

**First Congregational UCC
Ministry Team - Staff
Plans & Proposals**

April 11, 2023

STAFF

Administrative Coordinator – Kathleen Stigmon
Music Director – Chuck Taft
Youth Ministry Coordinator – Andrew Hoots
Building & Grounds Manager – Doug Williams

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Benevolence Team – Peggy Grant
Deacons – Jim Canty
Faith Formation – Kathleen Stigmon (acting)
Health Advisory Team – Kay Garner, Danna Park, Mary Hawkins
Hospitality Team – Dennis McLain
Laundry Love – Joanne Roudebush
Membership Team – Loraine Tuenge
Music – Chuck Taft
Racial Justice Team – Alice Martin-Adkins
Sacred Pause – Eric Lyons
Stir the Soul Café Ministries – Loraine Tuenge
Worship Team – Bev Reddick
Youth – Andrew Hoots

Ministry Team Report – 4/11/23

Staff

Admin **Kathleen Stigmon**

I will be on vacation during the week after Easter (4/12-4/18). Coverage for the office will be Linda Burke, Eric Lyons and Jim Canty. Continuing review of wedding guide, instructions, marketing and agreement being reviewed/updated for discussion with Building & Grounds.

Work has begun on website updates, and I am planning meetings with team leads.

Youth **Andrew Hoots**

Here are the major upcoming events for FCUCC children and youth:

April 9th (Easter)—FCUCC will host an Easter egg hunt for our youngest children. Previously, the Children and Youth Council thought it best for the egg hunt to take place during the worship service. However, after speaking with Gene, we have decided to have the egg hunt take place following the worship service on Sunday. Children will also have an opportunity to dye eggs after the egg hunt.

April 15—The youth will assist Doug Williams with the church grounds by weeding and mulching the Memorial Garden and surrounding grounds.

April 30—Laundry Love. We served 35 clients during our February Laundry Love. We had a total of 6 volunteers, including long-time volunteers, providing transportation and assistance with our clientele.

May 7—The Children and Youth Council will meet for our quarterly meeting to discuss summer plans for the children and youth.

June 3rd—In the Fall, the youth participated in a CluedUpp Game in downtown Asheville following the Alice in Wonderland story. CluedUpp is an interactive game using an app that they students have to download, to run/walk around downtown and interacting with characters from the story. On June 3rd, our students will have another opportunity to play a CluedUpp Game in downtown following the story of Beauty and the Beast.

June 4th—I am planning a graduate recognition service to take place during worship. This will be the first time we have had graduates in the time that I have been serving as the youth minister at FCUCC. Right now my plan is to allow each of our graduates a chance to speak during the service, and to then offer both graduates a small congratulatory gift from our congregation. Following the service, the congregation will have a potluck luncheon to celebrate our graduates. Parents of the graduates will put together a PowerPoint presentation of their graduate for me to present at the end of our gathering. In my previous churches, this has been an excellent and fun way for congregations to get to know the students better before the students head to college in the Fall.

Music **Chuck Taft**

Building & Doug Williams Grounds

Buildings & Grounds will mainly be focused on the grounds for the month.

Tilling hills in front of church and planting pachysandra rather than grass as this is a shady area that makes grass hard to grow. Pachysandra is a shade loving low grow ground cover.

Trimming (tall) bushes next to driveway.

Mulching Memorial Garden, front of church, other as needed.

Additionally:

Organizing mechanical room for grounds equipment storage.

Finishing security camera work in the Ed. wing

Work on attic space storage.

Ministry Teams

Benevolence Team(Peggy Grant, Beaver Wyatt, Kathleen Busby, Margaret Perkins, Linda Burke)

Peggy Grant:

The Benevolence team is reaching out to Loving Food Resources to have a donation event in May which we hope will include a speaker during a Sunday service.

For April Benevolence will highlight Aura Home Women Vets. Founder Alyce Knaflich will give a brief presentation on April 23 during worship. Also during that Sunday service we are intending to offer volunteer opportunities for Aura Home to the congregation.

Deacons (Jim Canty, Sandy Clark, Nancy Kniffin, John Mercer, Margaret Perkins, Diane Reid, Ann Marie Woffindin)

Jim Canty:

At our last meeting on March 9th, we met via Zoom and finalized our work on our policy, and website showing the same information. I asked that everyone look over our policy for the “Care and Share Fund” checking if any changes need to update to this policy. I’ve also asked the deacons to give suggestions as to where to have our retreat.

Our next meeting will be on April 13th on Zoom. Our last policy “Care and Share Fund” will hopefully be reviewed and completed. I spoke with Rollin Russell and Alice Martin-Atkins about assisting with information and or speaking at our Deacon Retreat, no date set at this time. I will also be reaching out to talk with other ministers in our church on how to put together our retreat. We will discuss this in our meeting.

Faith Formation/Exploration (Eric Lyons, Loraine Tuenge)

Eric Lyons

Sacred Pause – Meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays on Zoom, fall through spring. We offer opportunities for spiritual nurture through reflection and creative activities. We are participant-led, so topics may vary.

Gay Men's Group – Meets every 4th Sunday of the month. Upcoming events:

Apr. 23 - guest speaker on Native American "Two-Spirit" archetype

May 28 - cookout (off site)

Stir the Soul Café Ministries (Loraine Tuenge, Jane Stoffer)

Loraine Tuenge

Now that we are all on a good healthy plateau, we have been able to complete the rest of 2023 schedule:

We began 2023 with a Winter Meditation for at-home use. Presently a Lenten study on PAUSE & PRACTICE is in use. Additional at-home meditations will be offered for summer and fall.

