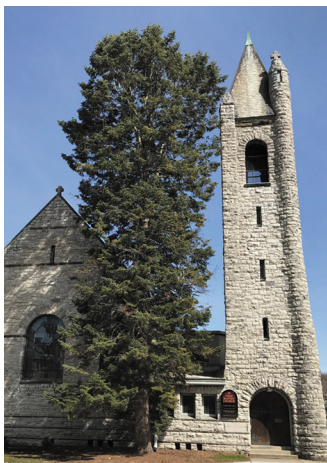


607-273-5800; www.firstbaptistithaca.org; email: fbithaca@gmail.com



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What does the Lord require of you?

To do justice,
Love mercy and
Walk humbly with our God
Micah 6:8

First Baptist Church in Ithaca is a nurturing and inclusive community. Guided by Jesus' teachings, we strive for Social and Ecological Justice; and embrace the Baptist Tradition of Bible, Soul, Church and Religious Freedoms.

Congregational Meeting Set for June 7th

A congregational meeting of First Baptist Church is set for June 7th following Zoom worship.

- The Nominating Committee will present proposed 2020-21 slate of officers and elected officials for confirmation (see sidebar on next page for the listing).
- Treasurer David Caughey will provide a brief update on the status of the church's finances and answer questions.
- An update on the discussion on future re-opening plans.

FBC To Receive Historical Plaque Honoring Rev. Robert T. Jones

In recognition of this 100th anniversary year of ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution providing women the right to vote, the Tompkins County Historical Commission plans to honor Tompkins County's Women's Suffrage pioneers by displaying at the First Baptist Church a marker to honor Rev. Robert T. Jones, who played an important role in the Women's Suffrage movement.



On Memorial Day, to honor our military men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice, folks were asked to play TAPS at 3 p.m. Marlene Sack got out her trumpet and joined in from her front porch. Linda Caughey came by to hear and support her.

Photo by Judy Kennison.



Decorative Crab Apple: May has been spectacular with trees and shrubs blooming everywhere, including our own decorative crab apple at the southeast corner of First Baptist.

Photo by Tony Lister.

Dr. Baruch Whitehead Honored with Award

We salute Professor Baruch Whitehead, PhD who was recently awarded the Ithaca College (IC) President Shirley M. Collado 2020 Faculty Award by the Ithaca College Center for Faculty Excellence for Outstanding Contributions to the Ithaca College Community. The honor was awarded to Baruch for his vision of excellence in education in all of his teaching, mentoring, and service to the community.

"Through his numerous projects, which include organizing the Biennial High School Gospel Festival at Ithaca College, directing the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers, advising several student clubs and organizations (IC Musicians of Color, Student Chapter of Association of Negro Musicians, Ithacapella, Island Fusion), directing the annual Martin Luther King Celebration, co-founding the Community Unity Music

Continued on next page.

Slate of Elected Leaders for 2020-21

Submitted by the Nominating
Committee: Josie Zanfordino,
Adrienne McNair, Linda Caughey,
Marge Hansel

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Moderator: Judy Kennison
Vice Moderator: Mark Lawrence
Membership Clerk: Tina Hilsdorf
Recording Clerks: Rich Barron and
Susan Eymann
Treasurer: David Caughey
Assistant Treasurer: Bill Fry
Financial Secretary: Marlene Sack

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Board of Trustees
(2023) Josie Zanfordino*, Baruch
Whitehead*, Bill Phelan
(2022) Anne Farrell, Kris Scott,
Rich Barron,
(2021) Hans Bump, Elizabeth
Pia-Miller (2021), Bill Fry (2021)*
David Caughey (ex officio)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Standing Committees
Finance: David Caughey, chair
Nominating: Josie Zanfordino, chair
Personnel: Beth Wolfer, chair

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Church Archivist: Linda Caughey

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Lay Delegates:
Affiliate Organizations

Two Delegates each for **Rochester
Genesee Region & ABC-USA**
Rich and Lil Barron, Co-chairs;
Anne & Steve Farrell, Bill Reynolds
AWAB: Josie Zanfordino,
Shella Chace
Baptist Peace Fellowship:
Meg Gillard,
Cornell Campus Ministry:
Julia Dean, Linda Nicholson,
Anne Farrell
Kitchen Cupboard:
Amanda Ufford, Sue Hemsath
Tompkins County Workers Center:
Bill Abeles
Sanctuary Alliance:
Leslie Schultz, Bill Fry

