

A. Upcoming Activities and Dates

Mar 21	2p	John Elliott 350 th Anniversary Planning (for Sept-Oct)
Mar 24	10a	Palm Sunday (see OOW)
Mar 28	7p	Maundy Thursday (see OOW)
Mar 31	6a	Easter Sunrise
Apr 21	10a	Earth Day Worship (Common Ground: Food, Soil, Climate) Adam from Unbounded Glory will visit
May 4	12-4p	QC Pride (set up 10:30, event 12-4p) (giving benediction)
May 17	5p	Academy rededication of Bowen Building (giving Invocation)
May 27	10a	Memorial Day (Hill Cemetery blessing)
Jun 9	9a-3p	Offsite all church vision retreat at Crystal Pond (May or June)
Jun 21	9a-4p	SNEUCC Annual Meeting UMASS Amherst

I will be unavailable Saturdays January 9 – May 11.

B. Webinars and Training

Mar 21	12-1p	Vision, GB, Property	SNEUCC Losing Our Building; Finding Our Soul
Mar 23	8:30-12:30p	Anyone new to UCC	Exploring the UCC
Apr 4	12-1p	Green Team	SNEUCC: (re)Introducing the Green Congregation Challenge

C. Ministry Update

We (Bruce Staehle and I) have invited all ministry leaders to participate in a Google Meet on Monday Feb 26. The purpose of the meeting will be to a) introduce the idea of a highlighting ministries and teams in worship, a.k.a. Ministry Moment, b) encourage each ministry/team to create a 1 minute video about the ministry, c) begin the process of creating/updating the website to reflect our current teams and ministry opportunities, d) briefly review Google Workspace, communications guidelines, and other tools, e) identify other questions and topics for discussion.

Following the meeting we will summarize the key points, questions, etc. We will then share the notes with all the ministries and teams, as we know some will not be able to make the meeting.

1. Faith Formation

No update.

2. Faith In Action

Ministry Update Report March 2024

Several activities are being planned regarding Faith In Action, including Earth Day Worship service (April 21), Quiet Corner Pride (May 4), and the annual All town Yard Sale (June).

3. Care Ministry and the Deacons

The deacons have drafted a letter that will be hand delivered to a small number of local organizations to make them aware of the Benevolence Fund.

4. Worship

The Resting Well series will conclude on Easter Sunday.

Following Easter Sunday, we will begin a series entitled “A Future and A Hope.” The series will run through the end of June and is based on Jeremiah 29:11:

For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Series and scriptures have been identified for September through the end of November. This will include a series for the season of creation, September 8 through October 6. The series is currently titled, the Songs of Creation. And From October 13 through November 24, we will follow this year’s Stewardship campaign theme, with a series by the same name called “Imagine Together.”

The perennial hope is that identifying the themes, scriptures, and focus for each Sunday in advance will help the music team and other leaders to identify ideas, make suggestions, and help co-create the service.

The Summer Worship planning team met in late February for the first time.

There are a number of concerns that we hope to work through in the next few months to minimize uncertainty about summer worship and help the two congregations have meaningful worship. That said, Pastor Sue also shared that East’s long time office person will retire the beginning of July. In addition, it is unclear who will be preaching from East or when they will have clarity. Initial proposals to mitigate some of these risks have not been well received. I will continue to address these issues to minimize the risk.

Only five out of twelve members of the Creative Worship Team and Deacons have shared their reflections regarding our current Worship Vision, Guiding Principles, and Team Expectations. The intent has been to review these statements annually as a way of continually ensuring that we are working collectively toward a shared direction. This issue will be part of the conversation at the upcoming Creative Worship team meeting, March 18.

D. Communications

Ministry Update Report March 2024

We have received an unsolicited proposal from accompany that redesign and maintains websites. They have sent us an email with links to a number of other sites that they have redesigned, including a few churches.

I have not had a chance to look into eh organization in depth. The cost is reasonable, \$595 for the initial design and \$99 a month with unlimited updates. And they will add SSL to the site as well.

It is worth exploring; however I will need a couple of additional people to be in the conversation with me (they need not be members of the Governing Board). Thoughts on who might assist?

The Ministry Leaders Meeting included a small number of leaders.

I have as an action item to summarize the notes and links to materials and send this out to everyone.