

INCIDENTALS REPORT

November 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 October averaged 170 each week.
 - Average in-person adult attendance: 107
 - Average in-person children attendance: 13
 - Average Zoom connections: 50

MEMBERSHIP

- 4 first-time visitors completed **visitor forms** during the month of October.
- Two congregants resigned their memberships during the month of October: K. Henry and M. Buffington.

PROGRAM

- The **Chalice Concert Series** presented its first concert of the 2023-2024 season on October 7, with fewer than 40 people in attendance. Series director Michael Adcock will be promoting the Chalice Concert Series' new priority of expanding the canon of classical music (beyond music written by white, European, male composer), in hopes of increasing attendance at future concerts.
- On October 21, **One World Coffeehouse** sold 83 tickets to their penultimate show, resulting in a \$417.50 payout to the Ministers Discretionary Fund. The OWC's farewell concert will be on Saturday, November 18. The coffeehouse team will be recognized during the worship service on Sunday, November 19.
- Beginning October 13, and each subsequent Friday, Rev. Paige Getty and/or Kevin Mercer — accompanied by UUCC congregants — have been greeting members of the **Muslim Family Center** as they arrive at OBIC for their Jum'ah prayers. MFC members have consistently expressed appreciation for this UUCC gesture of witness and support.
- On Saturday, October 21, twelve congregants of all ages gathered with Kelli Danaker and Sara Davidson for a **Show & Tell workshop**. The workshop was a connecting time of storytelling and a unique way for congregants to get to know each other.
- The UUCC gathering at **Vantage Point** continues monthly at the home of Chris-Ellyn Johanson.
- The annual **Owen Brown Community Halloween Party**—a collaboration of UUCC and Christ United Methodist Church—was a success on Sunday, October 29. Most of the attendees were Owen Brown residents without direct connection to UUCC or CUMC.

- The **Enneagram discussion series** led by Sara Davidson kicked off on Sunday, November 5, with 18 congregants in attendance.
- **Reflection groups** began meeting for the fall in October, including a drop-in reflection group led by Sara Davidson.
- Plans for this year's **Warm Welcome Shelter** are in flux while the county clarifies their plans for congregational support. Three possibilities are likely: the shelter will be hosted in a hotel, at the Day Resource Center in Jessup, or at OBIC. We look forward to collaborating with our interfaith partners at OBIC to support this effort, in whatever format it takes place.
- UUCC sponsored the **UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland's** fundraiser concert at OBIC on November 4 that raised over \$3,700 for UULM's advocacy work in Maryland.
- UUCC will serve as a **community impact project host site** for Leadership Essentials 2024 (formerly Leadership Howard County). From January-May 2024, a team of Leadership Essentials participants will work with UUCC's volunteers on community outreach and engagement around our nourishing garden. This project will involve training our volunteers in effective community-centered engagement, strategizing community organizations and institutions to reach out to, and coaching and mentoring our volunteers in the work of partnership-building.

STAFF

- County Executive Calvin Ball has invited Paige to join the newly-formed **Howard County Interfaith Advisory Council** to build and nurture relationships within the interfaith community, and to provide recommendations to address issues impacting local religious communities.
- On Tuesday, November 14, Paige will be **moderating a conversation** with County Executive Ball and faith leaders from Muslim and Jewish communities to address the growing threats of antisemitism and islamophobia in Howard County.
- Valerie has signed a contract to serve on the UUA's **General Assembly Advisory Council** for the 2024 cycle and as Local Area Coordinator for the 2025 General Assembly to be held in Baltimore.
- **Premiums on UUA health insurance plans** will increase by 12.5% in January 2024. The average rate of increase since 2018 has been 4.7%. Our FY23-24 budget allows for a 10% increase starting in January 2024. In keeping with UUCC's Administrative Limitations, the Executive Team will be requesting approval from the Board of Trustees to overspend in the personnel categories related to health benefits.
- Recognizing the challenges of establishing brand new **staff roles** and a new **staffing configuration**, we have been working with Lenore Bajare-Dukes, our UUA Congregational Life contact, since Paige's return from sabbatical to help us navigate and settle into our new staff dynamics. We are grateful for Lenore's insights, guidance, and wisdom.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Trans Day of Remembrance** — Monday, November 20 (vespers at 7:30pm)
- **Board meeting** — Tuesday, December 12
- **Warm Welcome Shelter** — Monday, January 15 – Sunday, January 21