

LOVE IN ACTION – MAY UPDATE

Love in Action is the set of initiatives taken up as a result of the Congregational Study that was completed in February 2017.

The Session is addressing this set of initiatives and at each Session meeting, using it as a time to discern how God is calling First Pres to live out Christ's calling to us.

For questions or comments please reach out to the team leaders listed below.

W+1 HOUR: FALL 2017

We are excited to share that God is leading us to pull together our three Love in Action efforts into an initiative we plan to launch in the fall: W+1 Hour, that will incorporate a new approach to engaging our congregation. The Love in Action Team and the Session and others will be studying, planning and piloting in preparation for the fall. We see this as a direct response to the input from the congregation in the study about how service has been so important to their faith journey and that they want even more opportunities, including for families and all levels of abilities. We also know that engaging members in service is critical to a healthy and vibrant church.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Team lead: Mike Guerriero, mike@dischounds.com

Goal: Providing opportunities for Faith Development that helps us to see the *Next Faithful Step* in our Journey of Faith towards becoming the people God wants us to be.

Action highlight: Simple Summer Suppers (modeled after the Lenten Dinners)

- Using study guides to tie into the summer campaign on hunger
- Church wide celebration - Simple Sunday Dinner on Sept 3 after 9:00 service (similar format to Pancake Breakfast)

Long-range question: Researching current Christian Ed models including timing, content and delivery options.

Notes

- Children will be included in the church service on June 25, July 25, August Sundays, and September 3
- Worship bags will be updated weekly to provide activities coordinated with sermon/service
- Inclusive Faith Development program around the Summer Campaign:
 - Simple Summer Suppers – similar to the well-received Lenten Dinners program. The simple suppers are inspired by different areas of the world that struggle with hunger issues. Study guides include information about those areas and tie directly into the summer campaign. Pictures are shared online.
 - Hold a wrap up brunch at the end of the summer – possibly Labor Day weekend.
 - Include VBS in the Summer Campaign through a Food Drive.
- Online video series/weekly digest around hunger education –possibly involve youth group.

- Plant Faith Development seeds at Coffee Hour:
 - Create table tent cards with questions to stimulate conversation
 - Provide additional seating areas – possibly bistro tables to facilitate conversations

SERVICE & OUTREACH INITIATIVE

Team lead: Elizabeth Guman, ecguman@gmail.com

Goal: Serving God by serving our neighbors and to engage more of our congregation in the faith practice of service.

Action highlight: Prayer walk to happen in May

Long-range question: Gathering information on our West Chester neighbors and models for new approaches to engaging members in service.

Notes

- Neighborhood social event—just to get to know our neighbors. Be very conscious that this is like inviting a neighbor over to a cookout—not with an ulterior motive to get them to come to church. (Not on Sunday.) First event organized by Congregational Life on July 13.
- Learn about our local neighbors – will begin in May
 - Statistics – who lives around us?
 - Interviews – learn about our neighbors, Boro Council rep for our area, Police, etc.
- Neighborhood or community service opportunity – (in planning as part of Summer Campaign). For example – collecting food for the food cupboard. Maybe even flyers and we’ll come pick it up. (Invite Bucket School families to participate.)

WORSHIP INITIATIVE

Team lead: Kathy Westhafer, Westhafer@christianacare.org

Goal: Providing a variety of engaging and authentic worship opportunities that connects with worshipers in our community today.

Action highlight: Town Hall meetings on May 7 and June 11

- Sharing thoughts about what worship looks like at FPC.
 - Thinking about your worship experience – what do you need in worship to experience God’s presence?

Long-range question: How do we need to change to be a more faithful and vital congregation in our worship practice?

- Reading Tom Long’s book *Beyond the Worship Wars*. We invite everyone in the congregation to read along with us!

Notes

- Over 200 on-line views on Easter Sunday
Besides planning and holding the Town Hall meetings, team members will meet with Caroline, Steve and Marcia: What do you see as the model for worship at FPC?