

MODERATOR AND MINISTRY TEAM'S ANNUAL REPORTS

Interim Minister's Report: August – December 2021

WORSHIP

August 29, 2021 was the first in-person worship service since March 2020 and it was held outdoors on the patio. The theme was "Gather Us In" and it was our first try at a Hybrid service –both in person and on Zoom set up. It was also my first-time meeting many of the members since I started work in August. It was a joy to watch you all see each other after a year and a half of not being together for worship. This was the birth of the Hybrid Team (Julie Robuck, Don Wick, Rosanne French and Shellie Luallin, eventually hiring Katie Wertz as the Hybrid Tech Director)

When the weather cooled off, we set up Callahan Hall to be our sanctuary. We had a meaningful World-Wide Communion with bread from member's heritage on the communion table. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we had pre-packaged communion cups. On All Saints Sunday we had special Taizé music and used LED candle lights as we brought photos of those saints in our lives to the table. In contrast, right after the service we held Trunk or Treat for kids and families to show off their decorated cars and pass out treats. It was also the first meeting of the Confirmation Class. Also, in November, we had a Veterans Service with memories of those who have and are serving our country and prayers for their dedication. We held a beautiful Thanksgiving service on Sunday prior to Thanksgiving and a Zoom Thanksgiving Eve service with Charlie Brown and his friends.

On Sunday December 12, Joy Sunday in Advent, the sanctuary was open for worship for the first time in 644 days! The Hybrid Team efforts paid off and with Katie's extra work, we were set for holding Zoom and in-person services through the rest of the year in the sanctuary, including Christmas Eve, a 2:00 Zoom only and 6:00 PM Hybrid service. They were both set in our beautifully decorated sanctuary.

TRANSITION TEAM

After holding six opportunities (both in person and on Zoom) for the congregation to learn about the interim process a congregation goes through and what being on a transition team means, a group was initiated. I met with each person interested in serving on the transition team. The team started meeting mid-November and has met two times a month. Members are Holly Jay, Dick Sherer, Angie Law, Gus Burkard, Ralph Datema and Joe Narracci. The Transition Team, along with me, will be leading the congregation in conversations come 2022, as they start writing the profile for a minister search.

CONFIRMATION

There are six youths in this class: Fiona McGee, Cal Harvey, Spencer Albright, Spencer Bailey, Jason Birdwhistell, and Isabelle Wick. Eileen Enterline is co-leading the class with me.

We meet twice a month in person after church for activities and lessons. They, along with the older teens, went shopping for preteen Christmas gifts for the Hope and Help families.

We will switch to Zoom classes if need be.

Gus Burkard is Jason's mentor, and we are still looking for five other mentors to match with the rest of the class.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Illustrated below are ministry teams and their leads, some having been dormant during the pandemic closure which I have worked with to re-start and energize the life of the congregation,. There are several openings, especially related to youth and children's ministry, that have yet to be filled. During an interim period, there is usually a stepping down in some team leads or ministry leadership while congregational shifts occur. This is normal and will resettle as we move through this transition. So, no worries. Being reborn is messy at times.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Three services were held in the fall: Joan Roethlisberger on September 11, 2021, at Chatfield Gardens. Floyd Murray on October 2, 2021, at Heritage Eagle Bend Retirement Community with a private dedication of his paver in the Memorial Garden. Former member, Gary Turner on December 4, 2021, in the UCCPH sanctuary.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Since the office administrator position hadn't been necessary when the building was shut down during the past year, I started a search for a new one. Holly Jay and Jan Narracci interviewed several people for this position during the fall months. The need to repeat this process occurred twice and finally we have an office administrator, Peggy Campbell, who is performing beautifully in this position and lending much needed stability to administrating matters related to church business.

MINISTRY TEAMS AND LEADS (2021):

Building and Grounds: Lead Open for 2022 - Jeremy Birdwhistell, Dick Sherer, Don Wick

Care & Nurture: Leads - Martha Sprague and Jan Narracci; Cam Burkard, Peggy Campbell, Holly Jay, Joanne Murray, Ann Pidgeon, Jean Sherer, Janet Thoma, Al and Ardie Thompson and Shirley Wick

Church Council: Holly Jay (Moderator), Ashley Fahey (Vice Moderator) Kay Frunzi, Randy Mann, Jan Narracci and Don Wick

Covenant Commitment: Lead -Gene Albright; Paul Campbell, Nancy Clark, Don Wick

Deacons: Lead - Don Wick

Faith Formation: Leads - Shirley Wick and Sharon Worley (Lead Open for 2022)

Financial Responsibility: Paul Campbell, Denise Mann, Don Wick

Hybrid: Interim Minister, Rosanne French, Shellie Luallin, Julie Robuck, Katie Wertz, Don Wick, a

Memorial Garden: Al Thompson

Mission: Lead - Dick Sherer – Peggy Campbell, Eileen Enterline, Angie Law, Jean Sherer, Ardie Thompson, Ally Votaw

Music: Lead - Julie Robuck; Peggy Lundberg, Sue Neal and Ellie Yoakam

Nominating: Lead -Jean Sherer; Cam Burkard, Peggy Campbell, Desiree Galloway and Jack Nordin

Pastor Parish: Lead - Eileen Enterline; Melissa Birdwhistell, Gus Burkard and Joe Narracci

Sanctuary Displays: Rosanne French & Shellie Luallin

Sophias: Co-Leads - Shirley Wick and Jan Narracci – members are all women of the church

Strategic Planning: Lead - Karen Graham; Meredith Bond, Gus Burkard, Brian Fahey, Darci Harvey and Holly Jay

Youth Ministry: Lead Open for 2022

Some forgiveness/grace if I have left anyone out of the 2021 Ministry Teams listing

A word of gratitude to Denise Mann for serving as Treasurer these past four years. She's a numbers whiz who holds a deep love for this church and has served it well. Thanks to Don Wick for faithfully serving the Council and providing great minutes for the meeting each month, plus sharing his wisdom for church polity. Thank you to Ashley and Maggie for being present at Council meeting to lift our spirits and add insights. Randy, what can we say but a big thank you for serving as a well of knowledge about 'how things work' in our beloved church and property. In honor of your service we dedicate the cross you made for us and hope you'll come see it when it's lifted high on the church. And Holly Jay, our moderator who served with kindness and compassion during this difficult year of Pastor Tracey's retirement and a new interim pastor coming on board.

All of you make up a strong, determined, and resilient community of faith and I know you will continue to serve gracefully and faithfully. I am honored and daily thankful to be serving you in this capacity as interim pastor. Let's be about making space for God's Spirit to guide UCCPH into a bright and bold future.