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Easter Glory - Alleluia!



Sophia Cotraccia Brings Her Oberlin OSteel Band to FBC

On April 4th, the FBC sanctuary was filled with unique reverberating sounds of the Oberlin College OSteel band. Our own Sophia Cotraccia, now a senior at Oberlin, is a member of the enthusiastic performance band that visited Ithaca as part of their college spring break tour. During the hour-long concert, OSteel performed a variety of pieces that began with the Trinidad/Tobago national anthem.

Founded in 1980, Oberlin OSteel is a student directed steel pan ensemble committed to sharing the infectious joy of pan music. OSteel's members share an interest in Trinidadian history and culture from which the great steel bands originated. OSteel primarily plays soca and calypso music. Among the band's aims are achieving musicality with a cohesive sound, and supporting other Oberlin student groups by performing at their events and fundraisers.

(Excerpted from <http://www.oberlinsteelpan.com>).
More pictures on page 4.



Sophia Cotraccia explains how to create a melody with a steel drum.



*What does the Lord require of you?
To do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.*
Micah 6:8



Our FBC Moderator Margie Latham sent greetings from the northwest along with this lovely picture of dogwood blossoms.

Thanks from The Damps

March 27, 2022

Dear FBC,

We want to thank you for the hands-on help we received during George's recent illness. He is getting better and returning to his old self, but, as Amanda Ufford so aptly put it, "Man does not live by prayers alone."

Congratulations on your 200 years of being an important presence in so many lives.

Sincerely,
Alice and George Damp

Save the Date!
**June 5th:
Pentecost &
our 200th
Anniversary
Celebration
Finale**

From Your Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds

Dear Friends,

What a joy it was to celebrate Easter with all of you! It was wonderful to have so many of us come together rejoicing that Christ's Spirit of love is alive in us and our world! In the midst of so much bad news, we hold on to the good news of Easter. During Holy Week we experienced the power of remembering the story of Jesus' last days - moving from shouts of hosanna to Jesus' Last Supper, through his final hours of betrayal, denial, and sentencing to his death on the cross. But, then we celebrated the joy of resurrection! Life is stronger than death, hope is greater than despair, love is more powerful than evil and hate!



Reverend Debbie Bennett Reynolds

Thanks to everyone whose contributions made our Holy Week so meaningful by sanctuary set up, technology, flowers, music, and worship leadership! And thanks to all who helped make the Easter reception a wonderful time of being together!

Looking ahead, we are making plans for a final 200th anniversary celebration on Sunday, June 5th! This is Pentecost Sunday when we celebrate the coming of the Spirit to guide, empower, and gift all of us. It's also the last Sunday before I take sabbatical time this summer. Former pastor, Rev. Wendy DeMott Fambro, will be preaching and our regional executive minister, Rev. Sandy Hasenauer, will be joining in worship leadership. Following worship, we will hold an outside reception. We hope as many of you as possible will be part of this special day in whatever way you can!

Plans are coming together for my sabbatical time June 6 to August 28. Andrea Mooney has agreed to be the Coordinator of worship and administration, with assistance from Amanda Ufford as needed. The Pastoral Relations Committee is working with them to finalize preachers and worship leaders for all the summer Sundays. You are going to have a great opportunity to hear from a variety of gifted preachers! I hope you'll make First Baptist participation a priority this summer to support these preachers and to connect with and support each other. We will have Door Step Receptions every Sunday in-person as great opportunities to enjoy and care for each other, as well as continuing our Zoom breakout times for those on-line.

We are also finalizing pastoral care coverage with several of our clergy – Debbie Allen, Tony Lister, Rich Barron, and other clergy who can help as needed. We are blessed to have so many skilled and loving pastoral caregivers at First Baptist! In the event of a crisis or death, I am asking to be consulted, but in principle I am going to be away to rest and learn and come back renewed. These other folks will be available for pastoral care and support.

I am so grateful to be your pastor. I already know I will miss you this summer, but I also know that the time away will be good for me. I look forward to sharing more details of my plans this next month.

