Worship Committee Semi-annual report 2024-2025

If you have any questions regarding any particular service, do not go directly to the speaker, email the co-chairs, Iris Nelson and Mary Ann Freeman.

June/July 2024

Co-chairs, Iris Nelson and Mary Ann Freeman, met in June to work on the new order of service which will include more information and be a larger format.

August 2024

Co-chairs, Iris Nelson and Mary Ann Freeman met on the phone to make changes to the order of service and script. We discussed the changes being made to the Touchstone Project. They will not be creating new materials for 2024-2025 as they are shifting their emphasis to discussion materials for small groups. Instead, they are offering materials from the years 2017-2023 at a 50% discount, i.e. $168 for 12 themes.

All materials will be available online as before. We have chosen the themes from 2020-2021: Worth & Dignity, Emotional Intelligence, Spirituality, Kindness, Consolation/Desolation, Mercy, Respect, Mindfulness, Acceptance, Care of the Soul, Journey, Communion. Note: the last three themes are for June, July, and August. We would like to offer these to the Summer Sunday Discussion Group as we feel they are very useful guidance, and we pay for them. The Touchstones Journal is included with the mailing of the newsletter.

August 20, 2024

The co-chairs met on the phone to make final changes to the order of service, which will in future be referred to as the bulletin. Changes were also made to the script. Copies of the new bulletin and the script were sent to Sharon Buzzard and Steve Wiegenstein.

August 28, 2024

The co-chairs met with Taylor at church to discuss changes and updates to the church’s web page: a new logo, new photos, listing our lay ministers, Sharon Buzzard and Steve Wiegenstein, with their biographies, and our new RE teacher, Sami Newbanks. We also talked about using videos for the music while we look for a replacement for Stephen Schlinkmann who has moved to Seattle. Susan Degee has joined the committee. Lisa Wigoda concluded her service after several years last spring.

September 3

The entire committee met for lunch. Mary Ann acquainted Susan with the procedures followed for service such as sending information to the newsletter, getting the biography of the speaker for the script, selecting hymns, Opening and Closing Words, and so on. The committee as a whole worked on the schedule and possible speakers for the coming months. As of this date we have the following speakers:

October 6

The entire committee met after church to review procedures before and after service (such as getting a check for the speaker, folding the bulletin, ensuring the offering is taken upstairs). We also reviewed the up-to-date schedule of speakers and organists for each Sunday through the end of the calendar year. We discussed having a “Feature Piece” during the service, to be chosen by the organist playing that Sunday. We are adding a Postlude to the service for the short period of time that the congregants are departing. Susan volunteered several ideas for future speakers and will be working on that in the coming week.

November 3

The committee met after church to finalize speakers for December and get ideas for speakers in the new year. We also made a few changes to the bulletin related to the place of hymns.

November 17

Susan and Mary Ann met with Aaron, Sharon and Steve after church to go over the ministers’ contract. Aaron added information about payment for the wedding services and we discussed changes to the amount allocated for lodging (from $100 to $175) and food (unspecified to $75).

Susan also brought up the practice of confronting visitors with a clipboard and asking for their information. Many people find this invasive and we all believe that it may put people off coming back. This will be discussed with the board. Other suggestions include putting up signs with information about joining our Facebook page and including an “invitation” to our page on the bulletin.

Here are the speakers and musicians for December:

December 3

The committee “met” via emails and texts to start planning speakers for the New Year. The service that was canceled on December 1 will be rescheduled in January.