

Dunbarton Congregational Church
Church Council Meeting via Zoom
August 30, 2020

Present:

Moderator – Linda Morse
Vice Moderator – Scott Leslie
Clerk – Lynn Leslie
Pastor Robert Vodra
C/E & Curios – Stephanie Herlihy
Deacons – Carol-Ann Jane
Missions – Anne Zeller
Stewardship – Linda Morse
Treasurer – *Absent*
Trustees – Tammy Bowne
Music – Lizz Ferdina
Members at Large - *Absent*
In Attendance – Susan Johonnett

Opening Prayer: Pastor Robert

July Church Council minutes were approved

- **Reopening the church:**
 - The outdoor gathering on August 23rd went well. There were 20 in attendance including those that attended via zoom. Another outdoor service is planned for September 13th with a rain date of the 20th. Robert plans on this being closer to a regular service.
 - Reopening meeting via zoom on the 26th offered ideas for procedures when the church reopens including sectioning off groups with masks or without masks. The feeling is to wait and observe the progress of surrounding areas/communities, keeping in mind that many members of the congregation are in the high-risk group.
 - No plans at this time for a reopening date.
- **Signage:**
 - No update on the rainbow insert for the sign
 - Linda and Stephanie will be changing the sign every two weeks instead of one week, due in part because finding messages on line that “work” when our church is closed can be difficult, and also some messages have language that doesn’t “fit” the UCC and Congregational denomination.
- **Stewardship:**
 - The current stewardship committee members are Linda Morse, Barb Bennett, Carol Kunz and Lydia Frasca
 - Suggestions were given for this year’s stewardship drive
 - Focus on the benefits of the church to the community
 - Create a YouTube reaching out to our congregation and the Dunbarton community, listing all the community activities the church is involved in such as the food pantry, Curios, breakfasts, etc.
 - The format could be short comments by members of the church and also non-members who support the church in some way. (Curios volunteers, Committee members etc.)
 - Post “Did you Know?” questions on the Dunbarton Community Facebook page

- **Advent:**
 - It is likely the church will not be opened through the end of 2020 meaning there will be no in person Christmas Concert or Christmas Eve service.
 - The Deacons have been discussing the importance of Advent and exploring ways for us to stay connected during the season (beginning Nov. 29).
 - It was suggested that various members do readings and candle lighting to be added to Pastor Robert's services just as they would be done as if it were an "in person" service. Families could be videoed in the church lighting the Advent candles for each Sunday, as we usually do.
 - Another suggestion was for various members to record a seasonal message to be added each week.
- **Christmas concert:**
 - Because the Christmas Concert is such an important fund raiser for the church, holding one via You Tube was discussed.
 - One possibility is to video various musicians performing Christmas music in the church, with Christmas decorations. The videos could be done anytime, and Robert can put all of them together to create the concert.
 - Some kind of request for donations would be included in the You Tube.
 - Lizz will check into our copyright permission to be sure posting hymnals on You Tube is covered.
 - Anne and Lizz will contact Dan, our piano players and others who've performed for us to determine who would be interested in helping.
 - Mailed pledge cards would include the YouTube link to the concert.
- **Trustees:**
 - The next meeting will be September 16th.
 - Selling wreaths and poinsettias will be discussed
 - The new sign is covered under the church's current insurance
- **Pastor Robert:** All is going okay
- **Curios:** It was decided to disconnect the phone and internet service to save money until it is reopened
- **Plarn project:**
 - This originally started as part of a Creation Justice project to help recycle plastic bags by making moisture barrier mattresses for homeless people in need. The number of plastic bags collected far outnumbered the volunteers needed to complete the project. Over a dozen mattresses have been made and to date there is still a huge amount of plastic bags to create more plarn. We are asking now, though, that we stop requesting any more plastic bags. We will continue to work with what we have and inquire if there is any other group (such as Girl Scouts or 4H) willing to take over this project.
- **To Do:**
 1. Scott will call to disconnect the phone and internet service at the Curios.
 2. Lizz and Anne will approach musicians to record Christmas music.
 3. Lizz will check our hymn copyright permission to be sure You Tube posts are ok.
 4. No more plastic bag donations...please!
 5. Scott will check status of rainbow insert for the church sign.

The next council meeting will be September 27th via zoom at 11:00 am.