

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024

IN ATTENDANCE: Gordon, Sheri, Pastor Fred, David, Carol, Jessie, Kevin, Julie

EXCUSED: Lynn, Sandy

1. OPENING DEVOTIONS – Gordon offered an opening prayer and included our concerns for Lynn fighting an infection and possibly more surgery.
2. FEEDBACK ON RECENT EVENTS/SUNDAY SERVICES
 - a. Picnic at Germania Park – pretty well attended despite the rain. All 4 congregations were represented and the food was excellent. Favorable comments to do again sometime, perhaps in spring, perhaps including a worship service.
3. COMING ATTRACTIONS
 - a. Reformation Sunday music – Kevin reported that a brass quintet and guest singers are expected. Festival liturgy and special preludes and postludes. Note: the Luther Rose paraments were not used as they would have obscured the “apple” display under the altar. An alternative red was used. Thanks to Joan and Pastor for figuring this out.
 - b. Thanksgiving Midweek service – Pastor Fred updated plans for a community wide service on Tuesday Nov 26. Working with at least 2 other pastors in town.
 - c. Advent – Are there decisions we need to make
 - i. about a devotion or midweek worship etc? In person evening services were poorly attended. There seems to be a fatigue with online events. Should we try a daytime gathering? So many of our members are reluctant to drive once it gets dark? We’ve not had a daytime event in years so let’s give it a try. Won’t be a worship service, more of a lesson and quiet meditation, prayers. Pastor will work on it.
 - ii. Also discussed was the TLC “tradition” of a reading and “service” for the lighting of the Advent Wreath. This is not required – do we want to keep doing it or should we simply light the wreath before church when we light the altar candles? Yes, again, let’s try something different.
 - iii. We also had a related discussion about the online candle lighting devotion – could we do something like this again? Simplifying things, the previous attempt required an enormous amount of time to pull together, edit, and cleanup.
 - iv. Pastor noted that we are SO lucky that we Live Stream on Sundays – his colleagues report spending a tremendous amount of effort putting services together, sermons are recorded 3 days ahead, same with the music etc and then a great deal of time is spent putting it all together.
 - d. Schedule for Christmas tree assembly/decoration –
 - i. Gordon is awaiting a reply from either George Seidel (out of country traveling) or Scott Miller but we expect that the tree assembly will be on Thursday Dec 19. This is a task for a small group, too many hands is counter productive! Pastor has promised to buy lunch for the helpers!
 - ii. Decorating the sanctuary will be on Sunday 12/22 immediately after the service. Sheri will ask Kathy to put something in the newsletter when we get into December. We should also see if we can get a sponsor for a coffee hour that morning. There was some discussion about decorations – the “torches” that Kevin investigated last year were prohibitively expensive and we could not find one that was exactly right for our sanctuary. Julie wondered if the metal working firm on Rt 46 in Mine Hill could fabricate something?? Or White Iron in Morris Plains? Food for thought. A “lively” discussion was held with ideas for decorating – end result, “we love the

forest of trees” so that’s the plan. Also discussed was the location of the big tree – subsequent to the meeting Sheri and Pastor confirmed that the pulpit could be removed and the tree would fit there. Hmm, possibilities!!

- iii. Christmas Eve is Tuesday 12/24 – Julie reported that the Kurbansade family is excited to sing for us that evening. Time(s) to be determined. Unclear if there will also be a choir – Kevin will see if there is support from choir members.
- iv. Christmas Day is Weds 12/25. Service time is likely to be 9:30 am.

4. OLD BUSINESS – several topics for further discussion

- a. We discussed the possibility of placing music selections (from our prior YouTube files) on our website in the Music tab. Kevin talked to Katie and it is feasible. However, the group had concerns about the licensing and whether we have the “right” to publish. OneLicense allows us to print music for our use in the service but that is all. Pastor knows of a congregation that was fined for inadequate licenses. This idea was tabled for now until we learn more about licensing.
- b. A suggestion was made that we make November a month of gratitude, including writing a thank you to someone or writing what we are thankful for. Ideas for implementation included 1) hymns with that theme. Carol will send a few she found to Pastor. 2) write down things we are thankful for at beginning of service and put them in the offering plate. Post on bulletin board afterwards. 3) writing “private” thing we are grateful for and posting that at home near our usual exit so we see it each time we leave the house 4) Pastor asking us to text someone during the service that we are thankful for 5) asking us to write a note to a worker in the town of Dover that we are thankful for. Maybe firemen, cops, garbage collectors, etc.
- c. Sandy Sheridan suggested a “real” gospel service. What might this entail? This was Tabled until a meeting when Sandy can expand on the idea.
- d. Hymn selection: Sheri – November, Julie & Lynn – December, Gordon – January. Pastor noted that the first Sunday in January is the Second Sunday of Christmas –we don’t often get a 2nd chance at the Christmas hymns!

5. REQUEST – Volunteer needed to lead opening devotion at next meeting – we should all take a turn!! Pastor suggested that this doesn’t have to be so hard – just pick your favorite hymn and find out what the verses/text are that inspired that hymn. Kevin will take a shot at it next month!
6. CLOSING PRAYER - the meeting concluded at 8:00 pm.

NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19 AT 7 PM ON ZOOM