

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: October 22, 2020 4:30 pm

Present: Ron Dechert, John Samford, Dindy Haab, Patricia Huibregtse, Pam Rutledge, Jim Rowan, Pastor Kennedy and Tim Authier 4:30 - 6:25

Opening Prayer

- **Approval of [minutes from 9/24/20 Leadership Council meeting](#)**

Minutes approved by the full leadership team.

- **Old Business**

- **Update on Pastor Lily Tinker Fortel**

Pastor John provided an update.

Lily asked to remain in her current position.

She asked to be ordained in her current position.

Motion put forth to ordain Lily - Council voted to support the ordination.

- **Pastoral Review Follow-up**

- Summary of [John's Self Reflection \(Form B\)](#)

- [Final Summary](#) of Leadership Council's input used in Pastoral Review meeting w/P, VP

Reviewed the Final Summary and Self-Reflection as part of the evaluation and review process.

Pastor John walked us through his self-reflection.

- **5-year spending plan.**

- Ron would like to propose Leadership work with Finance to develop

Ron provided his thoughts on the financial planning. Deficit spending is not sustainable. Has to be a vision for moving forward - 1. cut spending or 2. find or increase revenue.

It was noted that the annual expenditures will exhaust our finances in 4 years.

Explored ideas like: have a co-meeting with Finance to explore ideas to move forward.

Idea: set up a task force to establish a 5 year plan. Put together members of Leadership and Finance together.

Jim R. noted he's the liaison to finance, he'll be part of this team.

Leadership's message to finance is we are there to support them.

Proposal: Leadership supports moving forward, with finance, a plan to move forward with multi-year budgets.

Leadership endorsed this plan to move forward.

- **Tailgating parking**
 - Who organizes?
 - How much to charge?
 - Schedule for game days?

Not going to open the church for use of facilities.

Rented spaces are marked.

Not planning to sell parking spots for tailgating.

- **New Business**

- **437 S. 4th Ave work**
 - [Proposal from Facilities Ministry Team](#) for (see note 1 below)

1. Facilities brought forth 3 bids to address the needs in the house.

They identified the cracked manifold in the furnace as a high priority safety hazard and must be dealt with. The electrical outlet for the refrigerator to be replaced as it, too, is a dangerous hazard.

Water heater is still being investigated.

Proposal: CMR to conduct the repairs on the identified hazardous concerns.

Company did the work in the church - it's the mid-level bid - but there's familiarity.

All items below cost.

2. Question: What is the long-term vision for the house?

Proposal: Explore the viability of renting the property at 437 S. 4th Ave.

Determine the impact, if any, on the tax status on the house.

Learn about hiring a rental property manager to coordinate and tend to the rental process.

If we hire such a company, have them go through and identify any and all other repairs to be done in the house. Set it up as a year-to-year lease.

3. What to do with the money, if we do rent the house?

Proposal: to place the rental money into a fund to be taking care of parsonage repair and costs/repairs on 437 House. This idea can be brought up with the finance committee/task force.

Vote was taken to approve these 3 proposals: repairs on 437 House, exploring opportunities to rent the property and to set up a fund if rental is approved.

Proposal passed.

- **Nov. 19 and Dec. 17** - next 2 dates for leadership meeting.

- **Full names**

- Should they be used during on-line worship?
- Discussion about the opt out options for full name requests.

Confusion about names published as part of the production of the video, names mentioned outside of prayer requests, etc. What are the guidelines for using names during service? Is it safe to assume people know their names will be disclosed both in service and over social media?

Agreement? It was agreed for church services, the Worship Committee will ask people if they want their name mentioned during the service. Allow them the option to be identified or anonymous.