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Pastoral Relations
(2023) Tony Lister*, Regi Carpenter*
(2022) Barbara Fry, Bronwyn Evans
(2021) Bill Abeles, Lou Carlucci

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
**Constitution/By-Law
Committee**
Bill Fry, Alice Grow, Linda Nicholson,
Susan Eymann, Anne Farrell

From Your Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds

Dear Friends,

I want you to know how grateful I am for each of you and the ways you are participating in our church community during this difficult time. Two months and counting of COVID-19 stay-at-home, phase 1 of re-opening just beginning in our region, and no certainty of what that will mean.

These are challenging days, and it makes such a difference to be part of a community of love and care as we live through the anxiety, uncertainty, and frustrations of this time. Each of you is an important part of our church, and the ways you love and support each other matters so much!

Many of us have been learning new things as we connect online – mostly through Zoom. I know the Zoom technology we're using has some limitations, especially with music! I know some of you find our technology challenges distracting or frustrating. We're trying to experiment some to see what works better and to include some variety of leadership. If you have suggestions, please let us know your ideas!

Our Core Value of being a Nurturing and Inclusive Community helps us know what's most important. In this time that Core Value has helped me. We value that we can see each other, hear each other, and connect with each other as a community of love and faith. We value how different ones of us are being able to participate. We value the many ways we love and nurture each other.

Even today, when Zoom had glitches that wouldn't let us do what we have been doing for worship, we persevered and the majority of us still had a meaningful time of worship together! I am so appreciative of our resourcefulness and problem-solving in all sorts of ways – and for our sense of humor that can help us laugh and not take things too seriously!

Even more, I value our deep faith and hope in God's love and care. We are not alone. We know God's Spirit is with us in the midst of this time and that God is always working for good in our lives and in our world. We go forward together – knowing that our faith, love and laughter will help will get us through!

Love to you all,

Your Pastor, Debbie Bennett Reynolds



Reverend Debbie
Bennett Reynolds

Dr. Baruch Whitehead Honored with Prestigious Award cont.

Education Project at Southside Community Center, and many others, Dr. Whitehead has brought culturally-affirming music experiences to countless students and community members," commented Ithaca College President in presented the award.

Another colleague noted that Dr. Whitehead "has created a space where many life-affirming, joyous, and transcendent experiences come to pass... I have thought to myself many times, 'He doesn't have to be doing this-- he's doing this because he really cares.' To me, this is the mark of a great educator."

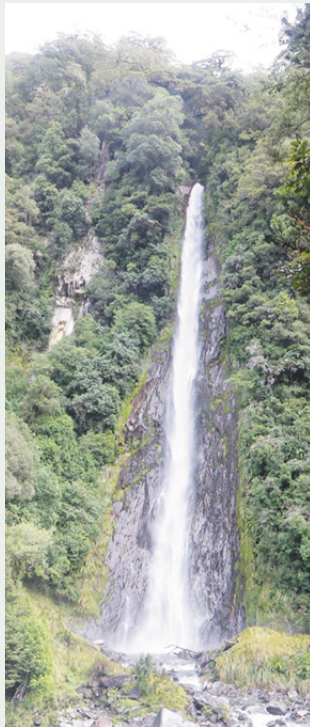
David Caughey, President of the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers Board of Directors, commented that under Dr. Whitehead's leadership the group uses "the redemptive power of this music to promote social and racial justice and healing."

Baruch has been an active member of our congregation for over a decade and currently serves as a Trustee and teaches Sunday School. His contributions have enriched all of us.

New Zealand Splendor

Bill and Barb Fry visited New Zealand early this year where Bill indulged his photographic interest and snapped almost 1,000 photos of the spectacular scenery they encountered. Bill graciously culled through his pictures to share the ones found on this page. Thank you Bill.