Two continuing book studies reflecting on Indigenous spirituality and our relationship with creation are being offered in Wise Winter Women (Braiding Sweetgrass) and in Creative Age-ing (Refugia Faith).

Planning for our Fall retreat with the women at First Christian Church will begin soon. Am looking forward to meeting together again for Second Christmas (Celtic custom) and our winter retreat next January.

A continuing part of STSCM is the overseeing of the Library and working with the archives when there is time. This duty is part of the Membership Team, but as there is only one on that team, we are helping out.

Sunday School classes (Submitted by Kathleen Stigmon)

Faith Formation/Exploration classes are on hiatus for the remainder of April after a successful 5 week Lenten Study with David Ourisman.

In May, members of the Racial Justice Team (RJT) and the Health Advisory Team (HAT) will lead a discussion on the film "The Ants and the Grasshopper", which was shown in March. The 4 week session will include watching portions of the film and follow-up discussion. (Room 204/Zoom).

Book Study-Alice Martin-Adkins is leading a book discussion on Resmaa Menakem's book "My Grandmother's Hands" on Saturday (s) April 15, 29 and May 13 in Room 204/Zoom. She will lead discussions on the 3 major sections of the book, focusing on White, Black and Police trauma and healing.

Updates and information about all classes and book studies are included in the newsletter, bulletin, First Focus and on the Sunday School webpage <https://www.uccasheville.org/sunday-school.html>

Health Advisory Team (HAT) (Kay Garner, Danna Park, Mary Hawkins)

Kay Garner:

In May, members of the Racial Justice Team (RJT) and the Health Advisory Team (HAT) will lead a discussion on the film "The Ants and the Grasshopper", which was shown in March. The 4 week session will include watching portions of the film and follow-up discussion. (Room 204/Zoom).

Hospitality Team (Dennis McLain, David Turner, Lynn Lewis)

Dennis McLain:

The hospitality ministry is getting through the holy season of Easter and have started on working towards our plans on church picnic which will be held at the same location as last year (Noreen and Doug's community building) on Sunday, July 16th. Along with having a daily church retreat. We are so grateful for all the extra help with friendship time. There will be more news as we progress in our plans.

Membership Team (Loraine Tuenge)

Loraine Tuenge: (Same report as March 2023)

Goals for the rest of this year:

- Receptions of New Members with classes to be scheduled for April/May, and Sept/Oct.
- Ministry Fair for September to educate and recruit.
- Workers for Archives – 2024 is 110th Anniversary –celebrate our benevolence and mission work?
- Plan for a Congregational Retreat or Mini-Retreat for late summer in 2023
- Continue working with Hospitality on Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Dinner
- Set up Alternative Christmas Show – it was suggested by several team leaders that this program be offered on Dec 3 and the Christmas Dinner on Dec. 17

Laundry Love (Joanne Roudebush, Linda Burke, Andrew Hoots)

Joanne Roudebush: No report

Music Ministry (Chuck Taft, Eric Fricke, Betty Dillashaw)

Betty Dillashaw

Changes for Chiming In + Planning for MADD (Music/Art/Dance/Drama) "Camp"

Beginning on Sunday, April 16, the format for Chiming In time during Sunday morning worship service will change. Rather than all students working with choirchimes in the Bell Room, Mars and Gabriel Vickers (Both are capable handbell ringers.) will work in the Bell Room to prepare a well-executed performance of a handbell duet. Mars and Gabriel can accomplish this goal because their attendance is consistent. Because none of the other children/youth attend as regularly, their work with choirchimes and handbells will be suspended until such time as they / their parents choose to attend more consistently.

Children / youth other than Mars and Gabriel will meet in Room 204 with Miranda Clark, who will work with them to learn the song "We Are the Church," while accompanying them with her guitar. Betty Dillashaw will purchase the music needed for this group to be sure that all copyright / licensing requirements are followed. Our goal will be for the children / youth to learn all verses plus the chorus of this piece well enough that they can present it as a part of a Sunday morning worship service at some point - dependent on their / their parents' attendance, readiness, and willingness to participate.

While Miranda is with the older children, Betty will assume, initially, the duty of caring for any younger children who may be in the church nursery at that same time. When feasible, Betty also will check with Mars and Gabriel to offer coaching with handbell techniques as needed. In addition, Betty will try to recruit adult volunteers from the congregation to assist with the church nursery so that she can be available to assist both Miranda and Mars and Gabriel. The hope is that 6-8 adults will be willing to commit to this assignment on a rotating basis.

Discussions about planning for an intergenerational MADD Camp in late summer / early fall have begun. Andrew Hoots, Loraine Tuenge, Sandy Clark and Betty Dillashaw along with other congregants will be involved with planning and implementing this collaborative event.

Racial Justice Team (Alice Martin-Adkins, Bonnie Schell, Bev Reddick, Donna Miller, Horace Hunt, Sandy Clark, Penny Silverman, Dorri Sherrill and Peggy Grant)

Alice Martin-Adkins:

Because of the busy Lenten/Easter schedule the RJT decided not to meet in April. However, several projects are ongoing:

Alice will be meeting with the Board in April to present the Team's work on a Land Acknowledgement Statement

We are communicating by email to develop our 1-2 year ministry priorities for the Transition Team.

Plans are underway to work with HAT and Earth Team interested people to discuss "The Ants and the Grasshopper" movie for May Faith Formation classes.

A contact has been made with Alexandria Ravenel and YMI to continue working on Art Gallery projects together.

We will be meeting by Zoom at our regular 6:30pm meeting time on May 11.

Worship Team (Bev Reddick, Dennis McLain, Sandy Clark, Chuck Taft)

Bev Reddick: No report