- **Question was raised: Did John S. ask to have the grant forgiven?**
- **New Covid restrictions**
 - What they mean to BUCC. (see note 2 below)
 - John Samford went over the note - it just makes safety sense to keep to our approach moving forward. There are those that really miss church - which is part of the struggle.
- **Reports**
 - **Ministry Teams liaisons**
 - Jim reviewed the Finance team meeting notes.
 - Dindy reviewed the member care notes - Birthdays are going to be announced in alphabetical order.
 - Ron - Facilities - repairs to 437.
 - **Pastor John**
 - Reviewed pastor's report. Covid-19 report; Worship - Christmas Eve masses on-line; Member Care; New Members; Stephen Ministry; Staff, President/Pastor Meetings happening.

Note 1: (437 S. 4th Ave)

John and all,

This list was discussed at last night's Facilities meeting (10/12/2020).

There are two things which need to be addressed for safety reasons.

1) Furnace replacement due to a crack in the manifold, and

2) replace electrical plug for refrigerator. The plug can be done by the FMT.

FMT has received three bids for the furnace replacement and will be sending a request to Finance and LC for approval.

The other items should be discussed in the context of what should be done with the 4th avenue home. That is an LC issue which I would like to add to our next LC agenda.

Ron

Note 2: (Covid Restriction Change)

All,

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services state restrictions are now in effect until 11/1. Many of the restrictions are the same as those issued by the Governor but are not subject to the same legislative review. There are a few differences that I want to point out.

1) Indoor gatherings in non-residential buildings are limited to 25% of the fixed seating capacity. I estimate that our sanctuary could allow up to 100 people and our chapel approximately 10.

2) our gym use can proceed with a capacity limited to 25

3) businesses are required to screen all employees who are not working solely remotely.

There are other restrictions for face coverings, social distancing that are the same as previous restrictions.

I wanted to update you all in case you have not followed these developments.

I will send this on to Leadership with John S approval.

Julie, Lilly, and John a plan for staff screening needs to be developed and executed immediately. I would recommend a simple self-reporting form, similar to the one used by the nurses for our research subjects.

Ron

FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM
October 8, 2020

Finance Ministry Team: Karen Samford-Chair, Tom Krell, Edgar Vasquez, Jim Rowan-Leadership Council Representative and Pastor John Kennedy

September Financial Reports - Income is keeping up with projections and Expenses are close to projections.

Jim asked about the amount of the Vanco Fee for online payments and if the can giver pay the fees – Karen will check with Betty.

The formula in the Fund Balance report seems wrong and Current Analysis needs dates corrected – Karen will go over this with Betty.

Betty has asked if we need to print 3rd quarter Contribution Statements. We came up with a schedule which Karen will discuss with Betty.

Investment funds moved to Operating account – Total \$50,000:

From Undesignated/Unrestricted

\$18,000 Dividends and Interest as budgeted

\$25,000 Roof/Mortar Repair

(just over \$18,000 for Grunwell Cashero and approx. \$7,000 for interior wall repair and painting)

From Hutzel

\$7,000 for Outreach

Bank Reconciliation – Tom reported on outstanding checks. Waiting for David Hahn to look into two for musicians.

Karen will send out the Financial Policies and Procedures which we will review over the next several months and propose changes to be approved by the Leadership Council.

The next meeting will be November 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Submitted by Karen Samford

FACILITIES MINISTRY TEAM - BUCC
Meeting Minutes of 10/13/2020

Present: Tom Zieseemer, Steve Darr, John Irwin – IG, Ron Dechert – LC, Julie Rhodes – Admin

Absent: Michelle Loukotka, Pastor John Kennedy

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm.

The minutes of the 09/08/2020 meeting were approved with the correction to New Business, item d, which should read: “The ventilation fan for the 1966 addition...”.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

- a. Tom has requested unbudgeted funds of \$652 from the Heating & A/C Improvements fund to pay for related costs posted to M&R, for the church and the small parsonage (437 S. Fourth).