New Zealand is a sovereign island nation consisting of two main landmasses, the North Island and the South Island, and around 600 smaller islands located about 1,200 miles east of Australia across the Tasman Sea. Because of its remoteness, it was the last large habitable land to be settled by humans. During its long period of isolation, New Zealand developed a distinct biodiversity of animal, fungal, and plant life. The country's varied topography and its sharp mountain peaks, such as the Southern Alps, owe much to the tectonic uplift of land and volcanic eruptions.
www.wikipedia.com



Thunder creek falls (300 ft high) in Mt Aspiring National Park along the Haast highway



Aoraki (Mount Cook) from Lake Oahu lodge at Mount Cook National Park, NZ



View (looking east) of the southern Alps from the shoreline along the west coast of NZ



The Porarari river and the gorge that it carved - west coast of the South Island of NZ



Fiord in Doubtful Sound – Southwest coast of the South Island, NZ.



View of glaciers (Mt. Cook National Park) from the trail to Sealy Tarns.



View of Lake Hawae. Many of the lakes on the South Island of NZ were carved by glaciers. Lake Hawae is one of these glacial "finger lakes."



Typical cloudy day in Doubtful Sound – which receives 20-24 feet of rainfall annually.



View of Doubtful Sound from the pass looking West.

The Green Team Wants Your Ideas

Our newly formed FBC Green Team is working on several projects including:

- writing a mission statement;
- creating a user's manual for kitchen & community room use which includes recycling protocols;
- researching how ABCUSA is dealing with earthcare and making a recommendation to First Baptist as to how we might participate;
- learning about local inter-faith earthcare efforts and suggesting how we might join these efforts;
- considering creating a pollinator/habitat garden space in our tiny urban landscape, including education about it's value to creation;
- working with Pastor Reynolds to include creation relations in worship services four times a year (or more).

If you have specific ideas for projects, let anyone on the Green Team know your thoughts. You need not be a Green Team member to become involved. We try to operate with humility, gratitude and joy in relation with creation.

Lisa Kilgore, Louise Mudrak, co-chairs.

We have lived our lives by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world. We have been wrong. We must change our lives so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption, that what is good for the world will be good for us. And that requires that we make the effort to know the world and learn what is good for it."

Wendell Berry

FBC Pollinator/Habitat Garden: Q & A

Alice Grow and Louise Mudrak, Garden Project co-leaders

Why a Habitat/Pollinator Garden?

There is increasing and startling scientific evidence ,as featured in National Geographic, May, 2020, that insect and bird populations (as well as other species) are declining at high rates. One of the biggest reasons is the lack of habitat, pollen and nectar sources to support them.

Local native plants are a really efficient way to supply what they need. As an iconic example, the Monarch butterfly requires native milkweed species (*Asclepias* spp.) to rear its young. Much less milkweed growing along its migratory routes is a cause of the diminished monarch populations. Native bees (not only the European Honey Bee) help pollinate all kinds of crops for humans but they need much more habitat.

- Native habitat/pollinator gardens can serve as a portal to being in relationship to other living creatures around us.
- Native gardens can give us a window into thinking about how we use the lands that we control.
- They can be a tool for us to think about and try to provide for the needs of insects and birds.

Our current landscaping practices that value only tidy lawns and flowers for our bouquets tend to favor only humans without much care given to the needs of other species which are part of the greater web of life, Creation. The focus here is on planting local native plant species because birds and insects that live here have co-evolved with these plants and look to them for pollen, nec-

tar and habitats.

Current Project Approach

The Green Team originally intended to plant an educationally focused habitat/pollinator garden on FBC Church property to increase pollinator resources in downtown Ithaca. The current pandemic caused us to change the project to working with folks who would like to grow native plants in their own spaces. We are emphasizing the use of straight native plant species, not cultivars of natives. The horticultural trade has spent much time and treasure selecting, breeding and selling plants whose flowers and foliage have been modified for shape and color to please people, but there is an expanding body of evidence showing that often, insects cannot reach the pollen, nectar and other benefits. The use of local, native plant species helps assure the continuing diversity and resiliency of the local gene pool too.

Are Beautiful Flower Gardens Bad?

No, of course not. We humans are a wonderful part of Creation too and we have co-evolved to need beauty in as many forms as we can imagine. One point of the habitat/pollinator garden is for us to learn how we can intentionally integrate the needs of species in addition to humans, into the ways we use our lands and make gardens. It can help us see beauty in new ways.

