**Minutes of February 5, 2025 Meeting of the Worship & Music Committee**

**5:00 p.m. in the Parlor**

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

**Theme Questions for 2025-2026: Who are we as a congregation? What are our needs? How can we help each other cope with transitions and changing circumstances?**

**Suggested expansion --**

**“We grow souls when we engage with one another in congregational self-governance, learning through conflict and feeling the power of a shared vision come into reality.**

**The purpose of church is to provide spiritual sustenance for world engagement. Now more than ever, the world needs our congregations to be incubators of a generous, loving, and justice-seeking spirituality.” Rev. Dr. Robert M. Hardies**

Chalice Lighting:

1. Approval of Minutes for January 8 2025 meeting –
2. Financial Matters:

Suzyn Mill – Ellie Searl received payment of $150.

Payment of $150 was approved for Elizabeth West of Morgantown, speaker and small group discussion leader for February 16.

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

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**

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. She teamed with Nancy Luthy for the service on 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 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, Sophie Stevens, Laura
	+ Katie’s children – Hal and Josie willing, dates to be determined
* **REFLECTIONS:**
	+ Hilary Krivchenia on 5 Habits -- Healing the Heart of Democracy – She is willing but uncertain about committing dates
	+ Climate Justice Revival sermons – Adeline has provided a link to recorded sermons
	+ our history – Jann Adams – Yes, but not right now
	+ UUA – one Sunday per month, circuit minister
	+ **Aurora Davis –** her story – Yes, prefers informal small group setting *“My Journey”* 740-760-4380
	+ **Hungrytown –** available March 2-8, 2025 musical group Suzyn is checking.
	+ **Pete Mather –** pete.mather@gmail.com – 740-517-9029 Yes – April or May, phone conversation set for Thursday, Feb. 6 (how to know ourselves as a congregation – Reflection and follow-up workshop?)
	+ \*Service or part by Pledge Drive Task Force – Martha will share passage on Belonging – Need to contact George Banziger
	+ Jeff Schenkel – local artist and politician – Jane is making contact
* **UUA Shared Read:** *Authentic Selves*
* **Movie –** TheHeart Revolution
* the power of story – the People’s State of the Union
* All Tuttle has recommended interview with Azim Shariff (July 16, 2018) Creating God – Hidden Brain Media [email 1/26/25]
* sources of information – Tangle.com, Heather Cox Richardson – Letters from an American
* \*\*\*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.*
* UU minister who offers a wide variety of virtual reflections (e.g., leadership development) Mark Bernstein m.mjbernstein@verizon.net
* \*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
* 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*
* Willa O’Neill – political journey?
1. Design & Decoration Update: Stephanie Rector added Valentine touches for the rest of February
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: Thanks you notes have been sent to John Maddox, LeeAnn Gallucci, Rhonda Newhart, Cory Sampson
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

**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

Special Music – Josie Jeffrey Debussy

*28 – First day of Ramadan*

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

 **2 WL ??** The Future of Religion by Ted Goertzel

 Finance/Pledge Drive spot – George Banziger

*5 – Ash Wednesday*

 **9 Daylight Savings Time Begins**

 **WL -** Suzyn Mills Virtual - UU Church of Brooklyn – Jazz service

13 - Purim

 **16 WL ??** Today – Darryl Ting

*17 – St. Patrick’s Day*

 **23 WL –** MMcGPete Mather – Appreciative Inquiry

CHOIR: “On the Faces of the World”

 **30 WL – The Board of Trustees** Search and small groups

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

**APRIL JOY**

 **6**

*12 – Passover begins at sundown*

 **13** *Palm Sunday*

*18 – Good Friday*

 **20 Easter**  **WL – Green Sanctuary** Science & Reverence “All in One Egg”

**CHOIR: “Jazz Kyrie”**

*22 – Earth Day*

*24 – Holocaust Remembrance Day*

 **27 WL – Board of Trustees ANNUAL MEETING**

**MAY IMAGINATION**

 **CHOIR: “These Are the Things That Count”**

*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.”**

Wife Ann will contact: 717-724-7320

 **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 12-20 and August 16-24