

Worship and Music Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: August 7, 2024

Present: Pastor Julie Morris, Carol Browning (Music Director/Office Manager), Carol Broderick (Altar Guild Chair), Bill Stoll (Acting Chair/Council Liaison), Joe Zimmerly (CYFM), Vicky Edell (Volunteer Coordinator).

Absent: Deacon Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson (Senior Ministry).

Pastor Julie began the meeting with Caring Conversation about how full our cup is at the moment and led an Opening Prayer.

There was some discussion about who will be the Chair for the committee; the duties will be to call meetings when necessary and lead the meetings as needed. Bill will act as chair for now. We will continue the discussion in the new year. We scheduled the next meeting for after Pastor Julie returns from her sabbatical—Wednesday, December 4, at 2:00 p.m.

Vacation Bible School is going well this week and we'll have two of our VBS youth leaders be the readers this Sunday (thanks to Bill and Vicky for stepping aside to let them participate).

We received two applications for the Accompanist (Organist/Pianist) position to replace Guy Ervin. It was decided that Pastor Julie, Bill Stoll, and Carol Browning will set up an initial interview with the CLU person and, if the interview goes well, have the candidate come to choir rehearsal on August 21 to audition with the choir. If needed, we will call the other applicant for an interview.

We discussed Christmas Eve worship. We will again have one service and we settled on 4:30 p.m. as the time. We will ask Senior Adult Ministry to help with coordinating getting rides for seniors who want to come but may not want to drive.

For Thanksgiving Eve (November 27), we'll have our usual Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m., followed by a pie social. Pastor Scott Maxwell-Doherty will lead the prayer and Nora Fajnor will share a thanksgiving message about gratitude and her organ donation. Henry Moraga and Vicky Edell will coordinate the pie social.

Pastor Julie expressed her gratitude for all that people do on a Sunday to make worship happen smoothly. She stated that her preference for Communion would be to not use any plastic cups, to offer wine only in a common cup, and to use real bread, however, she realizes that hospitality with offering options of both wine and grape juice and gluten-free hosts is also important, as well as being mindful of people's health concerns post-COVID. For this Sunday, since VBS has had bread each day and our readings are part of the Bread of Life discourse, we will use real bread, and wine & grape juice in the plastic cups (no intinction). We will revisit the subject of how we offer Communion after Pastor Julie's sabbatical.

Some important worship events while Pastor Julie is away are Tent Worship (after Make, Bake, Celebrate) on Sunday, September 29; Blessing of the Animals on October 6, with seating and a monitor set up in the pavilion for those with animals; and All Saints Sunday on November 3 and remembering those who have died.

Carol Browning mentioned that starting in September, we are partnering with St. Columba's and Camarillo United Methodist to offer "Three Congregations Taizé" on the 2nd Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Taizé is a meditative, contemplative form of worship. Pastor Julie considers it to be "restorative yoga for the soul." Carol Broderick has been to a Taizé service and really liked it. St. Columba's had offered in-person Taizé prayer beginning in September 2016. Since the pandemic, the prayer has been recorded only, available on their

website. Mount Cross has the best space for this time of intimate worship and the three pastors are supportive of offering it in person here. The first service will be Friday, September 13, 7:00 p.m.

We went around the circle, checking in. One area of discussion was what, if anything, is happening with the Sanctuary Redesign recommendations. Three factors that affect any decisions are the needs of the congregation, what can we afford, and where might we be going with our “partner” churches (St. Columba’s and Camarillo United Methodist). No action will be taken until after Pastor Julie’s sabbatical; this would be a good focus for next year’s Leadership retreat.

Vicky expressed concerns about our tech positions, with Justin Thai leaving at the end of this month (to go to grad school in Europe) and the difficulties she has of finding volunteers for the camera assistant. Carol volunteered to help Vicky by recruiting the tech assistant until that time. We are finalizing the job description for Justin’s position and will be posting it shortly.

Other topics mentioned were that the Time & Talent sheets will be distributed on October 27, our “Ministry Fair” or “Rally Day, and that there will be a funeral for Gordon Russell on Saturday, August 17, at 11:00 a.m. Vicky is helping to recruit volunteers for the reception following the service.

Carol Broderick is pleased that Altar Guild members are assigned through January. She’s open to new people who want to do their behind-the-scenes work, even someone to take over as Altar Guild Coordinator.

Joe said he always loves to see our young people serving, including little ones who come up with their parents who are Communion assistants. He’s encouraging the children, youth and other volunteers from VBS to be here this Sunday, August 11.

To reiterate, our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 4, at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. with the Lord’s Prayer.

Notes respectfully submitted by Pastor Julie