Reference: FBC Green Garden Note #1 Questions and Answers, May 1, 2020



Honoring Mother Earth at Light on the Hill in Winter: Photo by Bill Abeles

Drifting

by Mary Oliver

I was enjoying everything:
the rain, the path
wherever it was taking me,
the earth roots
beginning to stir.
I didn't intend to start
thinking about God,
it just happened.
How God, or the gods, are
invisible,
quite understandable
But holiness is visible,
entirely.
It's wonderful to walk
along like that,
though not the usual
intention to reach an
answer
but merely drifting.
Like clouds that only seem
weightless.
but of course are not.
Are really important.
I mean, terribly important.
Not decoration by any
means.
By next week the violets
will be blooming.

Anyway, this was my delicious
walk in the rain.
What was it actually
about?

Think about what it is that
music is trying to say.
It was something like that.



Photo by Judy Kennison

One Great Hour
of Sharing for
COVID-19 Relief

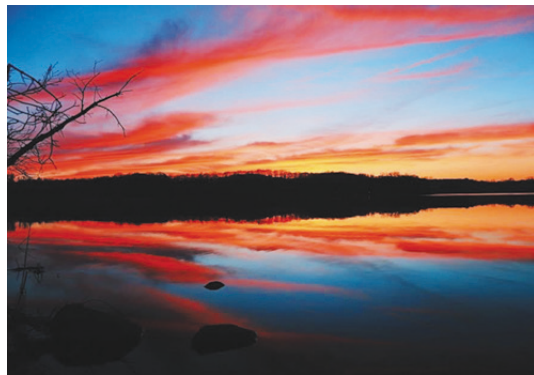
*Please consider
donating - send
checks to Marlene
Sack with OGHs
noted on memo line.*

In Honor of Mother Earth and Earth Day

"But holiness is visible, entirely." As we were sequestered during April on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, I asked for photos that reminded us of the beauty and variety of our creation, Mother Earth. On this page and on page 7 are some of the photos that were emailed to me. SAE



Photos by Judy Kennison



Photos by Luke Reynolds

In Honor of Mother Earth and Earth Day continued

Plant Sources

This information has been provided by the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, from a 2019 handout.

This garden plan includes these native plant species. Keep in mind that a pollinator garden need not include only show and attractive plants for nectar and pollen feeders. Plants that provide habitat and nest materials for caterpillars of moth and butterfly species are equally important. Other native violets and grasses and all milkweeds are interchangeable. Soil conditions may favor one over the other, i.e., butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) prefers well-drained soils.)

Plants

Joe-Pye weed (*Eutrochium spp.*)

Nodding wild onion (*Allium cernuum*)

Wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*)

Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)

Common blue violet (*Viola sororia*)

Alternatives

Mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum spp.*)

Golden ragwort (*Packera aurea*)

Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)

Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

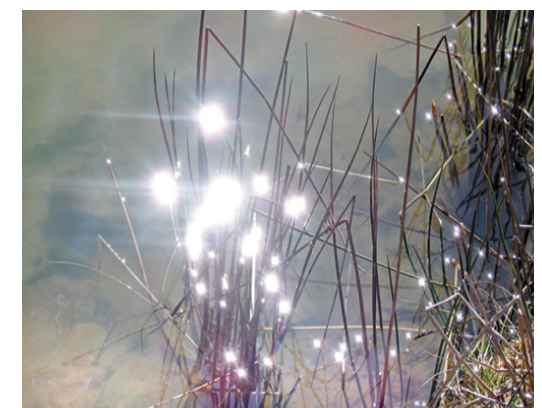
Scarlet bee balm (*Monarda didyma*)

Hairy beardtongue (*Penstemon hirsutus*)

Wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

Compiled by Louise Mudrak
May 2, 2020.

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Photos by Bill Abeles

FBC Green Trash Birds Flock to Ithaca's Walmart Drainage Ditch

At the invitation of the FBC Green Team, on May 4th, 2019, seven stalwart FBC folks joined local group, The Glorious Trash Birds, and the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network's "Embrace The Lake Campaign" and cleaned out over ten bags of trash and Styrofoam from the waterway ditch in front of Ithaca's Walmart. This ditch runs directly into the Cayuga Lake Inlet (which provides the drinking water of many of us.)

