**Minutes of August 7, 2024 Meeting of the Worship & Music Committee 5:00 p.m. in the Parlor**

**In Attendance: Rev Kat, Nancy Luthy, Adeline Bailey, Jane Tumas-Serna, Martha McGovern**

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

“Beginners” by Denise Levertov #648

Chalice Lighting: “Welcome Home” by Rachel Rott

Welcome, you questioners, seekers of Truth with a capital T, pilgrims longing for sanctuary, travelers needing harbor from the storm.

Welcome, those who are holding on by a thread, determined breakers of the chains of loneliness and isolation. You pushed through your fear because something told you that you deserve to belong.

Welcome home.

Welcome, those who braid ropes, again and again. You’ve been there for our siblings who were just hanging on. You gave them a hand into community and told them they could rest here.

Welcome, you who seek spiritual and religious community for your children and grandchildren. You entrust your young people here, and we, as a community, commit to nurture and respect them.

Welcome, children and youth. You give us the gift of your wisdom, your joy, your curiosity, and your trust that we will hold all of it safe.

Welcome.

Welcome home.

How do we make this tender place wider? How do we stretch into a bolder welcome, a radical generosity of the heart?

Can we imagine ourselves the stewards and ushers, not only into this space, but into our circle of belonging?

Can we commit and recommit to being accountable to one another as in an anti-racist, anti-oppressive community that centers marginalized voices, that listens to those voices especially when what they are saying is hard to hear? Can we be willing to change?

When we break our agreements with one another, can we offer amends? Can we be humble and generous? There is grace enough here.

There is, in this place, the possibility of healing, of repair, of making things right: within ourselves, between us, and with the wider world.

There is, in this place, possibility.

Welcome home.

1. Minutes of July 3 meeting were approved with the following correction: Cost of materials from Soul Matters was $215 rather than $218.
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 has submitted an article for the April Confluence as the first of a regular column called “Search for Truth Library for Young People.”

We have had 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:** Martha will reestablish the book display and temporary check-out station in Social Hall. Rev Kat has identified a small book case for the display.

* We can increase coordination with childcare staff. Worship planners/leaders have started to alert Debra Lauer, currently Childcare Coordinator, of the book/topic to be featured in Time for All Ages at least a week ahead of time, providing staff with a copy of materials and ideas for follow-up when possible.
1. Correspondence: Martha – Thank you notes have been sent to Rebecca Phillips, Adeline and Mike Bailey, Nancy Luthy, and Robin Bozian.
2. Financial Matters: The Committee approved Martha’s request for reimbursement. At the recommendation of the Committee, Martha purchased materials from Soul Matters related to the Article II highlighted UUA values. The 10 packets of resource materials for Worship Services cost $215.

The Committee recommended that we investigate the license related to use of music. Adeline Bailey will consult with Martha Webster and the issue will be considered in September.

The Committee approved sending a donation check of $100 for the Planetarium fieldtrip on August 18 to Marietta College with “Planetarium” in the memo line.

1. Kat alerted the Committee of a free ZOOM facilitator training for the Soul Matters materials on August 10. As Martha completed FUUSM’s subscription process, she identified Kat and herself as primary contacts and Dawn Hewitt, Mike Bailey, and Suzyn Mills as leaders with access to the resources. Those identifications can be adjusted as circumstances change.
2. Design & Decoration Update: Jane Tumas-Serna has arranged for several congregation members to continue highlighting their involvement with The Society for Creative Anachronism in the Creative Expression Portal through August.

In September, the display will turn to the idea that Water is essential to Life. Jane will write a piece for The Confluence to invite congregational members and friends to submit work.

1. Nancy Luthy gave an update on implementation of the policy for art work in the courtyard. Concretia will be moved back to the creators’ property in September.
2. Participation in Climate Justice Revival, September 28-29 Adeline Bailey reported on preparation progress. Green Sanctuary is taking the lead on this effort, has paid the $50 cost for registration and resources, is facilitating the Saturday activities, the Sunday worship service, and follow-up sessions after coffee hour on Sunday. Childcare will be provided on both Saturday and Sunday. The group also is encouraging congregational participation in the sermon and art work competitions.
3. Reflection on Recent Worship Service/Event:

What went well :

What to improve, change:

1. Emergency Statement for WL or WA – consult with the Safety Committee for September. Nancy Luthy will share ideas with the Board.

