**Minutes of March 6, 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: “We Go on Loving” from How to Be an Adult by David Richo

What makes us human beings so uniquely wonderful in this puzzling universe is that we never give up on love. Against all odds, with no guarantee of being loved in return, out of the hate and hurt so often handed us, in the face of the sad suffering history has let us see, we go on loving. What deep respect we deserve for this capacity of ours to make love out of anything and to let it last.

1. Minutes of February 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 can have a regular spot in The Confluence to suggest books and to request recommendations.  **Action**: Martha will plan to submit an article soon after each month’s meeting so that she can meet the Confluence deadline.

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.

* We can increase coordination with childcare staff – alerting them of the book/topic to be featured at least a week ahead of time, providing them with a copy of materials and ideas for follow-up
* Adeline Bailey shared ideas gleaned from a session on Shared Ministry. Some recommendations: Coordination with RE (BRIDGES), having Board liaisons to various committees, creation of structure to support networking among committees, having a parish minister under contract with the responsibility to facilitate such efforts.
1. Correspondence: Martha has sent thank you notes to participants in recent worship services. (Dawn, Ami, Vic, Janice Terry, Riley Brumbaugh, Sara Swisher, Virginia, Natalia Rudiak)
2. Financial Matters:

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

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

Natalia Rudiak’s request that her $150 stipend (speaker outside of MOV) be donated to ReImagine Appalachia was approved.

Riley Brumbaugh was paid $25 for her performance on drums. Martha McGovern has submitted a request for reimbursement and it was approved.

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 was reviewed and approved for submission.

1. Design & Decoration: Jane Tumas-Serna proposed the establishment of a Creative Expression Portal in the rear of the Sanctuary. Each month a few (1-3) artists will display work that is relevant to the month’s theme. Information about the artist, the creation process, and the art pieces will also be posted. Artists will contact Jane Tumas-Serna to schedule display. Artists will be responsible for bringing in their work, for arranging for effective display, and for removing their work. For March – Women’s History Month, Ami Rush will initiate the project.

Projected themes: April – Interdependence; May – Pluralism & Family; June – Renewal & LGBTQ+

1. Martha thanked committee members for giving input as she formulated the Evaluation and Goal Setting with the Pianist and the Choir Director.
2. Nancy Luthy reported that the Board and Kat agreed with the Committee’s understanding of Kat’s responsibilities for worship services in April, May, June.
3. Review of Annual Report for amendment – Martha will send out a draft of the Annual Report for 2023-2024. It will be finalized at the April 3 meeting and submitted by April 9.

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

**2024**

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

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

 with George B. and J. Terry

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

 **Ramadan begins – March 10**

 **Easter – March 31**

 World Water Day

**3 WL -Martha McGovern Guest Speaker: Natalia Rudiak of Reimagine Appalachia** - Reimagining Community WA: \_\_\_\_\_\_

**10 WL: Suzyn Mills Guest speaker: Katy McDaniel “Speak Into Being”** WA: \_\_\_\_

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

**17 WL: Nancy Luthy & Board of Trustees Guest speaker: Beth Casebolt**

 **“Covenants, Congregations and Individuals: How Do We Make It All Work?”**

WA:\_\_\_\_\_

**24 WL: Martha McGovern Guest speaker: Rebecca Phillips – taped Reflection**

**“U,U, and UU Women: Making Our Voices Heard Since 1694**

**31 EASTER (All Ages) WL: KAT** WA: Dawn Hewitt

**APRIL Interdependence**

**Ramadan ends – April 8 at sunset**

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

**Passover – April 22-30**

 **7 Membership Committee – Reflection: Darryl Ting Participants: Elaine Barr, Cynthia**

**Ting WA: Adeline Bailing**

*Service Auction April 12*

 **14 Green Sanctuary - YES Rebecca Phillips – WL/WA**

 **Choir:** We Can Plant a Forest words & music – Jim Papoulis & Mike Greenly

 **21 KAT “We Are What We Eat”** WA: \_\_\_\_\_

 *Adeline will coordinate with Kat about a film from Interfaith Power & Light*

*“Common Ground” that deals with food insecurity.*

 **28 Congregational Meeting WL: KAT** WA: \_\_\_\_\_

**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**

 **12 WL: Suzyn Mills Family Day**

*May 18 Plant Sale*

 **19 ???**

 **26 KAT Memorial Day**

**JUNE Renewal LGBTQ+ Pride Month**

 **Father’s Day – June 16 Multicultural Festival – June 21-23**

 **Juneteenth – June 19**

 **GA – virtual June 20-23**

 **2 Guest Speaker: Richard Thieret “The Biology of Gender” WL: Martha McG**

 **9 ???**

 **16 Father’s Day**

 **23 Multicultural Festival – Kat service at park with picnic**

 **30 ??? taped portion of GA**

**JULY**

**AUGUST**

**SEPTEMBER**

**OCTOBER** JD Stillwater – worship service & workshop?

**NOVEMBER**

**DECEMBER**

**BRAINSTORMING:**

Future Services:

\*Ralston Mound Dilemma – Adeline Bailey

\*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 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

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 more 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

*Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown

*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

 *Welcome Home, Bear: A Book of Animal Habitats* by Il Sung Na

*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)

*Yaffa and Fatima: Shalom, Salaam* adapted by Fawzia Gilani-Williams; illus. by Chiara

Fedele