

## **Worship and Music Committee - January 21, 2021**

**Present (on Zoom):** Allison Johnson, Marion Cole, Sonja Demeter, Carol Broderick, Randy Churchill, Mary Kienitz

**Staff:** Pastor Julie, Carol Browning

Meeting Called to Order with prayer at 1:15 p.m.

**Christmas Decorations:** Everything looked great. Many people helped.

**Pew Removal Recommendation Update:** The recommendation of removing one row of pews and replacing it with chairs was approved by Council and carried out by the Property Committee. There have not been objections to this action, so, at the Annual Meeting, the Council will inform the congregation that the metal screws coming up from the floor will be sheared off to remove that hazard.

**Budget Requests:** The recommended change for the Instrument Maintenance budget request had been approved by email vote following the November meeting.

**Worship Review:** Randy commented that worship is working very well and that we have a good foundation for our services, including great music that feels connected. It's nice that we can offer our worship in a variety of ways - in-person in both the sanctuary and outside as well as online. Pastor Julie agreed that it's good that we've settled into a pattern and are not trying to figure things out each week. The shortened time for drive-through Communion is working out well.

Some people feel that the singers should not be shown on camera. There are a variety of issues involved, including the equipment we currently have, personal preferences, and a watcher versus participant perspective; Pastor Julie will continue talking with Bill about this.

Allison mentioned that for Christmas Eve, the lights were not darkened enough for "Silent Night." With the stage lights needed for the livestream and lighting the sanctuary, when those lights are turned off, they take ten minutes to come back to power.

**Altar Guild:** Carol Broderick reported that things are going well. We lost some former Altar Guild members but she is recruiting and may have another training in the spring. She's talking with Vicky Edell and Kris Dawson about having the Altar Guild assignees on the sign-ups, which would mean they would get email reminders when they're scheduled.

**Poinsettias/Easter Lilies:** We ended up with too many plants for Christmas but it was very difficult to locate a supplier. Randy offered to find out where the Rotary Club gets theirs. For the Easter lilies, it was suggested that we start early getting orders. The timing for both Christmas and Easter flowers is difficult because we have to place our order before we know how many we will sell.

**Lent:** Ash Wednesday is March 2. Pastor Julie plans to invite various church committees to present the messages at our Holden Evening Prayer series, sharing about the work of their committees in light of a scripture passage and the mission of the church. With the current COVID situation, there will be Soup Suppers but they will be held outside in the pavilion.

**Next meeting time:** Wednesday, February 16 at 1:15 p.m. (in the pavilion, weather permitting)

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 2:10 p.m.

Notes respectfully submitted by Pastor Julie Morris.

## **Worship and Music Committee - March 16, 2022**

**Present:** Randy Churchill (Chair), Allison Johnson (Council Liaison), Marion Cole, Mary Kienitz

**Absent:** Carol Broderick, Sonja Demeter

**Staff:** Pastor Julie, Carol Browning

Meeting Called to Order with prayer at 1:17 p.m.

**Epiphany Stars:** Marion shared that she has been making the Epiphany/Advent stars that Karen Cherry suggested.

**Ash Wednesday and Wednesday Evening Prayers:** Randy commented that the 7:00 p.m. worship with St. Columba's was an excellent service. Everyone felt that lots of people were enjoying the Holden Evening Prayers.

**Afternoon Chapel:** Randy said that it's going well, that there is a nucleus of people who appreciate it, even though the numbers aren't that large. Mary asked whether men were coming; she would like to bring Ric.

**Worship Assistants:** Randy reported that he had talked with Mike McClary about being the head usher but Mike is not interested. Scott Fajnor might be; Randy will follow up with him. It was also suggested that Vicky might have some ideas about possible head ushers.

The suggestion was made to offer training so that the volunteers know what is expected now that we've returned to regular, in-person worship. We settled on a Saturday morning in May - May 14, as "Spring Training," from 9:00-10:00 a.m. for the ushers & greeters and 10:00-11:00 a.m. for the lectors, assisting ministers, and communion assistants. Randy offered to bring doughnuts and coffee.

A few people expressed concerns about not having enough sign-ups for each Sunday. Things have changed from the way it used to be. People won't commit more than 2 weeks ahead and don't follow up on getting replacements for their spots. The reality is that for many families, they come once a month. Randy asked if there was a time that would work better for families. Pastor Julie shared that Joe had done "listening sessions" with all of the families. We need to understand that what the Spirit is inviting rubs up against structured systems.