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Discussed bid for the furnace and hot water heater for the small parsonage: Hutzel \$5,800, CMR \$6,230, Koch & White \$6825. CMR does not include the humidifier replacement, but will apply for a \$500 rebate for the church. Tom asked Gary Dresselhouse to review the bids and discussed the options with him. Julie will check Consumer Reports for furnace ratings. Ron said that if they did not choose the low bidder, the team will have to explain why to justify the extra expense.
- b. Butcher & Butcher used a drone to conduct a roof inspection around the downspouts on Fourth Ave side of the church, corners on NE/NW of sanctuary and south vent cap/downspout. B&B will send estimate by 10/16. Discussed plaster removal and trying to find sources of water, including possible issues with gutters and downspouts. Steve suggested hiring an engineer to analyze the rainwater to gutter/downspout situation; Ron suggested UM engineering students may be interested in a study project.
- c. We are planning to schedule Precision Climate to calibrate the thermostats in Nov/Dec due to reported uneven temperatures in the 1966 building. The 1933 building has one thermostat, the 1966 building has 14 thermostats. This does not include the Fellowship Hall, which uses a heat pump.
- d. We need one more bid for south stone wall/foundation repair as water is still coming in.
- e. Leadership Council agreed to expand the 24/7 parking up to 7 spaces previously authorized for 5-day, business hours parking. Julie will advertise on Craigslist to fill spaces.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Lily moved out of the small parsonage on Sept 30 and did a final walk through with members of Facilities on Oct 2. Facilities is completely satisfied with the good, clean condition of the house as Lily left it. In addition to the new furnace and water heater needed, a list of minor repairs and maintenance (distributed via email) was developed and discussed. Ron asked for Facilities' recommendation for the use of the house: renting it. Ron's recommendation is to rent it using a property management company and use revenue to fund repairs.

- b. Hewett parsonage issues include high water usage and repairs to a leaking humidifier. City of Ann Arbor sent a notice with a high water usage warning, to check for leaks or overwatering. Tom contacted the city and he and John will check the bathroom fixtures for toilet running and leaks. Pastor John had Pat Walters service the HVAC, who recommended changing the humidifier pad and replacing a valve, installing a water softener and upgrading the breaker box. It was decided that the water softener and upgraded breaker box were not necessary expenses at this time.

- c. Gym rental requests have been increasing as many school facilities are still closed due to Covid-19. Discussed pros and cons of rentals; the revenue is needed, yet there are risks and extra work for Facilities and Julie. We have the written guidelines and restrictions for building use that Ron provided and LC approved. Ron said he will help with fogging.

Note: By the end of October we will have maintained building security for 215 days with daily walk through. Started on March 13th. Building repairs and project bids were maintained, church grounds kept up, and office support made available.

Thank you Team

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 10th at 3:00pm.

Respectively submitted,

Julie Rhodes

EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM
October 13, 2020

Present: Eileen Koprowski-Chair, Jan Eadie, Julie Feldkamp, Nancy Pieske, Karen Samford, Jane Schmerberg, Christina Wilk and Pastor Lily Tinker Fortel

Mission Projects –

Easy Water for Everyone:

Lily will see if Fritz will do another presentation.

We currently have \$818 plus coins.

Our goal is to collect \$3,200, by November 22nd.

\$3,200 includes one year of operational costs.

We will mention can refunds but not make a big push as we want to keep our youth safe by not asking them to return cans.

Karen will have John add this to the donations page, leaving Crop for one more week.

Christina will do an Outreach/Education Moment for Crop Walk for Sunday's Service.

Work with Outreach:

We will work with Outreach beginning in mid-November to make distributions prior to Christmas to Alpha House, Food Gatherers and Peace Neighborhood Center.

Advent –

We discussed having the kids read pages from a book and/or each do what they would like to do. We could have one Service for the children or longer children's moments over a few weeks.

Lily is planning to send out a Serve Advent calendar and a book as well as stickers.

Christmas carols are on the BUCCuleles agenda.

Halloween –

Julie is sending a treat.