Blessings to all of you! May we continue to live into the joy and power of Christ's love in our lives!

Debbie



Tony Lister took this picture on March 31st of the labyrinth set up in the First Baptist sanctuary.

Myra's Memories

Here are some other more recent memories. David Evans met with folks after one service in Sept 1977. We shared how we spent our summer. I remember especially that Hope Caskey told us she went to her 50th high school reunion in her Locke Mills, Maine hometown. Louise Wilson was pleased to visit back in Holley, NY where she grew up. Louise told us that Frank David Boynton, the Superintendent of Schools had visited Louise in Holley. He asked her to join the Ithaca School District teaching staff at her home there! Do you believe that would happen today? Hope and Louise remained my great friends for many years.



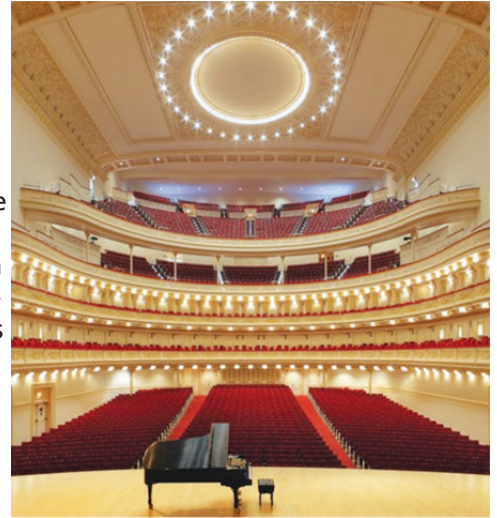
Pictures Needed!

In the early 2000s people switched from taking pictures with cameras and started using their cell phones instead. After that no hard copy photos came to the church office. The future booklet by the 200th Anniversary Committee is planning will add 50 years to the written history of First Baptist by Ruth Lacy, and will include pictures of our ministers. We need good clear photos of Rev. Wendy Fambro, Rev. Rich Rose, and Rev. Debbie Bennett Reynolds. If you have pictures of one or more of these ministers, could you send it to one of us? Thank you!
Linda Caughey or Susan Eymann

Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers Rock at Carnegie Hall

By David Caughey

It is probably the dream of any musician to perform on stage at Carnegie Hall. But nothing can prepare one for the feeling of stepping out on the stage in the Isaac Stern Auditorium, seeing the ranks of seats in the multiple balconies, and hearing that first reverberating chord from the walls of what must be one of the most acoustically-perfect performance spaces in the country or, perhaps, the world. Fortunately, the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers (DCJS) were able to get that initial reaction of "Wow!" out of the way in a final rehearsal a few hours before their debut performance Saturday evening, March 19 with the Fisk Jubilee Singers at Carnegie.



The view from the stage of Isaac Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall.

More than a year's planning, organizing, fund-raising, and rehearsing culminated in an outstanding choral performance in the fabled Isaac Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall in New York City. The DCJS chorus joined the Fisk Jubilee Singers and several other smaller groups to perform a program of Negro Spirituals under the direction of Dr. Paul Kwami, Director of the Fisk Singers. The group also sang My God is a Rock with a small chorus composed entirely of DCJS singers and soloist Maria Ellis-Jordan under the direction of DCJS Artistic Director, Dr. Baruch Whitehead. The emotion and energy of this piece brought the enthusiastic audience, estimated to number more than 1500, to its feet in a standing ovation.

A total of 74 DCJS members, including Dr. Whitehead and Associate Director Emily Preston, made the trip. In addition to Dr. Whitehead and Ms. Preston, FBC members Anne Farrell, Bill Fry, and Dave Caughey participated in the concert. The organization of the trip, including the coordination of hotel reservations, bus travel, and rehearsal schedules, both in-person and as Zoom-hybrids, was a massive effort, and the chorus members are so appreciative of Dr. Whitehead's vision, leadership, and organizational skills. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all who participated.

