

First Service Worship Leaders Meeting October 10

Thanks to Patty, Roger, Bill, and Brad for braving the Tuesday evening traffic and making it to our first service planning time. Here are a few notes, which may be helpful for both those who were there and those who are preparing for Sunday's gathering with second service worship leaders.

Special Note for those coming to Second Service worship planning on 10/15 after worship: Please bring a brown bag lunch for yourself. I'll bring some drinks and desserts.

1. We opened with a meditation on what it means to believe.
2. We talked about what makes Advent meaningful at Aldersgate. Ideas that were listed include:
 - families of various shapes and sizes reading and lighting candles
 - the concept of anticipation that grows throughout the season
 - singing
 - symbols like stars and other visuals that make the season special
 - pageant/enacting the story in early service on 12/10 and at 5pm Christmas Eve service
 - cocoa and food on Christmas Eve
 - Blue Christmas service early in December
3. Our theme this year will be gifts. We will start with the gift of healing, then the gift of feeding, then the gift of calming/traditions, finally the gift of travelling. In the evening of Christmas eve, we will focus on the gift of giving. These go along with the scriptures in John chapters 5-8.
4. We identified some of the potential challenges to first service and did some problem-solving around each of them.
 - a. There was an issue with continuity since there was a proposal to have a blended service for Thanksgiving, then early service as usual for one week. Then the pageant felt like not early service, then early service for one week. Then Christmas Eve being one service meant that 9am worshippers felt like Advent was an every other week mystery. So, we decided that Thanksgiving will still be blended.
Then, for Advent:
 - 12/3 Two services, as usual
 - 12/10 Two services, order of worship remains the same but pageant replaces sermon in first service, hopefully have some youth or kids help lead worship
 - 12/17 Two services, as usual
 - 12/24 Two morning services (not that this is a change) and three evening services.
 - 12/31 One combined service with blessing of the toys
 - b. For the wreath and candles, Brad and Laura are thinking of ways to be creative around the theme of gifts.
 - c. There was a desire to have a spreadsheet with resources and volunteers for all the ushers and readers and cocoa preparers for the entire season. Everyone thought that was a good idea, but I'm not sure we figured out how to make it happen.
5. We adjourned at 8:02.

I think that the basic plan worked well and got us out in just over an hour, so I hope to do something similar on Sunday after worship. Let's make an attempt to start as soon as possible. We'll have Isla with us, as well as our lunches, so there may be a few distractions. Anyway, it will be great to get to talk in person. Thanks to all for all you are doing to make worship meaning-filled for the people of Aldersgate!

Second Service Worship Leaders Meeting October 15

Thanks to Hanae, Jason, Brad, Pam, and Baby Isla for attending our 2nd service Advent planning meeting on Sunday!

I'm including all the worship planners on this in case it's helpful to know what we talked about. I also want to remind you all that 11/4 from 12-2pm is a worship brainstorm party for the season between Jan. 1 and Feb. 14. I hope you all can come! Then December 5 at 7pm, we will gather to plan how to take the ideas gathered at the party and make use of them in a coherent way. Again, anyone interested is welcome to that as well.

1. We opened with prayer.

2. We talked about what makes Advent meaningful at Aldersgate. Ideas that were listed include:

- lights
- a Bethlehem Spirit
- the Cantata on 12/10
- a Bells only Sunday on 12/17
- building anticipation week after week
- families of all shapes, sizes to light candles

3. This quickly morphed into a discussion about possibilities for adding to what we've done in the past, including:

- a drive through (live?) Nativity
- hymn sing before worship (instead of or in addition to) like Prelude
- a chocolate fountain at Christmas Eve and/or dairy free hot cocoa, but definitely having coffee available for the late service
- Blue Christmas Service 12/3 in the afternoon

4. We looked at possible concerns for the team

- Thanksgiving Sunday Service: we hope most of the planning can be done by email but we are thinking that a combined rehearsal with band and choir would be helpful.
- Schedule: Brad and Laura are dividing up the Christmas Eve services. Laura will tentatively lead the 9am and 9pm. Brad will lead the 11am, 5pm, and 7pm.

5. We talked about a possible Google sheet for keeping track of all the helpers/resources for the various services.

6. We adjourned at 1:00 and the baby woke up so Laura could hold her.

-Laura

Pastor Laura Baumgartner
Associate Pastor
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
<http://aldersgate-church.org/>
425.746.9800 ext. 12