the W & M Committee funds to cover the order.

The rates for ordained ministers have increased. The Committee agreed to offer Rev. Hilary Krivchenia $315.00 for the worship service on January 21. 2024. Suzyn Mills will complete the paperwork.

Sara Swisher, guest speaker for Feb. 11, has donated her $75 stipend back to W & M Committee.

The Committee agreed that if Riley Brumbaugh rehearses and performs on drums, we will pay the same amount ($25 for rehearsal, $25 for performance).

Jane Tumas-Serna commented that she has a reimbursement to submit for the Design & Decoration Task Force materials used for the holidays.

Nancy Luthy confirmed that Beth Casebolt will not charge for her Reflection.

1. Reflection on Recent Worship Service/Event: - omitted due to time

What went well :

What to improve, change:

1. Budget Request for 2024-2025

The Committee agreed that most budget items will stay at the same level. Because the expected rate for ordained ministers has increased, we will make the following adjustments for guest speakers:

Someone in official position of UUA or other congregation $250\*

Ordained minister presenting Reflection $270\*

Ordained minister leading the entire worship service $315\*

\*plus travel expenses – 62.5 cents per mile

The Proposed Budget for 2024-2025 will come in a separate email.

1. Design & Decoration: Jane Tumas-Serna reported that decorations for 2/11 will include a nod to Valentine’s Day and to Chinese New Year and that the young people may circulate as a Dragon parade through the Sanctuary during the Announcement period.

She also suggested that we draw attention to Black History Month. She has the link to ***a video about the Harlem Renaissance*** and will share it with ***Dawn and Mike for playing on February 18 as part of the service OR at the end of the service.***

1. Feedback on Evaluation and Goal Setting for Pianist, Choir Director – postponed till March meeting Thank you, to all, for input.
2. The Board and Nancy Luthy will clarify expectations for Kat’s responsibilities for worship services in April, May, June. The Committee recommended 1.5 services per month (in other words, one full service + one light service, i.e. a short service or guest speaker in which Kat serves as WL).

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

**2024**

**JANUARY** Kat on Sabbatical **Liberating Love**

 **Holocaust Memorial Day – January 27**

**\*7 WLs: Adeline Bailey & Nancy Luthy – “A Whale of a Tale”** (Inuit Culture)

**14 WL: M. McGovern MLK Day** Speaker: Jann Adams “Taking Another Look at

Ourselves”

 **Choir**: “A Citizen of the World” Eugene Butler

**21 WL: Suzyn Mills Rev. Hilary Krivchenia Active Hope: “Service Is Our**

**Prayer”**

**28 WL: Dawn Hewitt Jay Warmke “AI: Has man just created God?” WA:\_\_\_?\_\_**

 **Special Music:** Josie Jeffrey “The Girl with the Flaxen Hair”by Claude Debussy

**FEBRUARY** Kat on Sabbatical **Justice & Equity Black History Month**

**Re-scheduled -- Choir:** “One Word” Words – Buddha & Lautzu, Music & words – Robert I. Hugh

**4** (Charter Sunday & World Interfaith Harmony Week) WL: Martha McG Bee Lore

in World Faiths

**11 (**Side with Love & Chinese New Year) WL: Virginia Henthorn **Guest speaker:**

**Sara Swisher Meditation: Windchimes & Frogs** WA: Martha McGovern

**Young People – Chinese Dragon parade during announcement time**

**18** WL: Dawn Hewitt **Guest speaker: Vic Elam “Appreciating Our Natural World”**

WA:

**25** WL: Suzyn Mills **Guest speaker: Janice Terry “Israel and Palestine”** WA: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\* Add follow-up extended conversation on conflict resolution approaches

 with George B. and J. Terry

 Schedule workshop for 1:00 p.m. No special lunch, but substantive offerings for

coffee hour and snacks for workshop break.

Sandwiches – Martha Fruit – Nancy

Soup – Suzyn Jane & Adeline – finger foods (cheese/crackers, veggies)

Snacks as part of workshop - Martha

Advertise the offering in OOS, Weekly Update, Confluence. Ask for notice that

coming.

