

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

May 16, 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 – 5/16/23

Staff

Admin **Kathleen Stigmon**

Website updates continue with an eye for making individual team pages more up to date and instructive.

Newsletter focus over the summer to highlight the various teams at FCUCC, to inform people about them, what they do and how to get involved.

12-month ministry/church wall calendar is hanging up in the Admin Office. This calendar will help all groups plan for seasonal and church related activities, as well as to be updated on staff vacations, UCC Campaigns, weddings etc.

I will be out of the office on May 24-26, and Eric Lyons will provide admin coverage.

Youth **Andrew Hoots**

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

May 21—The Children and Youth Ministry Team 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 CluedUp Game in downtown Asheville following the Alice in Wonderland story. CluedUp 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 CluedUp 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.

June 25—Laundry Love at Fiesta Laundromat from 12:00pm to approximately 4:00pm.

Music **Chuck Taft**

As our “season” nears its end, the choir and Hand Bells will be taking a break from weekly rehearsals over the summer. We will use that time for evaluation and planning. The congregation can expect to hear many local musicians augment our Worship throughout the summer months.

Ministry Teams

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

Peggy Grant:

The Benevolence team has scheduled a speaker for the May 21st Sunday service. Rev. Shannon Spencer will address the congregation about Ministry of Hope and an initiative for residents of WCCW reentering society. Ministry of Hope will receive \$500 from the Benevolence pledged budget funds. The team is attempting to schedule a speaker for June also. Another Benevolence Ministry team meeting is scheduled for May 15.

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

Jim Canty:

Working on plans for their retreat.
Updating the “flock” list with new members and other members whose names are missing from the list.

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.

- May 10 - spirituality of Hildegard of Birgen
- May 16 - spring picnic at Folk Art Center
- Summer break - Jun-Jul-Aug
- Considering a hybrid meeting option this fall

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

May 28 - cookout (off site)

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

Loraine Tuenge

No new update

Sunday School classes (Submitted by Kathleen Stigmon)

Members of the Racial Justice Team (RJT) in collaboration with the Health Advisory Team (HAT) are leading a discussion on the film “The Ants and the Grasshopper”, which was shown in March. The 4-week session includes watching portions of the film and follow-up discussion.

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:

HAT will continue writing in our Nibbles and Tidbits column. In the absence of an active earth team, one of the HAT team members (Kay) will be attending climate discussions at Skyland Methodist this week and next with hopes of bringing the presenter to FCUCC in the near future, if there is enough interest. I'd like to share that HAT prefers to stay focused on human health. That said, human health is obviously affected by the crisis we face in climate change.

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

Dennis McLain:

The Church Summer Picnic date will be Sunday, July 16th at 1:00 pm at the community building at Doug Williams and Noreen Bania's neighborhood (same as last year). Potluck sign up will go out in June.

Membership Team (Lorraine Tuenge)

Lorraine Tuenge: (Same report as April 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:

Laundry Love saw the most clients in its history on April 28. We had 44 clients and spent \$600 for approximately 175 loads of laundry. Although we have had an increase in volunteers providing transportation and laundry supervision, we are finding the current model for this ministry difficult to sustain. We are considering moving the laundry day to Saturday which would allow us to have a longer service time. We are also looking for collaborative opportunities with other churches. We appreciate the ongoing support of the congregation for this ministry.

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

Betty Dillashaw

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

CHIMING IN: May 2023

Due to the irregular attendance of most children / tweens, we no longer are attempting to establish a choirchime group. Instead, Chiming In time on Sundays is following this plan

Mars and Gabriel are rehearsing their handbell duet in the Bell Room. They plan to play this duet during a Sunday morning worship service in the near future.

Other children / youth are rehearsing the chorus and verses of "We Are the Church." Miranda Clark is assisting them with the vocal parts and accompanying them with her guitar. While Miranda is with this group, Betty Dillashaw is in the Church Nursery with any younger children who are in attendance. We hope this vocal group can sing for the congregation during the June 4 worship service.

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:

-Collaborating with the HAT team to provide discussion of "The Ants and the Grasshopper" for the May Faith Formation Class.

- Finishing up the book study of "My Grandmother's Hands" - 10 -12 regular participants. There is some discussion about a follow-up to this study.

- Continuing to revise our Land Acknowledgement Statement with plans to bring it before the congregation in October for "Indigenous Peoples Day".

- Planning for the June Art Gallery exhibit featuring Jerrie Settles as the artist (See more about her at <https://noircollectiveavl.com>artists>.) There will be a reception for Jerrie on Sunday June 11 after worship. Her husband Masco, an Assembly of God Pastor, will also be with us and he and Jerrie will talk about their vision and work to build up a multi-cultural church here in Asheville. We also plan to have the Gallery open on 2 Friday evenings 4-6 pm to hopefully draw in people downtown in the evenings.

-Continuing to work on our ministry objectives, with particular focus on working toward becoming a designated UCC Anti-Racist congregation.

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

Bev Reddick:

May 28th is Pentecost Sunday. Rev. Loraine Tuengue is planning the entire service with a focus on the Church's Birthday.

June 4th is Graduation Sunday. Andrew and Chuck are planning this service with the graduates.

It has been very helpful to have people signing up to pay for Sunday morning flowers.

The liturgist list will be sent out in June covering July-September.

Possible **Homecoming Sept 10 or 17** as we start into the fall.