**February 2025 Confluence Blurbs**

The February services acknowledge Black History Month, 30 Days of Love 2025: Inhabiting Our Freedom Dreams, and the theme of Inclusion.

February 2 “Riding the Roller Coaster of Change” guest speaker: Beth Casebolt

As Malcolm Gladwell advises, “There is no reason to be surprised by change. In fact, we should be suspicious of its absence, not surprised by its presence.”

Worship Leader: Nancy Luthy

February 9 “What Is the S-I-Z-E of Our Soul?”

In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the first week of February of every year as World Interfaith Harmony Week. WIHW is a time for people of all religions, faiths, and beliefs to rededicate themselves to interreligious dialogue, mutual understanding, and cooperative action toward the goals of peace and justice. In general terms, the week focuses on the shared commitments to love of God/Good and love of one’s neighbor.

Worship Leader: Martha McGovern

CHOIR, directed by Martha Webster: “Carry the Light” words and music by

Andy Beck

February 16 “Loved into Being”

Experiencing oppression and exclusion stunt our development, but freedom and inclusion nurture it. This service will explore the power of inclusive and nurturing love to transform individuals and to strengthen and enrich community. Diana Bonnell and Elizabeth West will share their experiences with the issues of diversity, equity and inclusion in church and work settings. Then the congregation will move into small groups for further discussion.

Worship Coordinators: Adeline & Mike Bailey, Martha McGovern

February 23 “Art as a Voice of Social Justice”

In this service, Dawn Hewitt will introduce us to a small, unassuming Croatian Catholic Church just north of Pittsburgh that is home to a collection of provocative murals focusing on social justice and Christianity. Painted by Maxo Vanka in 1937 and 1941, the murals address economic disparity, the futility of war, industrial pollution, and other such social issues that were relevant then and still are today.

Worship Leader: Dawn Hewitt