

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL 1-31-21 VIA ZOOM

We have one link for all Coffee with Council meetings to make it easier to remember the info.

Opening prayer given by Pr Sarah Pierce.

We lost a strong supporter with the death of Nancy Cramer. Her death leaves an opening on church council for Stewardship. We now have two open seats on council. Please thoughtfully consider serving in one of these capacities. Keep Niel Johnson and Nancy's family in our prayers as they grieve.

Transition Team

Ron Easton and Anne Lee explained that they and Lisa Melton will meet with Pr Whetter on 2/4 to discuss the information discussed at the January council meeting. The new mission statement is: Reach In, Reach Out, Reach Up. They will also discuss the next step in the process. They will keep everyone in the loop over the next 1-2 months with Zoom meetings and get thoughts and ideas about the process. Council and the Transition Team will have an online retreat with Pr Whetter on 2/19 from 6:30-8:30 pm.

The first goal was to come up with a new mission statement. No one knew the existing one and it probably no longer fit the congregation. The mission statement means to Reach In-worship, Reach Out-community service, Reach Up-strengthen our relationship with God through prayer and bible study.

Ron Schwantes asked where we are in the process. There is no set timeframe for when the process would be completed. It was hoped that the process would be done by December 2020 but COVID changed that. Pam Meek explained that we were stopped in our tracks as everyone had to figure out how to meet virtually. Not having in person worship also slowed it down. Ron E hopes that we can be done by this summer. Widespread use of the vaccine will allow the COVID rules to be relaxed and we can have in person worship again. The original process assumed that the church was open for in person meetings. We have to take it one step at a time. The Transition Team had to regroup when they started meeting with Pr Whetter and bring the council up to date. Then any info is shared with the congregation. Everything happens in God's time. This gives us extra time to reflect. The work of the Transition Team is much appreciated as it is not an easy task. We will all get more info as the meetings are completed.

Carl Girkin is working on a project with the youth for Valentine Day cards and gift bags.

We are working to get a more definite schedule of lectors/readers for online services. We would like to get a month scheduled at a time and publish it in the newsletter. You can speak to anyone on council if you are interested. Pr Sarah may be available to record in the sanctuary on Wednesdays. Please contact her ahead of time to verify her schedule.

Pr Sarah, Ron E, Sara Meyers, and David Fast met on 1/25 to discuss Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Easter. A couple of ideas were tossed around for Ash Wednesday. We need to know everyone's comfort level. One option is an open house at church. Limited numbers of people would walk through the sanctuary to view the 7 Symbols of Ash. The other option is to have a Zoom worship similar to Christmas Eve. There is a concern that some people aren't comfortable being in the church building so we are leaning more toward the Zoom worship. Others miss being in the building and may want to attend. We can make it work if people are willing to work together and follow social distancing guidelines and the number of people in the building at one time.

Please register with Jackson County, your doctor's office, or a local hospital to sign up for COVID shots. They aren't getting enough vaccine to move it as fast as expected. Ron E added the link for the JC survey to our website.

February 7, 2021 is Super Bowl Sunday. This is always a good time to donate soups, crackers, and other warm foods to CSL. Jean Meroni is in the office M-F, 9-noon, and can let you in to drop off donations. As a reminder, 1 in 5 kids suffer from food insecurity and don't know where their next meal is coming from.

There are bags of donations in the music room that need to go to CSL. They turn them in to Goodwill and get credit by the pound. The credit can be used for gift cards for their clients.

Katie Melton did an outstanding job on the Youth Room. The changing table was not installed. An alternate location could be the handicapped/family restroom. A sign will be added to the door to indicate the changing table is inside. There is some furniture left over from the renovation. It needs to find a new use within the building or a new home.

Meeting ended at 11:40 after reciting the Lord's Prayer.