

Worship Committee Minutes
Thursday, March 21 – 2:00pm via Zoom

In Attendance: Rev Will (co-chair), Debbie Lucatorto (scribe), Mary Ann Mitchell, Cheryl Higgins, Cathy Gritman, Timmi Sellers and Tookie Harris (Mira could not be here).

- I Will offered opening prayer and reading of the covenant.

- II Timmi will be offering one more Pysanki workshop on March 30 at 1pm.

- III Holy Week plan
 - 1) Palm Sunday – palms have arrived. There is an RE plan this Sunday.
 - 2) Thursday, March 28 will be communion in the sanctuary at 5pm, remembering the Last Supper (Maundy Thursday)
 - 3) Easter Sunday – Sunrise (son-rise) service will be at 6:23am, asking to arrive at 6:15. Will be a simple gathering – watch the sun rise, read the Easter story from the Gospel of John, come back to church for breakfast provided by the Building and Grounds Committee (6:30).
Service at 10, then 11:30 Easter Egg hunt.
Timmi offered to coordinate the kids, with Cheryl’s help. Plan on setting a time limit for the kids to make it fair for everyone. Mira and Cheryl will hide the eggs when church starts. Will try to limit the amount of eggs the kids can get, based on the amount of children participating. Will mentioned we have 30 baskets, which should be more than enough, but kids are welcome to bring their own.

- IV Upcoming Worship Themes:
 - 1) April 7 – First Sunday, so there will be communion (requesting no RE that morning.) Autism awareness day is April 2 – Will suggested making that the spiritual theme of the sermon. There have been several successful neurodivergent spaces and will bring that in.
 - 2) April 14 – Will would like to do a celebration of the past of Brackett Church. He spoke with Bethany about using the old hymnals and invite people to bring one home at the end of the service. Perhaps speaking about the history of the congregation and how they celebrated Methodism in the past – thinking about more recent past important members such as the Bragdens, Shaws, Otis, and others.
 - 3) April 21 – will focus on the Passover story (Exodus story) and make that the focus of the sermon. Jessamine has volunteered to lead another Seder meal in the hall – will advise as to the date.
 - 4) April 28 – This is a good date to have an outdoor service for “May Day.” Building and Grounds is working on constructing a pole – goal is to have the kids learn a simple dance to dance around the “maypole” – it will be an Earth centered service. Will talk to Bethany about planning music for the celebration.
Timmi offered to organize flowers, making “crowns” for the children to remind us about returning to nature. Since service will be outside, need to organize bringing chairs outside and make sure people are informed. Need to come up with plan for music to accompany dance and have a backup plan for weather. (Can pole be brought indoors, and how to make it work?) If bad weather is forecast, perhaps switch themes with first Sunday in May.

May 5 is Holocaust Remembrance day – did a service for that last year, so this would not work as “Plan B” due to its heaviness, so he will work on having a viable rain plan in that event (most likely, moving it inside.)

V Other Discussion

- 1) Timmi and Mary Ann talked about rehabilitating the children’s garden - would be nice to bring the gardening theme into a service somehow the many ways to “garden” – perhaps have a flower communion. Will suggested this may be better in June when weather is warmer with the “bring a flower, take a flower” concept.
- 2) Jessamine’s mother (Adrienne Tabet) will be back in April and has offered to lead another spirituality workshop. The first one she led was tailored to women, and the 2nd one was tailored to include men (with Will the only man attending). Adrienne will adjust the next one if need be to more inclusive to everyone.
- 3) Timmi’s sister is coming to visit in June – she is a retired Unitarian minister and is willing to do a service in late June/early July (Rev. Laurie Bushbaum). Left Will to decide if he’d like to open it up – no set vacation plans at that time but can work around!
- 4) Tookie asked if we can get services online. Building and Grounds is working on getting tech to stream events (ability to record services, sermons, etc.) No update but making some progress. Will can ask Rory to perhaps attend a future meeting to talk about it. He and Rob made a trip recently to observe how it works at another church.
- 5) The church survey was brought up – Will is working on getting feedback from the congregation on the worship service in general, how it’s organized, how they feel about the structure of the service, is there anything we don’t have, etc. (such as “passing the peace” as an example) – it won’t go into too much depth, just to provide some general input. Some people may not feel comfortable speaking out in church and this will give them a space to voice their opinion. Will is planning to create a simple Google survey form to email out.

VI Next meeting will be on the 4th Thursday in April (the 25th) at 2pm

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:40pm