

9-11-20 GSMT Meeting - Revised

Animal Blessing: Given how important animals have been to people sheltering in place, and given that members have lost beloved pets past year, Vicki suggested doing an Animal Blessing outside, having her stand at entrance and ushers/GSMT members bring animals up for a blessing as humans stand at a safe distance. She has researched and compiled info on how other congregations have done Animal Blessings that she can share.

Activities for Kids: Vicki has been thinking about activities to keep kids connected to church (e.g., "find the peace flag in the woods and tie a ribbon for peace on it" or "visit the pond and let it see how much you've grown, or tell it a wish and take your picture in front of it" or "notice how the garden is dying down now, what do you know about harvesting vegetables?")

Climate Change & Faith Speaker Series: Discuss whether to have another speaker series (virtual or live) and, if so, inviting Richard Primack as a speaker (his talk had been cancelled due to COVID-19), and coming up with other potential speakers. Note: I found out that Richard also has been investigating and perhaps could do a talk on the "anthropause" (i.e., the environmental effects of decrease human activity during the pandemic). Again, if go forward with a speaker series, propose doing it with the Swampscott Conservancy.

CREW Climate Prep Week: Speaking of Climate Change, Michael sent us a notice of this upcoming event. Check out:
https://www.climatecrew.org/prep_week

Update on Back Parking Lot Pond /Woods Path: We have approval from the Swamp't ConCom so next step is how to go about fixing up existing / creating the new path? And when?

Food Project: See if open to volunteers in fall?

Energy Audit: Possible push to have church do another energy audit?

It's late for a "summer" hike or paddle on the Ipswich, but do we want to plan **fall outdoor activities**? Hikes? Winter bird walk?

Misc. Coffee Hours assignments? Religious Ed? Website page?

This Year's Meeting Dates: Sept. 11th, Nov. 6th, Jan. 8th, Mar 5th, and May 7th.

Anything else?