**Minutes of January 8, 2025 Meeting of the Worship & Music Committee**

**2:30 p.m. in the Parlor**

**In Attendance: Adeline Bailey, Suzyn Mills, Nancy Luthy, 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:

1. No Minutes of December 4, 2024 meeting – They are incorporated into this agenda.
2. Financial Matters:

 Dawn Hewitt has paid Chris Purdy $150 for tuning the piano on November 9, 2024.

She will pay the bill and charge the cost to the W & M Committee budget.

She also purchased five black folders for Choir members to use for their music. She will

charge the cost to the W & M Committee budget.

Martha Webster located a cello player Cynthia Puls for the November 24 service.

Martha McG completed the paperwork for her payment of $100.00 ($50 for rehearsal

and accompanying the Choir and $50 for playing Prelude, Offertory, and Postlude with

Randall Kidder) as per the established rates.

1. Projected budgetary needs to cover expenses for January to June of 2025 in Rev. Kat’s absence.

Beth Casebolt has been very helpful in suggesting options as we move forward.

* She is willing to do one or two services during those months. **Nancy Luthy has scheduled her for February 2.**
* UUA has sermon video series. Each sermon comes with reading and hymn suggestions. It is possible to try them out before subscribing. A subscription for one per month for “this year” (?2025?) is $300. **We decided that this expense might be worth the money. No preview or purchase has been done yet.**
* Sermons for the previous two years are free on the UUA website. [Go to UUA.org/sermonseries Free ones are under the archive menu on the left.]
* CER has a guest-in-your-pulpit listing of folks willing to do services. Many will do remote. Print the pages for those you like because the program is sunsetting in December. [https://www.uua.org/central:east/resources/guest-your-pulpit](https://www.uua.org/central%3Aeast/resources/guest-your-pulpit)

**Dawn has printed relevant ones and put them in a reference notebook.**

* Partner with or visit-remotely other congregations.
* Consider small group ministry or a discussion bowl once a month.

We figured that our costs would come in under the available amount of $2900. **Nancy Luthy submitted a ballpark request of $2820.00 to The Board.**

 6 times guest ordained ministers **$330** x 6 = $1980 (revised 1/26)

 UUA videoed sermons $ 300

 Outside speakers/musicians $50-$150 x 6 = $ 900

 **TOTAL $3180**

**We envisioned a basic mix of services each month: lay-led service, virtual speaker, guest in-person speaker, small group discussion/workshop, actual or virtual fieldtrip.**

**We will investigate whether Randall Kidder’s portable key board needs repair or replacement and whether the cost will fit within the limits of our funds.**

**BRAINSTORMING:**

Future Services:

* **MUSIC:** LeeAnn Gallucci, Katie’s children, Sophie Stevens, Laura
* **REFLECTIONS:** Hilary Krivchenia on 5 Habits -- Healing the Heart of Democracy, Climate Justice Revival sermons, DEI program (Jan Dils), our history – Jann Adams, the power of story – the People’s State of the Union, UUA – one Sunday per month, circuit minister, sources of information – Tangle.com, Heather Cox Richardson – Letters from an American
* **Aurora –** her story
* **Hungrytown –** available March 2-8, 2025 musical group
* **Pete Mather –** pete.mather@gmail.com
* **UUA Shared Read:** *Authentic Selves*
* \*\*JD Stillwater –Wife Ann will contact: 717-724-7320 “This is not my beautiful house”
* \*\*\*address questions submitted in August “Quest for Meaning” service
* Chase Campbell – now WTAP reporter
* Wood County Society – Brandon Gress, Executive Director
* *\*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
* Mike Tager OR Mitchell Krumm – Marietta College, Political Science – guest speakers
* Include more on Ways to Meditate
* 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*
* *Aurora Davis – personal story “My Journey”* 740-760-4380
* Willa O’Neill – political journey?
* Darryl Ting – topic of choice
1. Design & Decoration Update: Jane Tumas-Serna (not able to attend but sent text of plans for Winter Forest theme and gratitude for those who helped with taking down holiday decorations)
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 services routinely again.