People are encouraged to adopt waterway trash cleanup as a lifestyle and they are invited to show their "finds" on The Glorious Trash Birds Facebook page. Thanks to Sylvia Bailey, Hans Bump, Meg Gillard, Marge Hansel, Tina Hilsdorf, Louise Mudrak and Marlene Sack for sharing a very positive attitude during the event. Somehow, amidst all of the ick and yuck of the ditch, it felt good to be working together and to be part of what we now call FBC Green Trash Birds. It felt

Franciscan Ecology Wisdom

We cannot jump over this world, or its woundedness, and still try to love God. We must love God through, in, with, and even because of this world.

Without a sense of the inherent sacredness of the world—in every tiny bit of life and death—we struggle to see God in our own reality, let alone to respect reality, protect it, or love it.

For all its presumed innocence, this way of life lived by well-off North Americans is both unjust to those who cannot attain this lifestyle and destructive of the very planet that supports us all.

Sallie McFague

Native Plants, Sources and Resources

Alice Grow and Louise Mudrak, Garden Project co-leaders

Hello FBC Green Gardeners,

In our efforts to assist and encourage people to try planting some native plants in their yards, containers or wherever they can, we offer some resources in this Note #2. We want to say that we are not "experts," but we have some experience and can share what we know. We are working to share resources from local experts but we do not want to overwhelm you. The list below is just a beginning point.

"Ask Alice"

Alice Grow, FBC Habitat/Pollinator Garden co-chair has generously agreed to talk to anyone who wants to talk over the characteristics their garden spot (light, moisture, size etc.) and get some advice about what natives you could plant.

Wild Ones, Habitat Gardening of Central New York (www.hgcny.org).

This Syracuse chapter of the national organization, Wild Ones, has a great website. Each year they produce a Central New York Native Plant Shopping Guide available on their website in a very user-friendly format. It also lists native plant nurseries in our area.

Native Pollinator Garden for CNY

The links to plan and species lists are attached. This information was kindly supplied by the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society, www.flnps.org, from a flyer for their 2019 plant sale. It is

suggested species that will bloom throughout the growing season. You do not need to put all of these plants into a single space (many of us don't have that) but you could integrate these species around the edges of your yard, or put some species in containers etc.

The Plantsman Nursey (www.plantsman.com)

The Plantsmen Nursery is a great local nursery that has propagated many native plants. Their website has a current list of available species. They "get" and support the values of native plant gardens. Feel free to ask for help and information, saying that you're establishing a native habitat/pollinator garden and you're from First Baptist Church. (We have spoken with the owner about our Green Team work.) Not all clerks will know us but some will. The attached Plant List For Sale is from last year's native plant sale. It highlights species that support butterflies and other pollinators.

Books, webinars, and an online course are available. We're wondering if anyone would like to have a Garden Chat via ZOOM to talk about what we are interested in. Taking the online course together? An online native plants study group? Book group? Let Louise Mudrak know if you want to learn more.

Reference: FBC Green Garden Note #2
Native plant lists, Sources and Resources



Honoring Mother Earth — Fall in Ithaca Photo by Susan Eymann



Please keep in your prayers:

- Nancy Sokol
- John Gross
- Suzanne Kilgore
- Naomi Hollister
- Laurel Lawshae
- Joan Yarborough/John Laney
- Pastor André Thera
- Ron Drummond
- Barbie Lister
- Jan and Frank Butler
- Tae Hemseth



The Visitor — May 2020

Editor, publisher: Susan Eymann
 Proofers: Judy Kennison Tony Lister
 Contributors: Debbie Bennett Reynolds, Bill Fry, Louise Mudrak, Alice Grow, Tony Lister
 Photos: David Caughey, Bill Fry, Bill Abeles, Judy Kennison, Luke Reynolds Tony Lister, Marlene Sack, Susan Eymann



Daffodils peaking through the April snow. Photo: Marlene Sack

Please Contribute to the Visitor

In the Baptist tradition each of us are called to be ministers. Therefore, each of you is invited and urged to contribute to our *Visitor*. Please send announcements, articles, features, pictures to: susan.eymann@transonic.com



Spring Has Arrived: *When stopping by the church in early May, David Caughey was welcomed and delighted by the tulips and hyacinths he found blooming in front of First Baptist.* Photo by David Caughey

