

## **March 9, 2021 Council Reports**

### **Visits & Communion Report- Jim Puhl**

1. Work @ Church, COVID-19 Vaccination
2. Work @ Church, Funeral @ Bedford Chapel
3. Work @ Church, Livestream
4. Pass out 21 Bulletins & 31 Hosts + Cards and Lenten Books
7. Church Service
8. Work @ Church
9. Work @ Church
10. Work @ Church, Pass out 21 Bulletins & 31 Hosts, Livestream
11. Funeral for my friend's mother
14. Church Service, Opened Up
15. Work @ Church
17. 3 Ashes at the VA, Livestream, Funeral @ Bedford Chapel, Ashes at Da Capo, Fountain View 1:00 Ashes
18. Funeral @ Bedford Chapel
19. Work @ Church, Pass out 21 Bulletins & 30 Hosts
21. Church Service (Preaching)
22. 2<sup>nd</sup> COVID-19 Vaccination, Work @ Church
23. Work @ Church
24. Livestream
25. Work @ Church, Pass out Bulletins and Hosts
28. Church Service

## **Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> Council Minutes Report- Molly Spitler**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M. Present were Kathy Mozena, Ray and Lona Balduf, Pastor Lew Carlson, Ron and Bernal Koch, Rick and Linda Taylor, Dean Yarger, Thomas Yarger, Linda Meinhart, and Molly Spitler.

Pastor Lew led the group in devotion centered on being truthful to our heritage while moving forward.

Dean Yarger moved to accept all reports. Second by Ray Balduf. Motion carried.

### **JIM PUHL**

Jim has been busy visiting shut-ins. It was noted that he also takes cards to them.

### **SECRETARY**

A copy of the MONROE EVENING NEWS letter on BLM is to be put in the archives.

### **TREASURER**

Rick Taylor presented a resolution to change the name of the Luther League account to Designated Funds account. There was discussion about accountability and possibly having one non signer authorize checks and keep records. Rick Taylor moved to adopt the resolution to change the bank account name as written in the treasurer's report. Second by Kathy Mozena. Motion carried. Rick also noted that the church spent more than it took in for January and this can't continue.

### **WORSHIP, MUSIC & ART**

The committee wants to open the church on February 14 with social distancing. Wednesday Lent program will be online. Services are planned for Palm Sunday, Wednesday, and Good Friday. Bernal Koch wants to refurbish the hand bells. There are designated funds and cantata money that can be used along with donations. Lona Balduf moved to refurbish the handbells at a cost of \$1500. Second by Linda Taylor. Motion carried.

## CHRISTIAN ED

A preschool Bible story program is planned for Zoom. Robin Woody's daughter Merideth and Pastor Lew will reach out to families with young children.

## PROPERTY

Ray Balduf reports he had to call a plumber to unclog the girl's toilets in the basement. Miller Nu-Tech installed a used compressor and dryer for the heating system which was donated by another church. Thanks to the church member who paid for the work.

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

The committee is busy packing for food distribution on the 17th. Resurrection Church continues to support our efforts with food donations and gift cards. It was recommended that our church support some of their activities as a group.

## PASTOR'S REPORT

Heather and Kaden Parker are progressing well with live streaming the church services. A Lenten book study is planned for Wednesday evenings. Ashes will be distributed on Ash Wednesday in a COVID-19 friendly manner. The church will be opened on February 14<sup>th</sup> and packaged candy will be passed out.

## OLD BUSINESS

Ron Koch stressed the importance of wrapping up the items on the Old Business agenda. There will be a session in March to start the stewardship program-tentatively March 9 at 10:00 A.M. Participants will be sent a series of videos to watch beforehand.

Ron Koch and Rick Taylor will meet to start the PPP forgiveness paperwork. QuickBooks and bank reconciliation is getting closer. Pastor has ordered plastic BLM signs which can be cleaned or replaced. The letter written to the MONROE EVENING NEWS on BLM was printed. Pastor wants to resume the antiracist church book study

after Easter. He also wants to meet with kids of color from the high school to find out how we can support them.

Mutual Ministry committee has not met to discuss employee evaluations. Rick Taylor is researching funeral guidelines. An employee is asking about paid time off. Pastor and Sarah are researching contracts/policies for employees.