As most of you know, First Baptist is the rehearsal home of the DCJS, and we are grateful for the flexibility that First Baptist allowed as the chorus successfully dealt with efforts to remain healthy during the COVID pandemic. All singers in the chorus were required to be vaccinated and boosted, and all were tested during the first rehearsal in the city; thankfully, all tests came back negative and everyone who made the trip to New York City was able to perform.

Link to the Ithaca College article: <https://www.ithaca.edu/news/landmark-per>



The DCJS with the Fisk Singers on stage.

Earth Day Celebrated with Plastic and Trash Pickups

On Saturday, April 23, the FBC Green Team sponsored Trash Cleanups by joining the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network's (CLWN) campaign to "Embrace the Lake" and get rid of plastics and trash in our waterways. The FBC Youth committed to cleaning-up in the drainage ditches in front of Walmart in Ithaca. Supported by Hilary Lambert of CLWN, and joined by several FBC adults and a nesting goose, thirteen FBC folks gave full energy to help the water quality in our beloved waterways and Cayuga Lake.

The mud and grossness of the trash did not diminish our great esprit des corps as we created a huge pile of filled trash bags and old tarps and packing materials. Bill and Barb Fry led another group of 12 neighbors on Bostwick Road who worked for two days and Steve and Tina Hilsdorf participated in the Great Smoky Mountain area. Not to be forgotten is Marge Hansel who participated in her new home in southern Ohio. The earth and our Lake thank everyone who participated.



Keagan Fitzgerald



Marge Hansel



Meg Gillard



Louise Mudrak

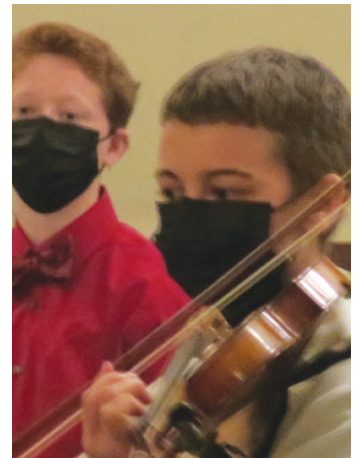


Steve and Tina Hilsdorf and their dog with a North Carolina ranger.



Bostwick Road Trash Birds

Sophia Cotraccia Brings Her Oberlin OSteel Band to FBC cont.

