

Pastor's Report to Consistory
February 6, 2017

In January and into the beginning of February, I planned the Lenten season, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 1, with worship at 7:30PM here at Denmark Manor.

I also met with the pastors of our Cluster and we agreed upon our common Lenten activities utilizing a resource, "Reimagining Church." Last year, we had better attendance by having fewer gatherings, and we are doing the same this year. Instead of meeting every Wednesday night, we will have three gatherings that will be discussions with only one worship service (at the final gathering).

- March 8-Noon. Lunch at Hill's Church. The topic will be "A Brave New World", looking at how the world has changed since the 1950's-80's.
- March 22-7:30PM. First UCC in Harrison City with light refreshments. The topic will be "Changing World, Changing Church", how the church has changed since the 1950's-80's.
- April 5-6:30PM. Dinner gathering at Denmark Manor United Church of Christ followed by worship with The Rev. David Ackerman, preaching. The topic will be to address the question, "Where do we go from here?" I will need volunteers to work with Don McIlvaine on this.

The conference that I attended on January 26-27 was very enlightening and gave me some wonderful ideas in regards to faith formation. The leader was Rachel Hackenberg, who is an author and works for MESA (Ministry Excellence, Support and Authorization) in the United Church of Christ. It was also a good opportunity to do some networking with other clergywomen. Thank you, consistory, for allowing me to attend.

I have been meeting regularly with my clergy coach, and we are addressing issues of leadership and change in our congregation. I find it very useful to have someone to help me to clarify my role in helping leaders to lead this congregation into the future.

I have also been doing follow-up pastoral care with several our members. I find that the conversations that I have before worship on Sunday morning are most helpful.

This month we have welcomed John and Susanne Bell into our worship as well as two of the residents of the group home where Allen Latherow lives. They are Valerie Catalano and Michael Anthony. They came the first time to see Allen ring the bell, which along with acolyting, is Allen's job on Sunday morning. The resident supervisor who accompanies them is Holly Lape. Valerie is learning American Sign Language and I have asked her to learn how to sign the Lord's Prayer so that she can lead it some upcoming Sunday, which we have yet to schedule.

A reminder to all that the Worship Team decided that this year we would have only one worship service for Easter and it will be at **10:00AM**. This was announced at the Annual meeting, but we are getting the word out now, so that people can plan accordingly. There will not be an Easter Breakfast.

The Women's Fellowship is planning an event for May 20, "Ladies' Lunch and Laughter", which will be a luncheon with 3 church-women comedienne. We are currently gathering donations from businesses for basket prizes. This was an idea initiated by Rheba and I thank her for her creativity.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Meredith Ann Hutchison". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Meredith Hutchison