Worship Ministry team will be asking for Halloween themed videos for next Sunday.

Children wearing costumes, read for the service

Sunday School –

There will be Sunday school on Nov 8th led by Eileen and Dec 13th led by Julie.

Next meeting - Tuesday, November 10th 7:00pm

Submitted by Karen Samford

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Agenda

Oct 19, 2020

1. Opening Prayer Pastor John

2. Old Business
 - a. Review/Acceptance of 9/15 Minutes

 - b. Dedication of new cross in cemetery-update Tom Ziesemer
 - i. Recorded 10/15 with multiple voices
 - ii. Request for David
 - iii. Video to be used as links on our website, Facebook, YouTube channel; eventually incorporated in a service
 - iv. Photos incorporated in Totenfest slide show with the candles from home

 - c. Totenfest (Nov 1, 2020) Caroline Ashenfelter
 - i. Pics and date of birth/death from last 12 months (church members or immediate family members); will also include a slide for fallen military personnel
 - ii. **Gwen needs more guidance on what information needs to be captured for these photos so that she can send this info to David (John S to ask Pastor John on Wed 10/21)**
 - iii. Pastor John to get bulletins from previous Totenfest services to layout this year's service and build out any new content
 - iv. **Location for the recording of names/candle-lighting: chapel or sanctuary**
 - v. Approval from Jim Rowan for use of bells, and which ones
 - vi. DATE (10/26) to Record in the sanctuary with table full of candles (to happen after 10/21); include a candle to remember military deaths; and candle to honor COVID-19 victims
 - vii. Following Communion, encourage people to light a candle in honor of passing of their loved ones
 - viii. Slide show of candle photos (include pics of cemetery cross)

3. New Business
 - a. Leadership Council Update John Samford
 - i. Upcoming meeting to include annual review for Pastor John, goal-setting, council surveys; 5-yr spending plan with Finance team; tailgating and

who's in church; maintenance needs in parsonage house next to church building; Ordination of Pastor Lily for November 2020.

- ii. Quarterly review of finances; next mtg likely in early January

b. Update from Re-Opening Task Force

Ron Dechert

- i. Things changing regularly
- ii. New orders from State HHS Dept allow us to open the building up for services with restrictions, currently expire on 10/31 but they could be renewed if legislature doesn't act
- iii. What is possible in the church now? Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, Gym
- iv. Sanctuary: 25% capacity means about 100 people max, with masks, no paper, no cushions, disinfection procedures, seating distances, no singing but music allowed, fogger machine
- v. Fellowship Hall is 25 per 1,000 sq ft; so we could have up to 100-125 with similar restrictions
- vi. Gym: approximately 20 people, face mask
- vii. Rest of building is still closed; to request use of other spaces you need to petition Leadership to allow for use of the space and commit to all procedures (e.g. Schmale Lounge, 8-10 people)
- viii. What are the interests from our congregation? Asking about interest for a special/separate service to be offered after the holidays?
- ix. Suggestion from Gail: adding an extra service separate from Sunday worship services; could be done in Fellowship Hall, flexible seating, no paper or cushions to remove. What would this type of service look like?
- x. Staff Input: who is willing to provide an in-person service?
- xi. Potential for Christmas-related event

c. Holiday celebrations (Thanksgiving & Christmas)

Pastors, Jennifer

- i. Sunday prior to Thanksgiving will have a theme of Giving Thanks, traditional hymns
- ii. Live Nativity: cancelled
- iii. Advent: offer Advent wreath kits for pick-up in November; send in pics of your creation; families to record their advent wreath lighting; caroling to Brecon and Silver Maples
- iv. 12/20: pick-up your Christmas Eve packets to include bulletins, candle, and stickers (drive-thru)
- v. Christmas Eve (to be premiered 3 different times)

- vi. Planning the recordings for Advent/Christmas services ahead of time so that our Staff can enjoy Christmas Eve/vacation