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

We have books relevant to themes or particular services available for loan. 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*.* Stephanie Rector has volunteered to work on a database. Kat hasreestablished the book display and check-out station in Social Hall. Martha created a sign for the Search for Truth library. **Stephanie’s laptop can use the Google doc app for the database, so work can move forward soon.**

We can increase coordination with childcare staff. Worship planners/leaders have started to alert Lela Erb 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 reported that she is behind schedule in sending thank you notes.
2. Concretia Update: **Nancy Luthy** noted that the blocks of stone that served as the base for Concretia still need to be moved out of the gathering area and seated firmly in another area. She will contact Roger about following through on that action.
3. Reflection on Recent Worship Service/Event:

What went well :

What to improve, change:

1. Emergency Statement for WL or WA – consult with Ron Rees of the Safety Committee. Nancy Luthy will continue to share ideas with the Board. For now, we can incorporate the statement below into the Welcome statement. **Martha** will revise the examples available in the Sanctuary entrance desk.

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.

Ron Rees is looking into a grant from Homeland Security. We can check the UUA Community Resilience Site.

1. Days off and Concerts – Randall Kidder

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

**2024**

**DECEMBER TRANSFORMATION**

1. HOPE WL –Virginia Henthorn “Keepers of Hope”

**Thank you to Adeline for service resources and workshop organization!!!**

In Service of Seasons Greetings – Short worship service, workshop in Social Hall*Include John Maddox* **Jane – Sanctuary decoration**

Christmas Tree assembly - ***Virginia Henthorn and Tom Henderson***

 **8** PEACE WL – Martha “Seeking Inner PEACE: Ribbon Ceremony”

 **Special music:** LeeAnn Gallucci

 **15** JOY WL – Nancy Luthy (honor Hannukah Dec. 25-January 2)

 **22** LOVE WL – Martha “LOVE: What Is Asked of Us? (celebrate Solstice, Judaism,

Kwanzaa) **Choir:** “Luli Luli” (Ukrainian Lullaby adapted by Jill Gallina)

*Tuesday, December 24 –* **Suzyn** *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

 **Choir:** “Luli Luli” (Ukrainian Lullaby adapted by Jill Gallina)

 **29** WLs – Martha & Rhonda Newhart “The Turning of the Year: Fire Communion**“**

**2025**

**JANUARY STORY**

**5 “12 Days to Epiphany” ALL AGES Potluck Brunch & video** W & M, Tech

**12 “35 Years a UU Minister’s Wife” guest speaker Ellie Searl** WL: Suzyn Mills

**19 “What Would MLK Say?”** WL: MMcG

 **Choir:** “Peace Song (with We Shall Overcome)” Greg Gilpin

**26 “Reflections of an Aging Young Person” guest speaker Cory Sampson** WL:

Nancy Luthy

*29 – Chinese New Year*

**FEBRUARY INCLUSION Black History Month 30 Days of Love 2025: Inhabiting Our**

**Freedom Dreams**

 **2** “Riding the Roller Coaster of Change” Beth CaseboltWL: Nancy Luthy

 **9** “What is the S-I-Z-E of Our Soul?” World Interfaith Harmony Week WL: MMcG

 Choir: “Carry the Light” by Andy Beck directed by Martha Webster

*14 – Valentine’s Day*

 **16** “Loved into Being” Diana Bonnell, Elizabeth West

Service Coordinators: Mike & Adeline Bailey, Martha McGovern

*17 – Presidents’ Day*

 **23** “Art as a Voice of Social Justice” WL: Dawn Hewitt

*28 – First day of Ramadan*

**MARCH TRUST The People’s State of the Union ???**

 **2**

*5 – Ash Wednesday*

 **9 Daylight Savings Time Begins**

13 - Purim

 **16**

*17 – St. Patrick’s Day*

 **23**

 **30**

*March 30 - Eid al Fitr, begins at sundown*

**APRIL JOY**

 **6**

*12 – Passover begins at sundown*

 **13** *Palm Sunday*

*18 – Good Friday*

 **20** *Easter*

*22 – Earth Day*

*24 – Holocaust Remembrance Day*

 **27**

**MAY IMAGINATION**

*1 – May Day*

 **4**

 **11** *Mothers/Parents Day*

 **18**

 **25**

*26 – Memorial Day*

**JUNE FREEDOM**

 **1**

*6 – Eid al Adha, begins at sundown*

 **8 J.D. Stillwater “This Is Not My Beautiful House.”**

 **15** *Fathers Day*

*19 - Juneteenth*

 **22**

 **29**

**JULY** Disability Pride Month

*4 – July 4th*

 **6**

 **13**

 **20**

 **27**

**AUGUST**

 **3**

 **10**

 **17**

 **24**

 **31**

Martha at Chautauqua: July 12-19 and August 16-24