

## **Minister's Board Report - Pastor April - January - April 2022**

This last quarter has been a time of flourishing in the co-ministry. Zane has come on board with such enthusiasm and the positive energy that the existing staff has benefitted from. We continue to make adjustments to our schedules to maximize the overlap time while maintaining a steady presence in the office while we still do not have an office manager (more from Personnel on that in their report). After Easter Zane will make some adjustments to his weekly schedule and after Pentecost we will evaluate with personnel and our pastoral relations committees how the congregation would like to see pastoral overlap time used, specifically as it relates to Sunday worship preparation and facilitation. It is enjoyable to be together as one community, and both pastors doing worship preparation & leading worship together is a large volume of overlap time. Something to consider in weeks ahead.

Thank you to Executive Ministry Team for reviewing our coronavirus policies and procedures last month and making healthy adjustments, continuing to balance the many and diverse needs of the congregation. And thank you, members for your continued care for the wider community and the consensus to continue universal masking while in the building, in care for our neighbor.

### **Spiritual Formation**

This is a ministry area of the church that is in need of new volunteer support and energy.

Chairperson Karen Duncan and committee members Mary Robertson, Jeannie Hagy, and Kit Frisinger have all been our prayer chain in the last two months, we continue to pray for their personal healing and wellbeing as well as those in their households.

This leaves Judith Ivy and myself to serve in this area, providing spiritual formation activities for all ages in the church.

The summer months are peak Spiritual Formation and Fellowship months and if you have interest and ability to help develop plans for:

- Prayer Pods

- Church in the Park

- Fellowship Activities like ice cream socials, coffee hours, baseball games, etc.

- Education Classes on Sunday for children, youth, and adults

- Field Trips and Youth Group Activities

We could use the extra help and without additional support in this area our summer programming will feel lean.

### ***Recent Events in Spiritual Formation***

\*Thank you Sharon Warner for leading a class on the conflict between Israel & Palestine in March.

\*Thank you Glenn McKerrow for continuing to lead the prayer group on Wednesdays.

\*The Middle & High School Mini mission trip was a great success! My favorite part was how many members of the church got to hang out with our two youth participants, Noah and Monika. They will report back to the congregation in May or June.

The youth group worked with the Interfaith Food Hub, the Helping Hearts Ministry, the Music Department, the office volunteers, the property committee, and the library team. The youth learned to use power tools and the Dewey Decimal System and how to get a birdie on hole 15 at Camp Putt.

We will continue to offer monthly zoom meetings to plan our future events and stay connected as well as monthly in person activities. Next month we will work on the Ekstrom Family River Run Rescue for horses.

\*Regional Youth will have events at Regional Assembly May 20-21 in Salem

\*And Summer camp opportunity August 1-4. Details for both of these events can be found at our website in the Spiritual Formation > Summer Camp pages.

### ***Hybrid Worship Musings***

In 2020, just before the pandemic sent us all home, we were, as a body, in deep discernment about how to deepen relationship with one another in the church, wondering if one worship service was the way forward. Rejoicing in how good it feels when we're all together but acknowledging the challenge in finding harmony in our broad and diverse spectrum of worship preferences.

In 2022, we now program, plan and advertise that we have one service, but we are still learning how to find that harmony. And the experience is still a bit diverted, because of the hybrid model - those in the room and those watching from home. Pastors talking into the room and then talking into a camera. As a congregant you can "see" behind the scenes even more than before.

All that relationship work as a community was paused, transformed; we all changed over the last 2 years. *And* we continue in our conversation with God, Sunday mornings. *And* we return to the discernment spaces in April & May. I am thankful for the intricate web of prayer and support we are weaving together as new life is being created. It's a beautiful and painful process we are all experiencing.

### ***Appreciation for Office Volunteers***

The effective work of co-ministry has been made possible by the administrative support of many office volunteers and without their efforts to keep the office running as smoothly as possible Zane and I would be EXTREMELY tired. Not only have they been a sustaining presence in the office they have all learned new skills, been responsible for significant pieces of our administrative puzzle for the last quarter and now these amazing servants will help train our new office manager. They have been a kind of glue for Zane and I - and they probably feel like they've been stuck in the office in a gooey mess! Ha! Help me give thanks for: Linda Bright, Sandra Cole, Kerry Crow, Eliza Drummond, Laura Hammond, Connie Kennedy, Cheryl Moore, Marilyn Reid, Lori Smith, & Jennifer Thompson.

***Fun Fact!*** I'm in a musical! Eugene's Very Little Theatre plans to open its doors again in August with the musical *Little Women* and I am excited to return to the ensemble. Rehearsals start in June and that's here I will spend many evenings this summer. (This show was originally scheduled to open March 13, 2020...)