### NEW BUSINESS

The drain assessment bill of \$2650.45 is due. In the past it has been paid by a family in the congregation. Pastor will approach them but the bill needs to be paid on time regardless to avoid late fees. First Merchant's Bank issued two new cards for the credit card-one for the office manager and one for council president. Ron Koch destroyed his. Our Church Mutual insurance policy has changed. A new handbook was sent which will need to be gone over to determine changes in coverage.

Pastor Lew led the group in prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 P.M.

### **Treasurers' Report- Rick Taylor**

1. The resolution changing the name of the Luther League account has been sent to First Merchants Bank.
2. We need to get checks for the Designated Funds (formerly Luther League) account. Until we do, to issue payment from the account for a designated expense, it is necessary to sign a withdrawal slip to get funds from the account, sign a deposit slip for deposit of the same amount into the general fund account, and then issue a check from general fund account for the expense item. This requires a trip to the bank. Until the pandemic restrictions are ended, it is necessary to request an appointment at the bank.
3. I am looking for the application form for second round PPP loan.

## **Worship, Music, & Art Report- Bernal Koch**

In attendance remotely - Jim Puhl (sound was not working), Pastor Lew Carlson, Molly Spitler, Linda Taylor, LuAnn Flick, Marian Steffen, Bernal Koch

**Bernal** - The Bells were refurbished this week (Monday, March 1, 2021 by Dr. Gregg Porter). Donations by the congregation to the Worship, Music and Art committee were used to pay for this work. We thank everyone who has contributed to this cause. A thank you note will be posted in the Sunday morning announcements in the near future. It is recommended that this procedure be done every 4-5 years to keep the Bells in optimum condition.

### **Special Church services schedule:**

It was decided to not have a Cinco de Mayo celebration this year. However, we are asking Miguel Saucedo, our guest guitarist, to come on Mother's Day, May 9, instead. He will feature some songs about Mothers.

Because of the pandemic, we have decided not to have an Easter breakfast this year.

Pentecost will be celebrated on May 23. We will have an indoor church service at 9:30 followed by a potluck and picnic outdoors on the front church lawn.

A special appreciation event will occur on Father's Day, June 20. Plan to bring a dozen homemade cookies.

**Mariana** - Mariana is looking into purchasing some music for our Chamber Ensemble. She would like authorization to do so.

**Pastor Lew Carlson** - The wedding, June 12, involving non-members was approved by the WMA committee. The committee asked that the couple pay for a thorough cleaning of the church afterwards.

Pastor shared appreciation and thanks to Molly Spitler and Jim Puhl for participating in the Wednesday Lenten series. Their personal experiences added a special meaning to these services.

Pastor is still looking for a new platform that would make watching online easier for our seniors. YouTube seems to be working for now. There has been a snag in transferring services to DVD from the camera recordings. It is still a work in progress.

**Lou Ann Flick** - Aspen Grove Assisted Living is beginning to open to the public. Residents can have visitors now and entertainment and church services are being scheduled. Pastor will contact them in the near future.

In discussing protocol for cancelling Sunday services due to in climate weather, it was decided that the Council President would be the one to make the call. A group text message will be created to contact members of the congregation. We will follow the Toledo, Ohio forecast and close if there is a Level 2 or above weather emergency.

Next meeting is scheduled Tuesday April 6, at 5:00 p.m.

### **Christian Education Report- Linda Meinhart**

Meeting was done on Zoom

Present: Linda Meinhart, Linda Taylor, Kathy Mozena, Robin Woody, Pastor Lew

Palm Sunday Family Craft Event to be held outside with the option of pick up crafts or stay and do socially distance crafts.

- Holy Week craft wreath kits - 30 minutes/adult involvement
- Last Supper foam craft project - 30 minutes/adult involvement
- Scratch Art of three crosses quick project
- Wrapped candy included

It will start at 11:00 and run until 12:00. We will encourage the participants to come to church and stay for the Palm Sunday Family Craft event. Masks will be encouraged. Remember to have Sarah do Facebook event/invitation.

