

MINUTES FOR W&M MEETING

Tuesday November 16, 2021

ROLL CALL: Judy, Sheri, Lynn, Pastor Fred, Katie, Kevin, Barbara, Jessie, Julie
Welcome Back to Sandy Sheridan! Welcome to Joan Yurecsko, new Altar Guild Coordinator!
Excused: David, Ken

- 1. DEVOTIONS:** Sheri educated us on Hidden Books of the Bible. Astute worshippers may note that readings are being taken from the "Book of Wisdom" otherwise known as the "Wisdom of Solomon" – these are considered hidden writings as there is some debate whether they are accepted by the church.

Pastor introduced us to some history with the word "apocrypha" from the Greek apokryptein, meaning "to hide away." In biblical literature apocrypha has come to mean "any writings of dubious authority" These hidden books were part of the Greek version of the Old Testament, but not included in the Hebrew Bible. These apocryphal books were thought to have been written between 200 BC and AD 400, in the intertestamental period. These books are thought to be useful for instruction and can be found in Luther's Bible as a separate section from the Old and New Testaments.

Other apocryphal books include: Macabees 1 and 2; Tobias, Judith, Baruch, Esdras 1 and 2 and there are others.

2. FEEDBACK FROM RECENT SUNDAY SERVICES

- "Hymns have been a little strange" – picked by Pastor this month – thank you for widening our horizons – something we don't always welcome -lol.
- suggested we use more familiar hymns during communion, not as many people singing. Also brought up that it is difficult to know which verse we are on when coming back from communion.
- Pastor Serena from Abiding Peace did a wonderful job, even though we do things quite differently from her congregation. She just went with the flow. Karen, organist from Abiding Peace also did a great job, as always.

3. UPDATES - PROCEDURES & PROTOCOLS FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP (COVID-19)

- a. "Relatively safe when all three of the following conditions are met" (covidactnow.org):
 - i. Daily rate of new cases is less than 10 in 100,000. **18.6% as of 11/16/21**
 - ii. Fewer than 5% of people tested test positive. 4.1% as of 11/16/21.
 - iii. Fewer than 70% of ICU beds are occupied. On 11/16/21 it was at 55%.
 - iv. Above numbers are Morris County numbers. County vaccination rate is 78.9%
Receiving 1 dose (70.6% Fully vaccinated)
- Discussed our neighbors to our north in Sussex and Warren County have higher rates of infection. Daily new cases up to 36.3 per 100,000 in Sussex and 26.6 in Warren. Positive test rate 7.4% in Sussex and 6.1% in Warren.
 - Morristown High Scholl on remote learning due to large COVID outbreak.
 - These are reminders that COVID is still present and active, and we need to continue to take precautions and follow CDC guidelines.
 - need to continue to remind congregation. Finding people have become indifferent.

- b. Singing has been deemed safe as long as congregation wears masks indoors. Pastor questioned singing less verses. Discussed that if we are singing at all, the number of verses will not have an influence. If we decide not to sing, that would be a difficult decision, but if cases dramatically go up, we may have to consider this.

4. COMING ATTRACTIONS

- a. Nov 21 Christ the King – new white banner – large! Will be hemmed by Jane Kraus.
- b. Nov 28 First Advent – change to blue; Switch to setting 2 until Ash Wednesday. (Sheri and Katie will do the decorating on Friday 11/26)
- c. Mid-week Advent services – currently being pre-recorded and will be “released” at 7 pm on 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22
- d. Dec 5 Annual Meeting; Friday Dec 17 – tree assembly and Sunday Dec 19 Decorating will be completed. Florist alerted re: poinsettias – red with green foil, small #30
- e. Friday 12/24 Christmas Eve – two services 6 pm and 10 pm. Austin will be cantor for at least one service. Julie to contact Austin to discuss singing at 6pm. Katie will record one service. Best to record 6pm so congregation can watch it at any time on Christmas Eve.
- f. Sat 12/25 Christmas Day – one service @ 9:30
- g. Sun 12/26 1st Christmas– one service @ 9:30 on YouTube only (PRE-RECORDED)
Discussed making sure congregation and others know there is no in-person church on 12/26! We will post in newsletter(possibly in a distinct color to make it stand out) and make announcements. Will be prerecorded between 12/19-25 when church is decorated – best day Sunday, 12/19.
- h. Sun 1/2 – Second Sunday of Christmas
- i. Sun 1/9 – Baptism of Jesus
- j. Sun 1/30 – RIC Sunday
- k. Looking way ahead: Ash Weds March 2 with Easter on April 17. Late this next year.

5. OTHER RECURRING BUSINESS

- a. Hymn Selection: Pastor will do Jan; Sheri will pick Feb.
- b. Cantor status: Kevin will continue to look into cantors/special music. Wood wind instrumentalists brought up – decided against due to COVID.
- c. Choir/Bell Choir for Christmas: not going to happen this year.
- d. WELCOME: New Altar Guild Coordinator Joan Yurecsko! Barbara Terreri will gladly pass her crown to Joan.

6. ROUND TABLE/NEW BUSINESS

Sandy: suggested a quartet to sing. Could even be choir members. Suggested to prerecord special music. Many were in favor of this suggestion for quartet.

Barbara: saying goodbye to Worship and Music committee. Leaves with a heavy heart, but it has become too much and “It’s time for the younger ones to take the lead.”

Pastor closed meeting with prayer.

Next meeting scheduled for December 21, 2021 – CANCELLED

We will meet again: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 @ 7pm on Zoom

2022 Next dates 1/18, 2/15, 3/15

PARKING LOT: Future invite to Tim Weingert? / Learn a new liturgy some day: WOV 4 or ELW 8 possible