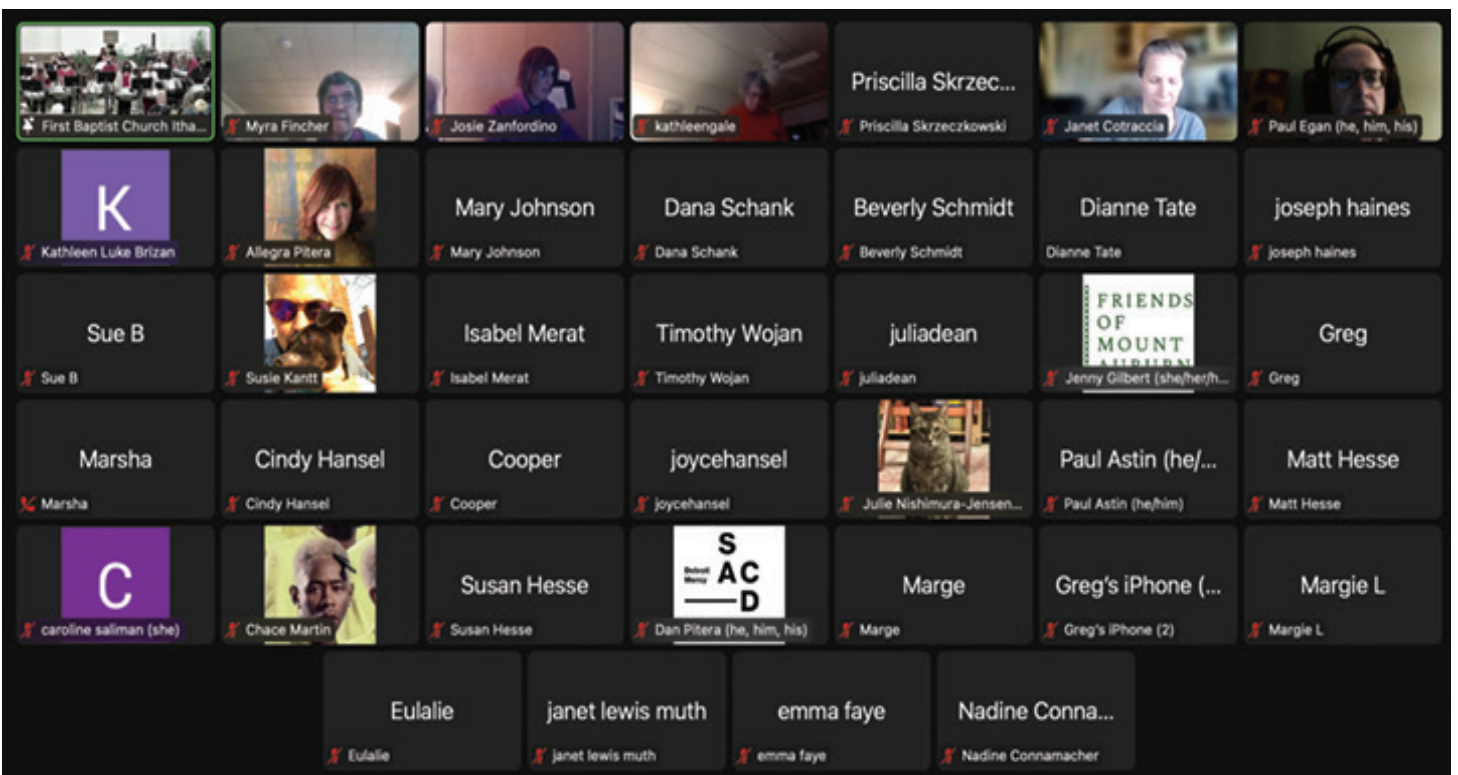


Sophia with her first violin teacher Jan Butler, and Andrea Staffeld, middle.

Sophia soloing on her violin.



Sound and Zoom Engineer David Caughey



Screen shot of those attending the concert on Zoom



Easter Brunch



Communion table arrangement on March 27th.

2022 FBC Women's Retreat

"Together Again!"

May 27-29: 5 pm Fri. - 1 pm Sunday

After a two-year COVID hiatus we are delighted to invite you to the First Baptist Women's Retreat at Light on the Hill in Van Etten, NY. Each year many leave this annual retreat renewed by the laughter and sharing and buoyed by the deepening of their friendships with faith sisters. This year we celebrate being "Together Again!" A lot of fun activities (art projects, puzzling, singing, walking, Qi-Gong, Regi's storytelling etc.) are being planned along with two optional group sessions that are inspired by poet laureate Amanda Gorman's illustrated book "Change Sings."

Registration: Cost: \$90 (one night); \$180 (two nights) Any contribution beyond the base fees enable financial assistance for others.

To register, please complete the registration form below and send with your check to **Marlene Sack, 222 Tareyton Drive, Ithaca, NY, by Friday, May 20th**. Make out your check to First Baptist Church and note on the check's memo line "FBC 2022 Women's Retreat." Because space is limited, your registration will not guarantee your space until your payment is received. Please speak to Marlene Sack if you would appreciate financial assistance for 1/2 day (\$45) or one day (\$90).

Name: _____; Phone # _____

Email _____

I plan to attend for **ONE** night: Friday **OR** Saturday (please underline which one); for **TWO** nights: _____ Friday **AND** Saturday.

