

UMC Adult Sunday School Committee

Report for UMC Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 21, 2021

The UMC Adult Sunday School Committee for the UMC annual year of September 2020 to August 2021 includes the following members: Pastor Kate Heinzl; Ken Litwiller (chair); Hope Brubaker; Joel Weidner; and Sophia Weidner.

Since the last congregational meeting on December 6, 2020, various Adult SS sessions have been planned and realized. Joel Weidner and Ken Litwiller led several sessions on advent themes. On three Sundays there were longer breakout groups sessions at the end of worship in lieu of Adult SS. Tom Chamness led one session on his experiences with extended and regular meditation. Sophia and Krista Weidner led two sessions on the Enneagram. Ken Litwiller led a discussion on Exodus 1:1-14 during a four part sermon series on stories in Exodus. Kate led a sermon response time with a guest speaker Melody Pannell on justice for marginalized groups.

Today's Adult SS time is devoted to this UMC congregational meeting. For the following five Sundays, Adult SS will be devoted to various aspects of creation care. Topics may include hope for the earth; the miracle of seeds, climate change, soils and composting, recycling, and trees. On April 11, we are planning for a sermon response time with guest speaker on working with persons who have been incarcerated.

Some other ideas in the planning stages include making use of a PBS four-part series *The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow* which explores segregation from the end of the Civil War to the dawn of the modern civil rights movement. It was a brutal and oppressive era in American history, but during this time, large numbers of African Americans and a corps of influential black leaders bravely fought against the status quo, amazingly acquiring for African Americans the opportunities of education, business, land ownership, and a true spirit of community.

We continue to invite UMC participants to suggest topics with associated leaders and resource persons.