**Music:** After some discussion about CCLI songs and not printed music, it was requested that we add to the bulletin that CCLI doesn't allow the printing of music notation.

**Ad Hoc Committee:** Randy is part of a new ad hoc committee that is reviewing the use of our facilities, what is needed, where we're going, etc. and they will be interviewing the staff and inviting ideas, suggestions, and comments from the congregation.

**Easter Advertising:** The *Acorn* now comes out on Saturdays. We'll do one ad for April 9 for our Holy Week worship with St. Columba's, and one on April 16 for Easter worship only. Allison offered to see about getting a banner for the front lawn to advertise to the neighborhood.

**Holy Week Worship:** Maundy Thursday and Good Friday evening services will be done with St. Columba's, here at Mount Cross, while the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday will be at St. Columba's. For Ash Wednesday, Pastor Julie and Deacon Cecelia joined Fr. Greg for their Noon service. There were about 30 in attendance, with 15 of those being from Mount Cross.

**Leadership Retreat:** Pastor Julie reminded everyone that the Leadership Retreat was coming up on Sunday, March 27, from Noon to 5:00 p.m., on site.

**Next meeting time:** Wednesday, April 20, at 1:15 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 2:43 p.m.

Notes respectfully submitted by Pastor Julie Morris.

## **Worship and Music Committee - April 20, 2022**

**Present:** Randy Churchill (Chair), Allison Johnson (Council Liaison), Sonja Demeter, Mary Kienitz

**Absent:** Carol Broderick, Marion Cole

**Guest:** Bill Stoll

**Staff:** Pastor Julie, Carol Browning

Meeting Called to Order with prayer at 1:16 p.m.

**Holy Week Review:** Pastor Julie asked people to share what part of Holy Week was particularly special to them. Mary found the Good Friday tenebrae to be very inspirational and meaningful, a different kind of service than she had experienced before. She also appreciated the Easter Vigil. Randy highlighted Easter Sunday, with the joy of having his whole family together in a full church with a great sermon. It was a "good Sunday." Sonja found the Maundy Thursday worship to be a great and moving service. Mary also appreciated the Easter Children's Message with the conga line of unburying the Alleluia. Randy agreed that there was a lot of joy that morning with so many children, lots of Alleluias, and having the choir sing. Pastor Julie was moved by telling the Exodus story at the Easter Vigil by the fire pit.

The suggestion was made that for Easter Sunday next year, we purchase some extra flowers to add to the outdoor cross for those who don't have any in their yard to bring.

**Ad Hoc Facilities Committee:** Bill Stoll joined us as a representative of the ad hoc facilities committee that Randy had told us about last month. Bill shared that the committee members are meeting with individual committees and staff to solicit feedback on what is needed to best serve where Mount Cross is now and going forward. Their timeline is to gather information in April and May, meet in mid-June to review the ideas and suggestions received, and wrap up by September. He commented that in meeting with the Learning Committee, they would like to see a playground redo as well as a "soft spot" in the church for children, like a "pray ground" area with carpeting, perhaps some rocking chairs available. He asked for ideas from Worship & Music.

A number of brainstorming ideas were shared with Bill to take back to the ad hoc group. We look forward to seeing their final report. Bill thanked everyone for their input and said that the committee is not looking at things from the perspective of available funds but rather putting everything on the table.

**"Spring Training":** Pastor Julie reminded everyone that our Spring Training for Liturgical Ministers will be Saturday, May 14, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. for Lectors/Assisting Ministers/Communion Ministers and 10:00-11:00 a.m. for Ushers/Greeters. We need to be sure to publicize this event and encourage attendance.

In discussing the lectors, Pastor Julie mentioned that she'd like to see us get a book stand for the large Bible that's on the pulpit and have it displayed in front of the pulpit. Regarding acolytes, Mary wanted to know why the candles are not being extinguished at the end of the service but the current training is to not extinguish them. Allison commented that acolytes don't need to be children; adults can also fill these roles. There was additional discussion about miscellaneous worship items and a request to put offering envelopes back in the pews.

**Next meeting time:** Wednesday, May 18, at 1:15 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 3:12 p.m.

Notes respectfully submitted by Pastor Julie Morris.