

Council Report for April 2021

Rev. Kim Nagy, Minister of Faith Formation

Christian Education

Throughout the month of April, we have continued to offer children's church videos on Sunday morning as well as weekly emails sent to families with Sunday school lessons. As the end of the program year approaches and the pandemic continues, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to engage our church families virtually.

Several of our elementary and middle school-aged children joined a Zoom meeting to record this year's virtual Last Supper Reenactment, which was shown during the Maundy Thursday worship service on Zoom on April 1.

Eileen West coordinated ten church families to put treat bags on their front porches for a COVID-safe Easter egg scavenger hunt from April 1-3. Both the families who went on the scavenger hunt *and* the people who hosted it had a wonderful time! Not only did kids collect treats, but they also collected parts of the Easter story and a resurrection scene to color and cut out for Easter.

Rhuna Wall coordinated four children to sing for Easter Sunday worship.

Eileen West and Sue Hetrick continue to send videos to include in our weekly worship videos for children. Becky Dunlap continues to send postcard designs of our monthly Bible verses so I can send our children snail mail each month.

Jodi Stillisano and I are polling parents to see what kind of interest we might have for an in-person, outdoor-only summer vacation Bible school.

J-Walkers

Spring sports are back, so many of our middle and high school students are on the fields Sunday afternoons. However, we have had a couple of students come to participate in outdoor activities. On April 11, two joined me in the parking lot of the church to pack little college care packages to send to our college students as they approach finals season. On April 25, we went for a walk along the river downtown. We have one more gathering of the program year in May, and we will invite our current 5th graders to come as we say goodbye to our 8th graders!

Confirmation

Our Confirmation students helped lead the Maundy Thursday Zoom worship service with their mentors on April 1. They have been working on their projects, and helped at

the community meal on May 18. We will have our final class on Sunday, May 2 via Zoom.

Because one of our Confirmation students is going out of state to college in the fall and I will be on parental leave at the end of the summer, Pastor Amy and I are planning Confirmation Sunday for the end of May. We will record the Rite of Confirmation via Zoom like we did last year, and we also have three students to baptize before being Confirmed. Stay tuned for upcoming details.

UYF

Like J-Walkers, our UYF numbers have dropped off drastically after Easter. A couple of UYF members joined Zoom on April 11 to watch "I Am Greta," a documentary about Greta Thunberg and her work on the environmental crisis. A few also helped pack and distribute meals for the community meal, in addition to helping take them to the community living under the Franklin Avenue bridge. On April 25, we walked along the river downtown.

We are planning a celebration for our graduates on Sunday, June 6 from 4-6 p.m. It will be a car parade through our parking lot so church and community members can drive through and drop off cards or gifts to celebrate those who are graduating this year.

I am also working with the UYF officers to plan *some sort* of mission experience in June. We are coming up short in many ways (places aren't hosting volunteers), but are trying to piece some in-person, outdoor-only activities together.

Adult Education

We have been running two adult education classes after Easter. Both have been incredibly well-attended and have had great conversations. *Re-membering the Church: Conversations Around Mental Health and Addiction Recovery* occur Wednesday nights and *Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Challenge to the Church* occurs Sunday afternoons.

At this point, our plan is to put adult education classes on hold for the summer and begin again in the fall.

All Church/Worship

I helped our Confirmation class lead our first Zoom worship service on Thursday, April 1. In addition, I participated in Easter Sunday worship.

It was great fun to attend the Name That Tune Zoom on April 10!

Wider Church

One of the great blessings of pandemic life has been the ability to attend many virtual webinars that have been very good. In April, I attended an Our Whole Lives webinar that talked about being aware of sexual trauma and the church's reaction in our OWL classes (something we are hoping to *eventually* get going at Kent UCC). I also attended a webinar called, "Just Faith Formation," that focused on faith formation through a justice lens. I continue to participate in my Community of Practice group, and faith formation groups at the Conference, Regional, and National levels. I attended the Spring Vitality Festival put on by the Living Water Association on April 24.

Ecumenical/Interfaith

I attended the United Christian Ministries Board meeting on Monday, April 29.

I am looking forward to hosting a discussion on Zoom on the film *American Muslim* with filmmaker Adam Zucker on Wednesday, May 19 at 7 p.m.

Parental Leave Updates

Potential dates (IF the baby comes on time :) -- July 18-September 11

Our baby is due July 18, and I am planning to take 8 weeks of leave as outlined in my call agreement. That means I will spend the next few months organizing people to help take over aspects of my regular faith formation work during those weeks. Thank you for this time to adjust to life with a new baby!

Vacation

I took off Sunday, April 18 and made it a weekend of baby preparations.