



**University Park United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting
December 2, 2024
Gathering Area**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Joe Stobaugh, Emma Williams, Ann Parker, Lary Hooten, Diane Brooks, Lauri Hainsfurther, Dawn Moore, Thomas Wainscott, Brooke Messer, Lee Wiley, Mike Bennett, Dub Newman, Constance Harp, Joe Brannon, Scott Gregory, Early Dennison and David Tabor.

Before the meeting started, Dub Newman introduced Suzanne Steindorf, our new Facility Manager.

WELCOME

Joe Stobaugh welcomed everyone to the meeting.

OPENING PRAYER

Joe opened the meeting with a prayer.

GO-AROUND-QUESTIONS

Joe asked everyone to share their name, role and favorite part of the Christmas story.

Advent and Christmas Reminders and Office Closure

Joe shared that yesterday, the first day of Advent, the Messiah class was offered. On Thursday, the SEW will begin their program on The History of the Music of Christmas presented by Mark Pope, Clinton Bray and Amanda Hollis. He said the Christmas Celebration on December 8 will help our church connect with the community. Christmas socks will be given to newcomers. On December 8 at 5:15 pm Blue Christmas service will be offered in the Upper Room by Joe, Colin Craft and Justin Hancock. Church members who have lost a loved one this year will be invited to attend. On December 22, the Chancel Choir and chamber orchestra will perform Best of Messiah. On Christmas Eve, the church will offer a 11:00 am service (Joe will preach), a 4:00 pm family service (Emma will preach and the Bunn's will be the Holy family), a 6:00 pm traditional service (Joe will preach) and an 11:00 pm service in the Upper Room. All services will include candles and Silent Night. On December 29, only one service will be offered, a Wesley Covenant Service. The church will be closed December 25-January 3.

VOLUNTEERS REQUESTS

Emma asked everyone to reach out to Christy Baker to help as a volunteer for the Christmas Celebration.

PPRC UPDATE

Ann Parker asked Emma to address the Communications Director position by creating a position with three current staff members. Emma shared that Jennifer Stitchcomb is a very important person on the team. Some things have been moved off the Communication plate. Day to day responsibilities have been given to Amanda Hollis. Social media responsibilities have been given to Ellie Ford. Jennifer will have the big picture of communications, including how we communicate with the community. Jennifer will begin some continuing education. Ann shared that we have started a staff gift card drive. Cards can be placed in designated boxes through December 15. Joe gave a shout out to Dub Newman. Our building and property are in much better shape now than when he started as Facilities Manager. Dub said he is happy to turn over the responsibilities. He thanked everyone. And Joe said the staff will miss seeing him in the building.

LAY Leader's Update

Lauri Hainsfurther announced that on February 24, we will offer a S'Mores fellowship in the circular drive. On April 24 and May 4, we will offer Home Fellowships. She asked everyone to let us know if they want to host a Fellowship. Diane Brooks asked everyone to let us know if they will be attending the Welcome Luncheon for Suzanne on Thursday.

FINANCE Update

Joe Brannon passed around the October 31 financial update. The actual vs budget is \$143,366. We are slightly down on revenue because of expenses such as HVAC. He asked everyone to keep the church in our prayers. December is always a good month. It is amazing what God does with our church. Constance will send a statement of giving to members. Year to date pledges vs giving has \$360,000 outstanding. She is expecting \$523,000 from outstanding pledges when fees are moved from restricted to building.

TRUSTEES Update

Dub Newman said we have received our final claim from December 2022 (chiller claim). The Colgate lawn is complete. The committee just met with Suzanne to review end of year accomplishments vs outstanding items. He said the staff offices will move in January.

STEWARDSHIP Update

Joe asked Constance for a Stewardship update. She said recurring givers may not submit a card. She will reach out to those members and maybe continue in January. As of today, the total for the Capital Campaign is \$4,179,813 and the total for the Stewardship Campaign is \$909,387, which does not include recurring giving. Last year's commitment total was \$1,462,000.

REPORTS from Membership and February Minutes

Joe said we need to add children and youth to our membership. Dawn Moore made a motion to approve the minutes and Dub seconded. All approved.

Sharing Wisdom from Council Members Who are Rolling Off

Joe asked those Council members who are rolling off to share their wisdom from their service. Thomas Wainscott, Lary Hooten and Diane Brooks shared their wisdom.

CLOSING PRAYER

Emma Williams closed the meeting with a prayer.