Sleep Accommodations: I request the following:
(1st floor; near bathroom etc.) _____

Car Pooling: I need a ride ___; I can help with rides ___;

Aid: I would appreciate financial assistance for: one day ___; 1/2 day ___;

RETREAT COMMITTEE: Judy Kennison, Carolyn Young, Alice Grow, Susan Eymann, Meg Gillard, Marlene Sack, Regi Carpenter, Debbie Allen

"Created for Joy"

*I sometimes forget
that I was created for Joy.*

*My mind is too busy.
My Heart is too heavy
for me to remember
that I have been
called to dance
the Sacred dance of life.*

*I was created to smile
To Love
To be lifted up
And to lift others up.*

*O' Sacred One
Untangle my feet
from all that ensnares.
Free my soul.
That we might
Dance
and that our dancing
might be contagious."*

*Hafiz (1325-1390)
Persian lyric poet*

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

April 18th Cabinet Meeting Highlights:

From the Treasurer:

- The month's end budget surplus for March was \$52,682.40, a healthy amount for this point in the year.
- Mission and Outreach budget expenditures were \$3,405.00, a bit more than 1/4 of the amount budgeted for the year.
- The annual total of \$1,005.00 was sent to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering,
- Almost \$6,000 was raised for Ukrainian relief through the One Great hour of Sharing and a Ukrainian Relief Fund.

Nominating Committee Members:

Leslie Schultz agreed to chair the reorganized committee that will include Tina Hilsdorf, Meg Gillard and Susan Eymann.

Pastor's Sabbatical: Andrea Mooney has agreed to be the coordinator for the Pastor's summer sabbatical. Amanda Ufford will substitute when Andrea is unavailable. Debbie Allen, Tony Lister and Rich Barron have agreed to assume responsibility for pastoral care during Debbie's absence.

All-church Retreat: Plans are underway for an all-Church retreat after Debbie returns.

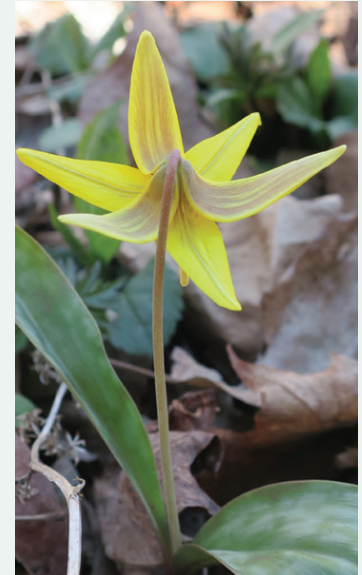
Boiler Project Update (Anne Farrell): New high efficiency boilers would cost double their original estimate, or from \$60,000 – \$75,000. Heat pumps would cost from \$150,000 to \$180,000. A hybrid solution would be to keep the old boiler going and put in the heat pumps in stages: \$45,000 - \$60,000 per project. The Trustees seemed most intrigued by this possibility that would reduce dependence on fossil fuels while converting, over time, from a gas-driven boiler. There will be a short update on what they learned at Adult Sunday School May 15th.

Update on Bylaws Revision: The first working draft of a proposed revision to the Bylaws is being reviewed by Bylaw Committee. The proposed revision of the Bylaws will be presented to the Congregation in the fall for discussion and discernment over a period of time.

Schedule: Adult Ed time (May 15th) is set aside for updates of sabbatical plans, Bylaw revisions and the boiler. The Spring/Summer annual Congregation meeting is set for June 26th.

Ithaca Festival Parade: Theme of June 2nd parade is "Together Again." There was agreement that FBC should participate while keeping it simple. One suggestion was to carry our 200th Anniversary Banner and other banners.

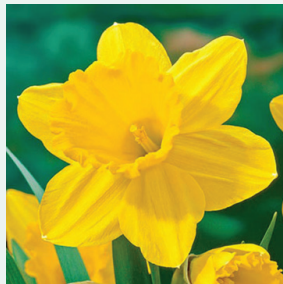
Pollinator Pathway and Garden: The Green Team has signed up to participate in Pollinator Garden Pathways, a national movement to plant pollinator gardens. We are the first in Tompkins County.