- d. Creative Worship Planning Update Jennifer Vasquez
 - i. Brief update on recent and upcoming services
 - ii. Looking for contributors for birthday videos (Jenny Foster)

- e. Radio Fund Team
 - i. Hold on long-term decision until January
 - ii. Reaching our people who rely on the radio service
 - iii. Use of John S's video on the radio service, perhaps 1x/month--**DECIDE ON WHICH WEEKS**
 - iv. Adding notes to web page and Friday emails about radio service--DONE

- f. Visitor Articles for next few months
 - i. John Samford for November
 - ii. Jennifer for December
 - iii. Gary Rogers for future article about radio
 - iv. Gary Kade for January

4. Closing with Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: November 17, 2020

MEMBER CARE MINISTRY TEAM MEETING

10/28/20

3:30 pm

Attendees via phone: Judy Coucouvanis, Jenny Foster, Dindy Haab, Mary Jean Raab, Julie Seitz and Lily Tinker-Fortel

Old Business:

The Visitor

Judy followed up with the church office and was able to get the Visitor mailed to Violet and Kenyon E. on a monthly basis. Others who wish to receive a paper copy should contact Gwen in the church office to get on the mailing list. Bulletins cannot be mailed due to timing issues with finalizing components of the service.

- Side note - Per Gwen, Tom Ziesemer is the person who distributes and mails the devotionals to a group of members. If anyone should be added to that list, please let Tom know. MJ will follow up Tom.

Birthdays

Church Members are still asking if we can provide full names for the birthday announcement in the service. We received feedback that it is hard to keep up with the names as they are read during the service. Jenny checked with John Samford again on listing the full name and he discouraged it due to privacy issues. We discussed whether the names can be displayed on the screen during the member care moment, printed in the bulletin and/or refrigerator page. Lily will check with the Worship Ministry team to see how we can incorporate listing the first name and last initial in the service. We will revisit using full names of members when the Church Directory is updated.

Member Care Calls

Jenny contacted 6 - 8 members to see if they would volunteer to make check-in calls to fellow members who are 55 - 64 yr old. Jacquie K, Cheryl G, Dindy H, Paul and Barb M agreed to make calls. We still need help making calls. There are too many names assigned to this small group of people. Jenny asked the group to let her know if they know other members who might be willing to make additional calls.

New Business

Connecting with Members during the Christmas Season

We discussed that there will be no in-person services before next year and the holidays are difficult and challenging for people.

- We plan to send Christmas cards with the poem, "First Christmas in heaven" to those members who lost a loved one this year. Lily offered to forward the list from the Totenfest service to Jenny. Jenny will check with Sue B. to see if we have a supply of Christmas cards from last year. We still have printed copies of the poem.

Lily presented a few ideas to our group:

- Caroling outside windows of members at senior facilities and nursing homes - bring your family and sing as a pod. Our team is concerned about safety of this and does not feel comfortable participating. We discussed alternate methods of providing Christmas music to these members.
- Jennifer V is creating advent wreaths for families who will be lighting the advent candles as part of the worship service. The Worship Ministry team is also offering advent wreath kits to the broader congregation. Lily is not sure of the cost yet. She will forward more information about this idea once plans are solidified.
- Lily is looking for an Advent devotional for the whole congregation. Is anyone from our team willing to consult with Lily? Judy and Dindy volunteered to help.
- Christmas Kits - Drive up distribution of candles, manger scene stickers and xmas eve bulletin around Christmas 12/20 afternoon in the parking lot. Both pastors would be there. How can we make kits available to members who can't make it to pick one up? We can help distribute kits to homebound and people in facilities. There will be one Christmas eve service and it will be recorded. There will be no radio service on Christmas eve. It was suggested to include instructions on how to tune in to Christmas eve service with the Christmas kit.
- Children will get chocolate advent calendars this year (\$8/calendar). The deadline to order one is November 7th. Orders will be placed on November 8th. 11/29 is the first Sunday in Advent. We would like to give advent calendars to people at senior facilities and to shut ins - Lily and Jenny will work with office and Pastor K to compile a list of names of members at Gilbert House, Brecon, Silver Maples, EVH, etc). Do we need permission from the faculty to deliver these to our members? We need to check with each facility. (Jenny placed an order for 20 calendars)

