

EMT Minutes

August 10, 2022

Present: Eileen Koprowski, Chair, Jane Schmerberg, Jan Eadie, Nancy Pieske, Jim Rowan, council representative, Katie Rowan, Chair of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Kelsey Postler.

The start of Sunday School is coming quickly!

1. Rally Day will be September 11.
 - a. We will plan this to be the kick-off for the Sunday school year. We will plan to have as many of the teachers as possible helping in the class that day. Come meet your teachers. Welcome back!
 - b. We hope that Pastor John can do a children's moment that day to welcome the children and to bless the donations for the school supplies (*see donations below).
 - c. Eileen will check with Jennifer Vasquez from the Worship Team and with Pastor John to see if the Children's moment can be incorporated into the service. The children will leave after the Children's moment and go to Sunday school
 - d. Katie Rowan will work with Jane Schmerberg to see what can be served for a special coffee hour/picnic treat in the Fellowship Hall afterwards. We may try to get some special treats – cider, hotdogs, chips, and coffee. (Katie volunteered to step in for coffee hour when Jan Eadie said there was a need that day. Jan and Joe will be in Ireland for two weeks).
 - e. Nancy Pieske agreed to be the lead teacher for this first day. Jane can do the 18th. We will need someone for the 25th.
 - f. We discussed that once we get tis classroom going, we might be able to ask some of the older youth to help volunteer sometimes. Maybe for special projects, for example.
2. We are planning on having a "one-room schoolhouse" approach to Sunday school this year.
 - a. All ages will meet, and we can utilize the preschool room and the adjoining Sunday school room. We will be able to take in toddlers, preschoolers, and students through grade 7. We will pick activities that span the ages and involve our older children in helping with the younger children and siblings.
 - b. We will try to have a core of lead teachers which might include Nancy Pieske, Jane Schmerberg, Kelsey Postler, and Eileen Koprowski. We will check to see if Jill Schwartz, Christina Wilke might also be willing to take some Sundays where they are the lead teacher.
 - c. We will need a second teacher assistant every week and will look to see if we can include some of our previous teachers and classroom volunteers to help in this role. Maybe Caroline Ashenfelter, Christina, Jill, Jan Eadie, Julie Feldkamp, or Diana Slaughter, would also be willing to be the assistant.
 - d. Once we get our list of teachers and co-teachers, we will need to get a list for all of the Sundays for teaching and co-teachers. Kelsey suggested perhaps a Google-doc. Previously Julie had created the teaching list and we can see if she might do that. We would also need a co-teacher list for each week. The teachers and co-teachers could then make trades, as needed.
3. Sunday school curriculum.

- a. We agreed that we would continue to work with the Whole People of God curriculum for the next year. We are familiar with it and it allows for lessons that go across the age groups and let us teach in one class with many ideas. It is also lectionary-based.
- b. We had talked about looking at another curriculum that was utilized at Chelsea UCC that Sarah Herwick had recommended, called Orange. It has wonderful attributes, but we decided it would be better to go with what we know.
- c. We will need to get The Whole People of God curriculum ordered. Gwen ordered it last year, so Eileen will reach out to her. They do need to have a list of the e-mails of the teachers that are going to use it. It allows for something like 10 (?) users.
- 4. Inviting Back the Children.
 - a. We talked about sending a “flyer” with an individual note to each student to welcome them back. We will give them the 411 regarding our one-room schoolhouse. We want them each to feel personally invited. Kelsey said that if we can come up with the wording for the flyer, she can figure out a fun way to put it together with some cute graphics and layout.
 - b. Katie suggested that we make sure to send the same welcome letter to all of our students, including our older students – Matt, Abby, Carrie and Noah to welcome them back. They can come to the sanctuary, the children’s moments and during the year, we might be able to have some of them volunteer in the classroom.
 - c. We can put this same invitation into the Visitor, so it needs to be done soon as the deadline is less than a week. Eileen and Kelsey will work together.
- 5. School Supply Drive
 - a. We will have our traditional drive to get backpacks and school supplies.
 - b. Jane has a flyer that outlines the supplies that we can use.
 - c. Eileen will get some posters made to put up in the church.
 - d. Jane will get the flyer to Gwen and help get it in the Visitor and Refrigerator page.
 - e. We will collect items until September 11.
 - f. We will donate to Alpha House and Peace Neighborhood Center.
 - g. Donations can be left in the office or can be brought to the sanctuary.
 - h. We should get a box/basket for the church office and sanctuary with the poster on it. (Jane can help with that)
- 6. Next EMT Meeting: 7pm-Wednesday, 8/31
 - a. We wanted to meet again before Rally Day to insure everyone knew what needed to be done that Sunday
 - b. Eileen will send out a zoom invitation
 - c. Not discussed: the next meeting will be on Zoom, but it would be helpful to meet in person that evening in the preschool room.
 - d. We may need a short list of small treats to stock up on like juice boxes and animal crackers. The meeting ended with the Our Father.

AUGUST 8, 2022 OMT MEETING NOTES

- **Ukrainian Crisis Appeal**: We are continuing to weekly promote the appeal on Facebook, the weekly group email to the congregation, and on the refrigerator page. Prior to OMT's appeal, \$745 was given through the church and has been sent to the Michigan Conference to be distributed. Sue will find out from Gwen this week how much more has been given through the church, and we will pass that information along to you once we receive it.
- **BUCC Operating Fund Outreach Line Item**: At the June 12 Annual Meeting, the amount for each ministry team for the next 6 months was announced. The OMT line item for us to distribute is \$5,237. Given the recent news from the governmental alliance, New Human Services Partnership, they awarded only seven agencies each a five-year grant (amounting to \$200,000 to \$300,000 per year). Two of our agencies were greatly impacted with this decision—Alpha House and Peace Neighborhood Center. Food Gatherers is one of the seven agencies who will continue to be funded through this initiative. We are thankful that Food Gatherers will continue to be funded by NHSP because of the impact they have providing food for many nonprofits in our community.

We would like to propose the following: We distribute the \$5,237 and add \$763 from the Outreach Memorial Fund to that amount to be able to give to Alpha House, Peace Neighborhood Center, and Food Gatherers each \$2,000 to be distributed immediately.

- **Crop Walk**: Sue and Katie will continue to promote the CROP Walk (hosted by Zion Lutheran Church this year) on **October 9**. A team page has been set up online and can be accessed at this address: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/annarbormi>
- **Alpha House**: The next Sunday that BUCC is signed up to provide a meal is **August 28**. Sue will send out a Genius Sign Up this week to seek volunteers to provide the meal.

Also regarding Alpha House, we need someone to volunteer to be the liaison. This entails attending an online Zoom meeting quarterly and then reporting back to OMT any Alpha House updates, etc. If someone needs more information about this, please contact Laura. She is no longer able to be the liaison. The two remaining meetings for 2022 are September 20 (11:00-noon) and November 17 (5-6pm).

Sue and Roy Muir - Co-Chairs OMT

Bethlehem United Church of Christ
Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team Minutes
August 20, 2022

Phone Meeting: Katie Rowan, Jesse Wilcox

Youth Group

Our first meeting will be Sept 11 Rally Day after the church picnic. We'll distribute new medical forms and survey the youth regarding snacks for meetings. Going forward, we will plan to meet **Sundays, 11:30 AM - 1:00PM**, every other week beginning in October. October meeting dates will be:

Oct. 2

Oct. 16

Oct. 30

Submitted by Katie Rowan, Chair