Additional discussion was held regarding VBS. Outside stations. Daily questionnaire and waiver to be signed by parent or guardian. Material was purchased last year. Remember to have Sarah do Facebook event/invitation.

Dates will be set at the next meeting. We may do a two day session in June, July and August. We may do a 5 day session. Many ideas were discussed. Parents will be encouraged to stay so there would be less contact with others outside the family.

We need to find out what would work for the people who volunteer their time; as well as what might work best for the kids.

Next Meeting is scheduled for April 9th by zoom at 2:00. Anyone who wants to be involved let us know and we will be sure you are sent the email for the zoom session.

### **Property Report- Ray Balduf**

- Met with Frames, as I do each month.
- Water heater was leaking out the bottom causing the new water-leak alarm system to go off. I then contacted Cross Heating and Air Conditioning and they then installed a new 50 gallon water heater on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Social Ministry Report- Kathy Knackstedt**

We held a drive through food / ashes distribution on February 17, Ash Wednesday, due to snow storm. We handed out 12 food boxes and meat. Not bad for 10" of snow! Thank you to all who helped and to Pastor for sharing the pergola with us. Our next distribution will be March 17<sup>th</sup>.

We also delivered to our 6 seniors at Ivor Lindsay.

We were greatly blessed by the generosity of others with numerous food donations, some huge, that really helped fill up our shelves. We also humbly accepted 2 financial donations of \$100 & \$50 from a congregant and Resurrection Church respectively. We only needed \$80 to buy meat and such.

It is such a blessing to have this ministry and to humbly give God glory for His provision and for bringing those who are in need to us. Thank you for your support.

## **President's Report- Ron Koch**

Rick & I have completed work on the PPP Forgiveness application. It was reviewed by people at First merchants and submitted to the federal government. They have 60-90 days to act.

As per your direction I have asked Sarah to view the 4 hours of YouTube videos that we discussed. She has begun that process.

Stewardship is one of the words of the day! Hopefully, you have now watched the first 4 8 minute videos, and wherever possible, have planned to participate in tomorrow's 10 am zoom meeting. This has been a long time coming and I hope we can make the most of this opportunity. Remember, history shows us that giving will remain strong in congregations even in times of recession as long as the leadership of the congregation does not inadvertently create a feeling of scarcity instead of abundance.

I have been reading a little more in Becoming an Anti-Racist Church and am struck by some of the wording. Even if we don't end up as a racially diverse church, I have seen several references that could be relevant to how we react to any new attendees. I pray that we can keep this conversation going!

It is up to us to keep things moving, work on our goals, and lead St. Paul's to be all that it can be!

### **Old Business:**

- Stewardship program
- PPP Forgiveness
- First Merchants & QuickBooks reconciliation
- Black Lives Matter/anti-racism work
- Sound system repair
- Children's sermons
- Soundproofing of Pastor's office
- Employee evaluations
- New Check signers
- Appreciation for Sandee Bowman
- Funeral guidelines
- Contracts/policies for employees



- Review of goals

## **New Business:**

### **Goals:**

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|-------------------|---|
| Overarching goal: | Be intentional; practice living our beliefs   |
| Supporting goal:  | Reach out to the local community, reach out to the world.   |
| Supporting goal:  | Practice being good stewards.   |
| Supporting goal:  | Try to focus our mission work to meet the needs of the Congregation and to maximize our ability to serve. |

### **Goals for Pastor Lew and Church Council:**

1. Hold regular (quarterly minimum) Mutual Ministry meetings. We should review with the congregation the function and value of the MM committee and revisit this with the congregation frequently.
2. Set reasonable boundaries on duties of the Pastor. Having the Pastor stay away from finances seemed to be of utmost importance.
3. Pastor and Council need to work together to not overpromise and/or overextend. All need to realize that there are limits to what we can ask of each individual.
4. Council needs to endeavor to be very clear with directions/guidelines to Pastor. Pastor needs to endeavor to follow the intentions of directions/guidelines from Council, and ask questions for clarification.
5. Council needs to find a way to keep the Pastor's office locked and to make it a place of privacy, either through soundproofing, white noise or some other technique.
6. Set up a system for regular employee evaluations.
7. Work to be an anti-racist church, community and world (New for 2021)