

**Worship Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 18, 2024 – 4:00pm on Zoom**

**In Attendance:** Rev Will (co-chair), Mira Ptacin (co-chair), Debbie Lucatorto (scribe), Mary Ann Mitchell, Cheryl Higgins, Jeanne Ashmore, Cathy Gritman, Jessamine Dana. Joanne and Timmi could not be here.

- I Opening prayer and reading of the covenant.
- II Will thanked Debbie for taking the minutes.
- III New hymnals are 1/2 here! New Century Hymnal and Singing the Living Tradition (40 copies of each). The rest should arrive by Sunday. They will be introduced during Sunday service, to get participants used to them and let everyone know what's in them. These were paid for out of the General Operating account as the funding has been generously provided. We will have a total of 60 each.
- We will be using the liturgy that is printed in the UCC hymnal on the first Sunday in February, as there is a lot in it besides music.
  - Question asked if we will have room for them all – we will just have to be organized as to how they are placed. We don't have a Bible in all the pews, so we can be creative.
- IV R. E. – Need more people to sign up to teach. We'll have a R.E. Fair table during community meal on Sunday to sign up teachers and share information with the church. We are meeting every other week to discuss process, curriculum, etc.
- Discussion about art table and play space in the vestry and making it a space for those children under 6 – goal is to have older children eventually be comfortable sitting with their parents during service. Jessamine suggested making a sign for the area to hang from a mobile or something (Will has ideas) to make sure older children understand, or perhaps appointing a steward to explain the new process to make sure there is clarity and understanding (Mira volunteered).
  - Will asked how Mira how things were going, what is needed? Timmi has provided Mira with a detailed list to get things going and it is going fine.
- V Upcoming Worship Themes:
- 1) January 21 – Healthy Communications – interpersonal communication and expressing ourselves – there is a workshop coming up, and there will be a digital component
  - 2) January 28 – Theme will be on creation and trees and tying it in to the Jewish holiday of Tu Bishvat (New Year of the Trees). The holiday actually falls on Jan. 21 but relates to our theme of the 28<sup>th</sup>.)
  - 3) February 4 – (Bethany on vacation) Will had planned originally to have a sermon to focus on the Israel-Hamas war, but after some discussion, it was decided to move this theme to another date (Feb. 18) because Bethany would not be here – Jessamine brought up the importance of music in processing grief and bringing people together. Will had thought about asking Eleanor Morse or hiring a guest musician. It is a communion Sunday, so good idea to keep it not so heavy – good feedback from all.
    - For the 4<sup>th</sup>, Jessamine suggested the theme of the Sacred Heart and the Christian tradition of Mary. Great idea.
  - 4) February 11 – Lunar New Year, Year of the Dragon (good fortune/strength/health). Ash Wednesday is February 14 (Valentine's Day)- Will would like to offer a small service.

- 5) February 18 – Moving theme of Israel/Hamas War to this date.
- 6) February 25 – WILL IS ON VACATION – Discussion on ideas for service.
- (Will left the meeting briefly to open the church – Jeanne took over with discussion.)
  - Parishioners normally step up to do the welcome, chalice lighting, make announcements, and the service is basically islander/member-led, following the bulletin.
  - Bethany chooses appropriate music
  - Cheryl suggested making it vacation-themed, as the children will be coming back from school break. Suggestion to have the children participate in the sermon. Mira has submitted something for R.E. that could be used – regarding a book about the “3 Questions” – adult and kid’s versions. If the kids could be prepared a week before, it would be helpful, or having a dry run. Even tying in the emotional event like the flood kids can relate to. There is a month to think about it, and Mira will meditate on it. She will be in touch with Will to finalize ideas.

**VI** Thinking ahead, Palm Sunday is March 24 and Easter is March 31 (somewhat early). Palms will be ordered, and we normally hold a “son-rise” service at Whaleback at 6:23am, followed by a breakfast in the hall at 7:00 (put on by the Building and Grounds Committee – Will to speak to them.) Easter egg hunt after 10:00 service during fellowship hour – Timmi will organize, and Jessamine has volunteered to help with this.

- Jessamine was asked to run the Passover Seder again in April. She is happy to!

**VII** Will asked Debbie if there were questions... Debbie brought up the Tithely link to R.E. registration – Will to provide some clarifying language for the website. Link is just for registration – to create a database of children who will be attending classes. Suggestion made to spell out the dates of birth rather than age. Cathy G. would also like birthdates to send cards.

**VII** **Next meeting will be Thursday, February 15 at 4:00 on Zoom.**

**Future monthly meetings will be generally on the 3rd Thursday of the month, but subject to change as needed.**