

Pastor's Report – September 25, 2024 - Douglas UCC Council

For Worship since the last Council meeting, I created 4 Sundays of liturgy and preaching. I contributed to 4 Epistles. It was interesting to use the scene from Relativity for Words of Integration and Guidance. The theme for October and November's Sundays will focus on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5 and Luke 6) The texts are in the hands of Julie, Jeff and Peter. I've also recruited 4 people to serve on the Worship Team. We are in the process of considering the new program format.

The Transition Team met. Our conversation was reviewing where we are in the process. The question of Pastor vs. Program size church seems paramount. (meeting next Wed 10am, tomorrow morning)

The last **Feast for the Soul** in September considered the phase 5 topic of the interim process, what is your why? We answered three questions about our involvement with the church: why did you come? Why do you stay? What do you see in the future? Again, many thanks to Jeremy Lund and others for the hearty soup suppers with all the fixings.

Congregation Care Team continues to meet to continue the conversation about best practices for being a caring congregation. There is a food preparers meeting scheduled with door prizes and lots of info! There is a conversation about the expectations of pastoral care by the new pastor which feels a bit like it needs the convo re: Pastor v Program size to take place first. Based on a conversation with Allegan County Senior Services, there may be some collaboration with Douglas agencies to bring services closer. We're developing a process to alert the correct people with the right support for the people with the needs.

I met with 4 people to discuss the expectations of a pastor in a Pastor vs Program size church.

I served by phone or in person 5 different parishioners with pastoral care.

I prayed at the First Annual 9/11 Memorial Service in Douglas. 20 of our own folks were there! Thanks!

The reception for the Afghani family was very informative and inspiring.

The Ministry Fair was a success according to the comments I heard. What did you hear?

October 6, World Wide Communion Sunday – invitation for DUCC folk to bake breads from their traditions.

Looking forward to seeing Relativity!

The New Members Class is rescheduled for Nov 10.

Questions: Last year Stewardship Sunday was Oct 20 – is that something we should plan?

There are burgers and dogs left from the Block Party and Douglas Social. Does someone want to grill at Trunk or Treat?

Do you observe National Coming Out Day? Oct Domestic Violence Month? Transgender Day of Remembrance? World AIDS Day?

Should we schedule a Voting Day Vigil? (Is there a local LWV?)

Here's a request from the UCC Open and Affirming Coalition Fundraiser. I passed it along to the Grant Committee, but it might not fit in their parameters. <https://openandaffirming.org/home/justice100/>

What am I forgetting to mention?

With Appreciation!

Jody