Statement used at Chautauqua: If the fire alarm sounds, please exit in an orderly way through the designated exits. If there is another emergency, please remain seated or shelter in place, and specific directions will be provided.

**Emphases:** Outreach to Community, Social Justice, 3rd Sunday – Green Sanctuary

**2024**

**JULY EQUITY July 4 – Independence Day**

 **7 Kat** “Interdependent Web of All Existence”

 **14 Kat** “Generosity”

 **21 WL: Martha McG** “Our Power to Hold the Center”

 **28 WL: Nancy Luthy Guest Speaker - *Robin Bozian*** “The Case for Equity: Why

Equality Is Not Enough”

**AUGUST INTERDEPENDENCE**

 **4 Kat** Lammas: Harvest the Power

 **11 Kat** How Humans Transform the Landscape

 **18 *Planetarium Ann Bragg* -** Indigenous Astronomy and The August Evening Sky

 NO COFFEE HOUR

 **25 WL: Kat Guest Speaker – *Richard Thieret*** “History of Your Life: The Origins

of Life in You”

**SEPTEMBER JUSTICE September 2 – Labor Day**

 **1 Kat – Labor Day ALL AGES (the sounds of work)**

 **8 Kat – Water Ingathering ALL AGES**

 **15 WL: Martha McG Guest Speaker: *Darryl Ting* –** Thriving Along the Way

 **22 Coordinator: Nancy Luthy Abbreviated service – Chairs will speak and**

**Committee Fair**

 **29 Green Sanctuary – Climate Justice Revival CHOIR – commissioned song**

**OCTOBER GENEROSITY** JD Stillwater – worship service & workshop? – Kat will be in

discussion with JD

2 – Rosh Hashanah, 11 – Yom Kippur, 14 – Indigenous Peoples Day, 31 – Halloween

 **6** *W & M Committee – “We Forgive Ourselves & Each Other”*

 **13 Kat Guest Speaker: *Peter Mather* –** “Becoming a Flourishing Community”

 pete.mather@gmail.com

 **20 WL: Adeline Bailey and coordinator guest speaker from Belpre “Ralston**

**Mound Dilemma”**

**27 Kat Halloween**

**NOVEMBER PLURALISM**

 **3 Kat Day of the Dead WA:** Jane Tumas-Serna

 **10 Kat**

 **17** Carol Steinhagen – speaking for Native American Heritage Day -- **verify**

 **24 Kat Thanksgiving**

**DECEMBER TRANSFORMATION**

 **1** Have Christmas Tree assembled ***Virginia Henthorn – able to do???***

 **8 Ribbon Communion**

 **15** (honor Hannukah Dec. 25-January 2)

 **22** (celebrate Solstice)

*Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Service*

 **29** (honor Kwanzaa begins Dec. 26)

**JANUARY**

**5 Fire Communion**

**BRAINSTORMING:**

Future Services:

*\*Richard Thieret – possible contributions: History of Life (the origins of life in you), Carbon & Consumerism, Spiritual Narcissism, Spiritual Beliefs about the Soul, Piety and Plagues. Also a bioethics play and a Unitarian jeopardy game.*

\*Nancy Luthy will provide the name of a UU minister who offers a wide variety of virtual reflections (e.g., leadership development) 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

Quaker group

Ginnie McNeil – FACT (FAith Congregations Together)

Tom Rooney – Sustainable Forestry Director for the Nature Conservancy

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:

 *A Bad Case of Stripes* by David Shannon

*A Grand Old Tree* by Mary Newell DePalma

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

*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

 Find Your Power! Discover the wonder of you! By Beth Cox, illus by Vicky Barker

 *How to Help the Earth* by the Lorax with Tish Rabe, illus. by Christopher Moroney & Jan

Gerardi

 *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

*I Will Dance* by Nancy Bo Flood and Julianna Swaney

*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

*Our Class Is a Family* by Shannon Olsen, illus. by Sandie Sonke

*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 Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds

*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

*Yes We Can!* By Sam McBratney, illus by Charles Fuge