**MARCH –** Kat on Sabbatical **Transformation Women’s History Month**

 **Ramadan begins – March 10**

 **Easter – March 31**

 World Water Day

**3 WL \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Speaker: Natalia Rudiak of Reimagine Appalachia Topic** - ??Reimagine Your Community, Faith in Action ?? WA: \_\_\_\_\_\_

**10 WL: Suzyn Mills Guest speaker: Katy McDaniel Topic: TBD** WA: \_\_\_\_

**Choir:** “I Am a Voice That Sings” words – Ronald W. Cadmus, music – Michael Bussewitz-Quarm

**17 WL: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Guest speaker: Beth Casebolt Topic: TBD** WA:\_\_\_\_\_

**24 WL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Guest speaker: Rebecca Phillips – taped Reflection WA: Dawn -- 24 OR 31??**

**31 EASTER WL: Kat has requested this date. J D Stillwater is possible speaker. (W & M Committee members approve of the option.)**

**APRIL Interdependence**

**Ramadan ends – April 8 at sunset**

**Earth Day – April 22 (community event – April 20)**

**Passover – April 22-30**

 **Choir:** “Non Nobis, Domine” music – Rosephanye Powell, words – Traditional Latin

 **7**

*Service Auction April 12*

 **14 Green Sanctuary - YES**

**Rebecca Phillips – WL/WA**

 **21**

 **28 Congregational Meeting WL: KAT**

**MAY Pluralism Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month**

**Mental Health Awareness Month**

 **Mother’s Day – May 12**

 **Memorial Day – May 27**

 **5 WL: KAT May Day Launching of Art Gallery?? Chris Hoke featured artist?**

 **12 WL – Suzyn Mills Family Day**

*May 18 Plant Sale*

 **19**

 **26**

**JUNE Renewal LGBTQ+ Pride Month**

 **Father’s Day – June 16 Multicultural Festival – Date TBD**

 **Juneteenth – June 19**

 **GA – virtual June 20-23**

 **2**

 **9**

 **16**

 **23**

 **30**

**BRAINSTORMING:**

Future Services:

\*Ralston Mound Dilemma – Adeline Bailey

\*Darryl Ting – New UU Adult RE, unanswered questions

\*Nancy Luthy will provide the name of a UU minister who offers a wide variety of virtual reflections. Mark Bernstein m.mjbernstein@verizon.net

\*Service by Membership Committee -- Martha will share passage on Belonging

\*Service or part by Pledge Drive Task Force – Martha will share passage on Belonging

\*Exploration of “Do we really want to grow? Why? If so, How?” as follow-up to open letter “Why We Aren’t Growing”

Voices from the congregation on how thankfulness is/was woven into their lives. E.g., grace

before meals, ritual at Thanksgiving gathering, nighttime meditation/prayer

Jeff Schenkel – local artist and politician

Natalia Rudiak – natalia@reimagineappalachia.org, local@reimagineappalachia.org

Quaker group

Ginnie McNeil – FACT (FAith Congregations Together)

Tom Rooney – Sustainable Forestry Director for the Nature Conservancy

Beth Casebolt

Mark Bernstein – leadership development

Pete Mather – OU professor

Steve Peck

“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 OR Mitchell Krumm – Marietta College, Political Science – guest speakers

Include a service on Ways to Meditate

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

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:

*An American Story* by Kwame Alexander, Illustrated by Dare Coulter

*A Grand Old Tree* by Mary Newell DePalma

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

Gannon

 *Breaking News* by Sarah Lynne Reul

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

illus. by Mehrdokht Amini

 *Humphrey’s First Christmas* by Carol Heyer

*I Am Golden* by Eva Chen

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

*If You Plant a Seed* by Kadir Nelson

*Martin’s Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Doreen Rappaport, illus. by

 Bryan Collier

*Missing Kitty* by Mark Neyman

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

*Outside In* by Deborah Underwood, Illustrated by Cindy Derby

*“Slowly, Slowly, Slowly,” said the Sloth* by Eric Carle

*Someone Builds the Dream* by Lisa Wheeler & Loren Long

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

*Ten Beautiful Things* by Molly Beth Griffin, illus. by Maribel Lechuga

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

Nikkolas Smith

 *The Bee Tree* by Patricia Polacco

*The Birthday of the World* by Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen

 *The Elephants Come Home:* A True Story of Seven Elephants, Two People, and One

Extraordinary Friendship by Kim Tomsic, Illustrated by Hadley Hooper

 *The Undefeated* by Kwame Alexander, Illustrated by Kadir Nelson

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

 *This Very Tree*: A Story of 9/11, Resilience, and Regrowthby Sean Rubin

 *Tikvah Means Hope* by Patricia Polacco (a story related to Sukkot)

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

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

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

legends and recent actions)

 *We Dream a World* by Yolanda Renee King, illus. by Nicole Tadgell

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

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

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