

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. [Isaiah 43:19]

Present: Lynn Garland, Nancy Waugh, Pastor Dan, Robin Yates, Cat Reith-Lowery, Susan Howland, Jean Frost, John Grant, Ryan Bousquet via Zoon and two in-person guests: Pastor Ken and Helen from the Methodist Church in Southbridge

Regrets: Dave Monroe

HOLY EUCHARIST

OPENING BUSINESS

- Presentation from the Methodist Church - They are interested in exploring the possibility of collaborating in ministry.
- Acceptance of Minutes: October 9, 2024, Jean Frost **A motion was made to accept the minutes from the September Vestry meeting. It was seconded, and carried.**
- Treasurer's Report: Nancy Waugh A summary was sent via email with the financials. Nancy did not receive any questions. **A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report. It was seconded and carried.**
 - Approval for payment of \$667 for the first year of deacon training for Lorraine (another \$667 to be paid next year) We approved 1/3 of cost for deacon school previously but we did not have a total amount. **A motion was made to approve payment of \$667 for the first year of deacon training for Lorraine Brumskine. It was seconded and carried.**
 - Motion needed to approve acceptance of the \$9,000 gift to the Dirlam Fund from the Dirlam Trust **A motion made to approve a \$9000 gift to the Dirlam fund from the Dirlam Trust, to be transferred to the diocese. It was seconded and carried.** Susan Howland, chair of Endowment Committee, will write a thank you note.

PRIEST'S REPORT

- Pastoral Care Check-in
- Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday November 26, 2024 at the Sturbridge Federated Church. Eileen recommends inviting everyone in the parish to attend, especially the youth. There will be a reception to follow.
- Plans for Christmas season services, coordinating with BLC – Bethlehem has had 2 services, Family service and candlelight late night service. On Christmas Eve Pastor Dan would like to have 1 Family service at 4 pm at Holy Trinity and a later night, candlelight service at Bethlehem. Pastor Dan would like to have 1 collaborative service of Lessons and Carols on the Sunday after Christmas for both parishes. That service would be at Bethlehem Lutheran. Pastor Dan will be speaking with the lay leaders at Bethlehem Lutheran Church about these plans.
Pastor Dan was asked how the 60-40 division was going for him. He would like to see it be 50-50 sharing. There was some discussion about the financial feasibility of going to 50-50. There was also some discussion about our experience with having a part-time priest and the development of our lay leaders.
- What have we done well? Kept the church afloat while Pastor Dan was away. Food Share is doing well.
- What could we have done better? No comments made.

FOLLOW-UP TO PREVIOUS BUSINESS

- Update on repair of the stonewall – no update yet
- Survey participation check-in: The survey has ended; we should be receiving a \$200 gift card to Amazon for our participation in the survey.
- FYI Staff reviews will be scheduled this month
- Update on plans to let the parish know about the upcoming elections: this will be done through Tidings and the Sunday leaflet.
- Reminder that the Food Share Open House will take place on Tuesday, November 19th from 10:00-11:30

NEW BUSINESS

- Plans for Stewardship in-gathering on 11/17/24 - a sign-up sheet for breakfast items was passed around so vestry members could sign up for what they will bring on Sunday.
- Report from the Convention on 11-9-2024 - postponed
- Food Share is requesting permission to use the undercroft for their board meetings in 2025. They meet once a quarter on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 -8:00 pm. There may be light refreshments. The dates are: January 22, April 23, July 23 and October 22, (this will be their annual meeting and would involve limited use of the kitchen for a potluck dinner, 15-20 people) **A motion was made to allow Food Share to hold their quarterly board meetings in the Undercroft. It was seconded and carried.**
- Phone messages left on our Voice Mail are not listened to until Chris McTigue gets in on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The message needs to be changed to let people know that messages left will be listened to when the office is open and that if there is a pastoral emergency, they may call a different number.
- Caroling for shut-ins will take place on Dec 8th.

MINISTRY REPORTS (as appropriate)

- Communications : Susan Howland, Cat Reith-Lowry, John Grant – no report
- Building Committee: Jean Frost no report
- Collaboration Team: Cat Reith-Lowry, Dave Monroe no report
- Endowment Committee: Susan Howland – Susan briefly went over the proposed deficit budget that the Awesome Finance Committee worked on for 2 hours. We can cover that deficit this year.
- Landscaping Committee: Lynn Garland, Dave Monroe no report
- Family Worship/Faith Formation: Eileen DeMings no report
- Youth Program: Dave Monroe and Ryan Bousquet, no report
- Daughters of the King: Robin Yates no report
- Stewardship: Nancy Waugh, Lynn Garland no report
- Hospitality: Lynn Garland no report

CLOSING PRAYER: Eileen

ADJOURN 9:10 pm