Member Updates/Concerns:

- Gladys S. passed away on 10/11/20. Patti Maki is in touch with family. Janice Hesse is her daughter and she attends St Paul's church. She is not a member of BUCC.
- We discussed with Lily that the Member Care Ministry team is still looking to the ministers to connect with every member at least once. Many members have not heard from either minister and our team feels that it is important that a connection is made.

- Ideas for Totenfest 2021 - A pastor phone call to the member family members? Lily plans to call people she officiated funerals for this year. Lily will pass suggestion to Pastor John too. The Journeying Through Grief booklets are a great source of comfort - how we can build on that?

Other ideas we discussed about connecting with members and the community during the holidays:

- Put a way to connect to church on sign board outside - list the website, phone number and/or email.
- Put an advertisement with information for BUCC in the December issue of the Observer.
- Send a personal postcard to every household with information on how to connect with our church.

Next Meeting: NOV 18th at 3:30 pm via conference call.

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM MEETING NOTES

Monday, October 12, 2020

Roy Muir convened the meeting online at 7:00pm. Sue Muir opened with a prayer.

Present: Co-Chairs Sue & Roy Muir, Jane Schmerberg, Eileen Koprowski, Mary Jean Raab, Laura Seyfried, Katie Rowan.

AGENCY UPDATES

Alpha House: Laura Seyfried

- Laura presented the Covid Fund check to them at their Gimme Shelter Fundraiser.
- Laura and Marty provided a dinner for AH on October 9 from Chelsea's Barbecue Restaurant.
- Roy and Sue will provide dinner for AH on October 31.
- Will advertise two additional dates in December for our congregation to fill. Meals must be provided from restaurants at this time.
- A few volunteer opportunities are opening up. Check Alpha House's website to find out more.

Peace Neighborhood Center: Sue Muir

- Covid check delivered by Kurt Schmerberg.
- Thanksgiving For Dinner, November 19, will be an online program this year with a dinner available to be picked up at the Center. Registration required.
- Two Volunteer Opportunities are now available: Friday Food Distribution and Monday/Thursday Lunch Delivery. Check their website to signup online to volunteer.

FoodGatherers: Katie Rowan

- Katie delivered the Covid Fund check. Food insecurity in Washtenaw is becoming much worse due to Covid.
- A few volunteer opportunities are opening up, but weekend volunteering at the Warehouse is still not available.

Community Kitchen: Sue Muir (for Alice Dechert)

- Restrictions of 5 cooks per shift. The number of restaurants providing meals has decreased.
- On weekends, dining room is closed with take-out meals for clients. Weekdays the clients are served in dining room. Limited capacity of 20 clients at a time.

MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

Education Ministry Team: Eileen Koprowski

- With the CROP Walk over, they will again promote *Easy Water for Everyone*. OMT will work with EMT to make this a joint effort. Outreach Moments online will be used to promote this along with publications. Fritz Port will be invited to be part of the appeal.
- Urging the congregation to cash in their bottles and cans and donate that money to this fund. There will be a line item for Easy Water for Everyone on the BUCC online contributions page.

Youth and Young Families Ministry Team: Katie Rowan

- Lily has polled the youth to find out what days/times work best for them to meet. And what activities they would feel comfortable doing. Sunday afternoons seem to work the best.

