

Council Report for March 2021

Rev. Kim Nagy, Minister of Faith Formation

Christian Education

We have been traveling through the season of Lent as a church community, and our kids have been participating as well! Each Sunday, I use materials from the Holy Vessels theme (Worship Design Studio) to create children's church videos. Sue Hetrick, Rhuna Wall, and Eileen West have continued to contribute to Sunday videos. The weekly emails I send each week include instructions for activities from the Lent boxes I delivered earlier in the season.

Rhuna is working on assembling a video of our children singing for the Easter Sunday worship service.

Becky Dunlap wrote the script for this year's Last Supper reenactment, which will be recorded on Zoom and shared during our live Maundy Thursday worship service on Zoom.

I have also had several conversations with Eileen West on the phone, who is organizing a COVID-safe porch scavenger hunt for our children and youth during Holy Week!

As the COVID-19 vaccine continues to roll out, I plan to attend upcoming COVID-19 Team meetings at church and get feedback on an outdoor VBS program in our parking lot this year. I have reached out to Jodi Stillisano at First Christian Church to talk about how we might make this happen being as safe as possible. Stay tuned for more details!

This month, I had a Zoom conversation with Eli and Annabelle Case, who have both expressed interest to their parents regarding baptism. We talked about why they want to be baptized and what they think it means. I was so impressed with their simple and powerful responses: "I know I will love God all my life" and "I want to be mentally associated with God, and it is sacred." When we join together in person again, I look forward to being able to baptize Anna and Eli as a church family.

I have also started promoting our summer church camp widely to our church families. I plan to reach out directly to some of our families regarding church camp to encourage them to participate. I'd love to see our church send a good group each year!

J-Walkers

During the month of March, our J-Walkers assembled Easter baskets with their families at home and dropped them off at church to donate to Kent Social Services and Center

of Hope. I anticipate an outdoor activity with the J-Walkers on Sunday, March 28. They have not had the opportunity to gather outside yet this year, and with the nicer weather, I am hoping we can get together to go for a walk and catch up on life.

Confirmation

We are getting to the end of our Confirmation program year - it sure went quickly! On March 7 we talked about church seasons and worship. During our class on March 21 we will talk about interfaith issues and wrap up our planning of the Maundy Thursday Zoom service. Once again, I have been so impressed with this group's spiritual maturity! You have raised them well, Church!

UYF

Some of our UYF members also packed Easter baskets for Kent Social Services and Center of Hope this month. Our big activity this month, however, was reading through Trevor Noah's book *Born a Crime* together on Zoom. This book sparked some GREAT discussions among our youth, and we actually had better attendance on Zoom than we've had all year so far. Our youth think racism is important and want to talk about it and think about ways they can help dismantle it. We continue to have a core group that helps pack and distribute meals for the community each month, too.

Adult Education

Adults at Kent UCC have been *busy*. We have packed this Lenten season with classes on mindfulness, Bible study on the healing stories of Matthew, and a book study on *Four Hundred Souls*. I think we've had good participation in each of these classes and look forward to the next two that will take place after Easter: *Re-Membering the Church* (led by our WISE Team on Wednesday evenings) and *The Teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the White Church* (led by Sunny Matthews on Sunday afternoons).

All Church/Worship

In conjunction with our Confirmation class, our children, members of our Christian Education Team, youth, Pastor Amy, and Corey Fowler, I've been working on organizing our first Zoom worship service that will happen on Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m. I hope many will be able to join us for a service to remember this last meal Jesus shared with his disciples.

I also filmed a ritual video for our worship service on Sunday, March 7.

Wider Church

I've been meeting with various Faith Formation groups around the Heartland Conference and National UCC communities. I was recently asked to serve as the Great

Lakes Regional liaison for the Association of United Church Educators and am very excited about this opportunity.

Ecumenical/Interfaith

I attended the United Christian Ministries Board meeting on Monday, March 22, and I hope to catch the end of the UCM Spring Fundraiser on March 24 (it runs through our midweek Bible study).

Recently, I viewed the documentary, *American Muslim*, which focuses on the stories of Muslim families living through the Muslim Ban in the Trump presidency. The filmmaker, Adam Zucker, has been sharing the film for screening and then participating in open discussions on Zoom. I have secured a date for him to join us in May to talk about the film as a church community (May 19 from 7-8 p.m.).

Parental Leave Updates

I recently spoke with Pastor Amy about getting some things in order for my parental leave later this year. Our baby is due July 18, and I am planning to take 8 weeks of leave as outlined in my call agreement. That means I will spend the next few months organizing people to help take over aspects of my regular faith formation work during those weeks. Thank you for this time to adjust to life with a new baby!