

Worship & Music Committee meeting [online: via Zoom](#) Dec. 6, 2022

Present: Sherry Scheider, Pastor Scott, Carolyn Ciaccio, Linda Longardner, and Susie Smalley

Pastor opened the meeting with a reading with a reading from Romans

Old Business:

- † altar guild breakfast: Sherry & Kris Tukker treated the members of the Altar Guild to breakfast on December 3rd (as they have for several years on the 1st Sat. of December). They are excited to announce there will be three new members joining in January (including Linda Longardner)!
- † flowers: There will be a new flower chart hung by this Sunday (Dec. 11) with the special Sundays highlighted. Vicki, from Pepper Creek, said the price should increase by \$5 to \$35. It has been \$30 for several years now. None of us think the price increase is objectionable.
- † setting changes: We have switched to setting 7 and will remain with that setting through Transfiguration (Feb. 19, 2023)
- † lighting of wreath: Pastor has been lighting the candles on the Advent wreath while the congregation sings "We Are Waiting for Jesus". This has been well received and is going well.

New Business:

- † Christmas tree: Tree will be going up this Sunday after service (after service on the 3rd Sunday of Advent is what we decided in a previous meeting) and will need to come down before Jan. 8
- † poinsettias: Sherry ordered 22 at \$11 each in 6" pots covered with gold foil from Pepper Creek. We decided to use white drapes rather than red - a better contrast with the red poinsettias and easier also to see when the lights are a little dimmer on Christmas Eve. They will be delivered early Friday morning.
- † Christmas Eve (Dec. 24, 2022):

Prelude: Sherry asked/verified that the prelude would begin around 4:30. Susie said it would more likely be closer to 4:45, rather than 4:30pm. Service will start at 5pm.

Candles: The hand-held candles will be placed in the back of the sanctuary so the worshippers can take one as they enter to be lit as we sing *Silent Night, Holy Night* at the end of service. Sherry wonders if the ushers can perhaps remind people to take one. This then led to a discussion about the level of lighting in the sanctuary and communication with the ushers and the difficulties in doing so right before service, partially due to the musical prelude.

[Last year's minutes included the following: "*Next year, we obviously need to open the lines of communication better! We will make sure we address the lighting during the service and that evening and let the ushers know what should happen.*" so we want to make sure they know what to expect.]

Pastor thinks this will be best done *prior* to Christmas Eve but we learned that there are no ushers assigned to that service. Pastor then asked who (of us) would like to take that on that responsibility; no one volunteered. Susie suggested that Pastor simply announce it on a few Sundays - to ask for volunteers to usher Christmas Eve. Pr. Scott agreed with a request that we don't let him forget to announce it!

Hymns: We talked about the music on Christmas Eve and asked Linda if there were any hymns that she would like to make sure are included this year. She said *All Earth Is Hopeful* is her favorite and (taking in comments from the end of last year's service), she also suggested we make the end of service a little more joyful and suggested *Joy to the World* as the sending hymn, and perhaps enter with *Silent Night, Holy Night*. Pastor said that "scared" him; Susie tried to think of an alternative way we could do *Silent Night* earlier and still do *Joy to the World* as the sending hymn. She thought perhaps after Communion and before the blessing at the end. Pastor wondered about how that could work in service and suggested we keep *Silent Night* as the sending hymn. Linda will just play *Joy to the World* as the postlude.

All Earth Is Hopeful will be sung as the sending hymn on Advent 4. As we did last year, we will sing *Angels We Have Heard on High* (one verse each service on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Christmas 1 (Jan. 1st)). Susie will work on suggestions for the rest of the service for Dec. 24 & Dec. 25 (& Jan. 1).

† Baptism of Our Lord (January 8, 2023): Pastor suggests that we acknowledge godparents on this day to recognize them. He sent out an email shortly before this meeting which lists various suggestions congregations could do that would honor godparents (and their godchildren). One of the suggestions on the list was to provide nametags for people to wear saying "I am the godparent of" and "I am the godchild of" and Pastor said we could at least do that. Susie volunteered to make the nametags.

Meeting was closed with prayer.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023 at 1pm, via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Susie Smalley