Time and Talent Ministries

First Baptist Staff

Pastor: Rev. Debbie Bennett-Reynolds
 Secretary: Shella Chace
 Organist: Christopher Morgan Loy
 Choir Director: Belinda Adams
 Youth and Children's Ministries Coordinator: Laura Ward
 Nursery Caregiver: Carol Fleming
 Sunday School Aide: Sarah Zipfel
 Custodian: David Hopkins

Elected Leaders

Moderator: Judy Kennison
 Vice Moderator: Mark Lawrence
 Membership Clerk: Tina Hilsdorf
 Recording Clerks: Rich Barron/Susan Eymann
 Treasurer: David Caughey
 Assistant Treasurer: Andrea Mooney
 Financial Secretary: Marlene Sack

Board of Trustees

Anne Farrell (2022), Kris Scott (2022), Rich Barron (2022), Hans Bump (2021), Elizabeth Pia-Miller (2021), Amy Chaffee (2021), Bill Phelan (2020), Josie Zanfordino (2020), Baruch Whitehead (2020), David Caughey (ex officio)

Trustees' Subgroups

Finance & Endowment
 David Caughey, Marlene Sack, Janet Cotraccia, Andrea Mooney, Curt Ufford

Stewardship Committee: Janet Cotraccia, Bill Staffeld, Judy Kennison, Alice Grow, Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds, Andrea Staffeld (graphic), Bill Fry (letter), Susan Eymann (*Visitor*)

Interior Decoration: Barbara Fry, Julie Dean, Tina Hilsdorf, Bill Abeles, Anne Farrell, Andrea Staffeld, Susan Eymann

Church Archivist: Linda Caughey
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Lay Delegates: Affiliate Organizations

Rochester Genesee Region (2 delegates), ABC-USA (2 delegates): Rich and Lil Barron, Co-chairs Ossie Heath-Crump, Anne Farrell, Bill Reynolds
 AWAB: Shella Chace, Josie Zanfordino, Baptist Peace Fellowship: Meg Gillard, Cornell Protestant Cooperative Ministry: Julia Dean, Linda Nicholson, Anne Farrell
 Kitchen Cupboard: Amanda Ufford, Sue Hemsath
 Tompkins County Workers Center: Bill Abeles

Pastoral Relations

Barbara Fry (2022), Bronwyn Evans (2022), Bill Abeles (2021), Lou Carlucci (2021), Tim Dean (2020), Steve Farrell (2020)

Nominating Committee

Josie Zanfordino, Adrienne McNair, Linda Caughey, Louise Mudrak, Marge Hansel

Personnel Committee

Tony Lister, Julia Dean, Beth Wolfer
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Ministry Teams

Worship & Spiritual Life:

Barbara Fry, Amy Chaffee, Co-chairs; Bill Abeles, Tony Lister, Kris Scott, Edie Reagan, Alice Grow

Worship/Spiritual Life Subgroups

Flower Committee: Barbara Fry, Mariana Morse, Tina Hilsdorf, Andrea Staffeld

Myra's Ministry: Tina Hilsdorf, Lou Carlucci, Bill Reynolds

Labyrinth: Kris Scott, Liz Wilkinson

Sound & Audio Ministry: David Caughey, Curt Ufford
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Education

Children's and Youth:

Carol Fleming, Tim Dean, Leslie Schultz
Christian Ed Teachers: Baruch Whitehead, Lou Carlucci, Sarah Zipfel, Lil Barron
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Christian Concern

Steve Farrell, Bill Phelan, Co-chairs;
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Christian Concern Subgroups

Circle of Care: Coordinators: Amanda Ufford, Sue Hemsath, Linda Caughey
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hospitality Ministry:

Anne Farrell: chair; Shella Chace, Meg Gillard, Tina Hilsdorf, Adrienne McNair, Andrea Staffeld, Ella Dean, Greta Cotraccia, Bay Ward/Aittama
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Communications Ministry

Shella Chace (convener), David Caughey, Mark Lawrence, Craig Riecke, Susan Eymann, Amy Bean, Lisa Kilgore
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Green Team

Louise Mudrak, Lisa Kilgore (Co-conveners), Lynn Glase, Tony Lister, Hans Bump, and many others
 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Ad Hoc Reopening Team

Anne Farrell, Judy Kennison, David Caughey, Amy Chaffee, Craig Riecke, Leslie Schultz, Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds