

## Worship & Music Committee meeting [online: via Zoom](#) Mar. 1, 2022

Present: Sherry Scheider, Pastor Scott, Carolyn Ciaccio, Linda Longardner (joined late: connection issues) and Susie Smalley

Pastor opened the meeting with a reading from Acts chapter 10.

### **Old Business:**

- † setting changes: using setting 2 beginning Ash Wed. (Mar. 2) through Maundy Thursday (Apr. 14)
- † Lenten devotionals: Carolyn ordered Lenten devotional booklets from Augsburg Fortress and they are on the table for people to obtain.
- † altar flowers: Thank you to Liz for coordinating these! There are still a few blanks to fill on the chart.
- † palms ordered for Palm Sunday: Sherry ordered four bunches of palms (18-25 per bunch) from Eco Palms and they will be delivered the week prior to Palm Sunday.
- † Easter Sunday: Pepper Creek quoted a price of \$11.50 each for tulips in assorted colors. That is \$1 more than two years ago, but not surprising that the price increased. The orders need to be in by Apr. 4. Sherry will post a sign in the narthex by Ash Wednesday.

### **New Business:**

- † mask mandate: As of Monday, Feb. 28, the mask guidelines from the CDC have changed and the Illinois mask mandate has been lifted. Wearing a mask in church will now be optional.
- † Ash Wednesday (March 2, 2022): We will have an in-person worship service, including communion and imposition of ashes, on Wednesday, March 2, at 7pm. Like on Sundays, this will also be broadcast over Zoom.
- † Wednesdays during Lent: The subsequent Wednesday evening services during the season of Lent will be **only** over Zoom. Music-wise, we will sing The Magnificat and *Let My Prayer Rise Up*, along with a Hymn of the Day chosen by Pastor Scott.
- † Readers - We decided we can now institute lectionary readers again. Pastor mentioned putting out a sign-up sheet, including the references for the day's readings, on which people could volunteer. We will begin the sign-ups on Sunday, April 10 (Palm Sunday), so that we can have people in place for Holy Week and beyond.

We discussed how to go about getting the readers their readings for the week, and we need to brainstorm a little more about that! Pastor said one thing that has worked for some congregations is having a "team" for each Sunday comprising all the worship helpers for that Sunday. The "team leader" can then be a point person for communication.

- † Holy Communion - We are currently using the communion kits with a wafer sealed in one end and wine or juice sealed in the other end. We have quite a few kits left, so we decided we will use up all but one week's worth. These, we will reserve in the freezer for five months, in the case we need to go back to masks. That way, we won't have to scramble to get supplies. If the mask mandate returns, we'll be ready; if not, we will use them in five months, before the expiration date. Considering how many kits we still have; this should let us be back to doing "normal" communion by Holy Week.

We discussed logistics about the distribution during service. Susie suggested using the reader (since they are there anyway), and Sherry pointed out that years ago, part of what the Deacon of the Month

did was assist with communion. It was decided then that will use the reader and the deacon of the month to assist each week!

† Friendship Registers/attendance tracking - We discussed whether to go back to using the Friendship Registers or just to keep doing what we've been doing (using the 'attendance sheet' that Susie provides each week) to keep track of attendance. Pastor pointed out that compiling the sheets from the Friendship Register was one of the duties the church secretary used to do, but now we don't have one. We also talked about how some people don't sign it anyway, so the attendance sheet provides a more accurate record of who is there. Therefore, we decided to continue to do what we have been doing since May 2021: the attendance sheet.

† Butterflies - Learning from Christmas, regarding setting up the tree, we suggest that we let the people in the congregation make the decision of whether or not to hang the butterflies this year! Susie suggested making announcements on multiple Sundays, asking if there is interest and if so, if anyone would be willing to head this up. Pastor Scott decided that we will have a meeting right after service on April 3 for anyone who is interested in seeing the butterflies up again this year and we will go from there.

The butterflies will need to be hung on Saturday, April 16. There was some discussion about how long we'd keep them hanging, but I don't believe any decisions were made. Sherry noted that in 2019, they were hung the day prior to Easter and remained up for three Sundays. There was also talk about keeping them hanging through Mother's Day. If that were to be the case this year, Mother's Day is May 8<sup>th</sup>, so that would mean the butterflies would be up a total of four Sundays.

† Palm Sunday: (April 10, 2022) - We discussed the choir a bit (or lack, thereof) and how they used to sing anthems interspersed throughout the reading of the Passion of Christ. Since we don't currently have a choir, we discussed how the reading of the Passion would 'look' this year. We mentioned maybe incorporating hymns that the *congregation* could sing, interspersed throughout the reading, but decided that might be a bit awkward. It is different having a choir do that. We think it would be better to *not* try to do that and to just read the entire Passion uninterrupted. We will still recruit readers to say their 'parts'. Pastor suggested we could personally invite people or do a sign-up sheet for people to volunteer to read different parts, or both! Susie reminded everyone that she has one copy of the Passion booklet for each role, that is highlighted for that part, to make it a little easier on the reader.

† Maundy Thursday (Apr. 14, 2022): In past years, Sherry has called on the choir members to strip the altar. This year, since there is no choir, she will call on the Altar Guild.

† Vigil of Easter (Sat., Apr. 16, 2022): The Easter Vigil will begin at 8:30pm

† Easter Sunday (April 17, 2022) - The Worship and Music Committee recommends just going to one service on Easter, considering our attendance as of late. Though we don't want to cause a situation in which someone wouldn't be able to attend the service because they're concerned about setting up the food, we also discussed that the food doesn't **need** to be ready and waiting right when we get out of church - we can all wait a bit! Pastor will contact Janette and tell her about our recommendations and let her and her committee iron out the details!

Meeting was closed with prayer.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, Apr. 5, 2022 at 1pm, via Zoom**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susie Smalley