FUND TOTALS

- Covid Emergency Fund: \$515
- BUCC CROP Walk Fund online: \$300
- Team Pllamas CROP Walk Fund: \$2,650
- Memorials and Gifts Outreach Fund: \$933

NEW BUSINESS

Disbursement of 2020-21 Budgeted Money for Outreach from the Kusterer Fund

—There is \$7,000 again this year to disburse. The team voted to give a third each to Peace Neighborhood Center, Alpha House, and FoodGatherers. Motion by Jane Schmerberg, seconded by Mary Jean Raab. Unanimous vote. Given the growing food and housing insecurity in Washtenaw County, we will disburse these monies as soon as possible.

—We will keep the balance in the Covid Fund and the Memorials and Gifts Outreach Fund intact at this time.

Finance Ministry Team Update on Status of Kusterer Fund

—Karen Samford has informed us that by the end of 2022, there will be no Kusterer Fund monies available. The Fund will be depleted. Given that Outreach has been removed from General Fund contributions, and we have relied on the Kusterer Fund, this will need to be addressed.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Jane suggested that we quickly move to gather information from our agencies on what

they holiday needs will be for them. Laura will check with Alpha House, and Sue will contact Peace Neighborhood Center.

Given that we cannot collect gifts, canned goods, gift cards, clothing, etc. at the church, we will probably move forward with another fundraiser for money to give to these agencies (including FoodGatherers).

NEXT MEETING

—Sue will poll the Team for a date to meet late October/early November to meet and discuss the holiday fundraising.

Concluded the meeting with the Lord's Prayer at 8:00pm

Minutes submitted by:

Sue Muir - Co-Chair

Bethlehem United Church of Christ
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY TEAM MINUTES
October 14, 2020

Phone Meeting: Katie Rowan, Lily Tinker Fortel

Youth/Young adults/Young families have been involved in many aspects of worship including reading of the liturgy, musical selections, and videos about their pandemic school experiences.

Youth Group

- In mid to late September Lily delivered water balloons and care packages with toys and treats to the youth/young families.
- Lily organized youth/young adult teams for the all congregation Progressive Pumpkin Painting contest. She may extend the deadline for sign-up. She and Jesse will deliver pumpkins to the first member of each team. Jesse is building a structure to display the finished pumpkins. The goal is for teams to have pumpkins completed in time to be displayed to coincide with the Youth Halloween event on October 25.
- The possibility of going to Blast Corn Maze in Dexter for the Youth Group Halloween activity was discussed, but it was decided that a simpler event in the church yard with games/treat bags would be the safest option.
- Youth have been invited to participate in costume for the Oct. 25th worship video.
- There will be two 30 minute zoom check - in meetings in November: Nov. 1, and Nov. 15.
- Lily will plan to use a curriculum from the UCC conference for November Youth Group. It includes a weekly focus/exploration with a postcard to be sent each week, journaling, and materials like clay and a bookmark.

Plans for Advent

- Lily will order "Faithful Families" by Tracy Smith for each young family. This is a new book for Advent and Christmas focusing on incorporating prayer and faith in everyday life.
- SERRV chocolate advent calendars will be ordered for each young family.
- Care packages will be prepared with hot chocolate, nativity stickers from last year. More ideas needed for what to include.
- A drive through pick-up will be organized for families to receive candles for Christmas Eve.

BUCCuLeles

- Lily surveyed the group during our September hiatus to determine best meeting times for jams, general levels of interest, and interest in kid specific offerings like one - on - one zoom lessons and the Karate Challenge. We will plan to look through survey results at the next BUCCuLele planning meeting.

- Katie will finalize the BUCCulele Songbook and the BUCCulele Christmas/Holiday Songbook and a copy will be mailed to each group member as a Christmas gift. These are available through google docs, but a hard copy is appreciated and easier to use. BUCCulele T-shirts are another possibility.
- We will begin compiling a new songbook in Jan.
- Individuals and family groups will be encouraged to record a song for any of the worship videos in December.

Habitat/Mission Trip

Katie will send out an email to the group to schedule a zoom “check - in.”

Submitted by Katie Rowan, Chair