

INCIDENTALS REPORT

May 2023

[A monthly report from the UUCC Executive Team to the Board of Trustees]

The Executive Team submits a monthly Incidentals Report to the Board of Trustees. This report highlights key updates on UUCC operations; things that the Board ought to be aware of but fall outside the scope of Board policy work.

SUNDAYS

- **Worship Attendance** during the month of April averaged 166 each week.
 - Average in-person adult attendance: 98
 - Average in-person children attendance: 11
 - Average Zoom connections: 57

MEMBERSHIP

- Seven first-time visitors completed **visitor forms** in the month of April.
- The following individuals have requested a change in their **membership status**, prompted by pledge-related outreach:
 - Jenn Shepherd (relocated)
 - Jay Shepherd (relocated)
 - Kim Hill (relocated)
 - Tina Bennett
 - Kira Bennett (relocated)
 - Carl Luty (spouse Nancy Kochuk remains a member)
 - Amy Brooks

STEWARDSHIP

- The Chalice Messengers **Auction** event on Saturday, May 6 is a sold-out event with 180 tickets sold so far. These ticket sales have brought our current total Auction income to \$27,090.67, or 95.05% of our budgeted income goal of \$28,500.
- UUCC's endowment received a \$20,000 **bequest** from the estate of Pat Murphy who died in December 2022.
- Hannah Nelson continues to coordinate a dedicated team of **thank you note writers**; every person who submits a pledge receives a personal hand-written thank you note in the mail the following week.

PROGRAM

- The **Joyful Gatherings** team continues to plan for May 20's **Family Fun Day** scheduled for 1-4PM at OBIC. This will be an afternoon of art and games, including cornhole, Pride-themed magnet painting, a human scavenger hunt, a snack potluck, and more. This event is for everyone of all ages and family configurations, not just families with children.
- **Drop-in reflection groups** met weekly from April 2-April 23, with between 5-10 attendees per session. The sessions were largely attended by newcomers, though they welcomed a few longtime members. Drop-in reflection groups were coordinated and facilitated by Sara Davidson, with new member Terri Pazornick facilitating one session.
- The third **newcomers class series** of the congregational year began April 30 and will continue to June 4. Seven congregants have expressed interest in participating in this current class cohort.

- Sara Davidson is supporting the launch of a self-organized **small group** that will gather regularly for learning, connection, and spiritual reflection. This group of seven is mostly newcomers and new members, many of whom are young adults. As with all congregant-led groups, anyone can organize a small group; if you have a group idea but need support, contact Sara Davidson.
- Sara Davidson has convened a **Women's Retreat Planning Team** composed of Kelly Blake, Ashley Brizzo, Suzi Gerb, Becky Reese, and Jen Siegal. The team has met twice and are in the beginning stages of planning an offsite retreat this winter/next spring. They plan to host monthly pre-retreat events to build relationships, generate excitement, and recruit workshop leaders in the months leading up to the retreat.
- Staff member Sara Davidson represented UCC on PFLAG panel **Faith Communities in Conversation**. Sara was one of 8 panelists, all of whom were faith leaders from five Howard County congregations. The panel was facilitated by Chris Hefty, chair of the HoCo LGBTQIA+ Commission, and faith leaders were asked questions about the roles of their congregations in advancing LGBTQIA+ inclusion in their communities, as well as the impact of affirming congregations in the fight for equal rights and recognition.
- The most recent **young adult social gathering**, an indoor beach day picnic due to weather, was attended by 13 adults and 5 kids.
- This year's **Easter egg hunt** was a success, with families from other congregations at OBIC joining in the fun! UCC handed out 45 bags of Easter goodies, and older children helped by re-hiding eggs so more kids could participate.
- Staff member Kelli Danaker has been in conversation with Rev. Angela Wells and other CUMC leaders about launching a **joint nursery** to provide childcare during Sunday morning worship. Each congregation would contribute one trained volunteer each Sunday morning to provide care to children crawlers-age 3 during worship. Kelli is recruiting UCC volunteers who can commit to two Sundays a year, in preparation for a target nursery launch late summer/early fall 2023. Additional collaborations between UCC and CUMC are in the works.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Family Fun Day** — Saturday, May 20, 2023
- **Congregational Potluck & Annual Meeting** — Sunday, June 4, 2023
- **Board of Trustees meeting** — Tuesday, June 13, 2023
- **UUA General Assembly** — June 21 – June 25, 2023
- **Ministerial sabbatical** — April 1 – August 31, 2023