Nothing Gold Can Stay

by Robert Frost

*Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.*



Photos by Judy Kennison, Tony Lister



Please keep in your prayers:

- *Danny and Kris Scott*
- *Zetta Pederson*
- *John Gross*
- *Suzanne Kilgore*
- *Jan Butler's children*
- *Pastor André Thera & family*
- *Ron Drummond*
- *The Phelan family*
- *Anthony Halman & family*
- *The family of Arthur Birnbaum (Mark & Jennifer Birnbaum Lawrence) Gail Birnbaum*

~~~~~  
 Let choice whisper in your ear and love murmur in your heart. Be ready. Here comes life.

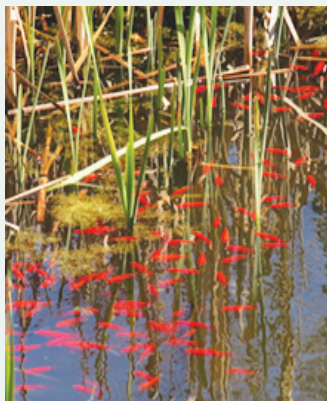
MAYA ANGELOU

~~~~~  
 The abundant heart embraces our world, holding all its joy and fear, gain and loss, nobility and selfishness, enveloped in a field of compassion and love.

JACK KORNFELD

~~~~~  
 The heart that breaks open can contain the whole universe.

JOANNA MACY



*Photo by Judy Kennison*

### **The Visitor - April 2022**

Editor/publisher: Susan Eymann  
 Proofers: Judy Kennison, Tony Lister  
 Contributors: Debbie Bennett Reynolds, David Caughey, Louise Mudrak, Myra Fincher, Linda Caughey  
 Photos: Tony Lister, Judy Kennison, Barb Fry, Bill Abeles, David Caughey, Margie Latham



*Thanks go to this Trash Bird crew picked up plastics and trash in the ditch in front of Walmart on Earth Day.*

## **Time and Talent Ministries** (updated 2022 Nominating Team)

### **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: Margie Latham  
 Vice Moderator: Andrea Mooney  
 Membership Clerk: Tina Hilsdorf  
 Recording Clerks: Rich Barron/Susan Eymann  
 Treasurer: David Caughey  
 Assistant Treasurer: Bill Fry  
 Financial Secretary: Marlene Sack

### **Board of Trustees**

Anne Farrell (2022) Bill Phelan (2023)  
 \* Bill Fry (2024) Kris Scott (2022) Josie Zanfordino (2023) Elizabeth Pia-Miller (2024) Rich Barron (2022) Baruch Whitehead (2023) Steve Hilsdorf (2024) (David Caughey, ex officio).

### **Trustees' Subgroups Finance & Endowment**

David Caughey, Chair, Bill Fry; Marlene Sack, Curt Ufford, Janet Cotraccia

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

**Church Archivist:** Linda Caughey

### **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:** Brian Baker, Linda Nicholson, Anne Farrell

**Kitchen Cupboard:** Amanda Ufford, Sue Hemsath

**Tompkins County Workers Center:** Bill Abeles

**Sanctuary Alliance:** Leslie Schultz, Bill Abeles, Bill Fry

### **Pastoral Relations**

Tony Lister, Regi Carpenter (2023); Barbara Fry, Bronwyn Evans (2022); Mark Lawrence, Amanada Ufford (2024)

### **Nominating Committee**

Leslie Schultz, Meg Gillard, Tina Hilsdorf, Susan Eymann

### **Personnel Committee**

Bruce Chandler (2023), \* Lou Carlucci (2024), \* Judy Kennison (2024)

### **Constitution/By-Law Committee**

Bill Fry, Linda Nicholson, Susan Eymann, Anne Farrell, Judy Kennison, Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds

### **Ministry Teams**

#### **Worship & Spiritual Life:**

Barbara Fry, Amy Chaffee, Co-chairs; Biz Pia-Miller, Tony Lister, Kris Scott, Edie Reagan, Alice Grow, Regi Carpenter, Debbie Allen

#### **Worship/Spiritual Life Subgroups**

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

**Labyrinth:** Kris Scott

**Sound/Audio Ministry:** David Caughey, Curt Ufford, Bill Fry, Bill Phelan

### **Education Children's and Youth:**

Leslie Schultz, chair Carol Fleming,  
**Christian Ed Teachers:** Baruch Whitehead, Lou Carlucci, Sarah Zipfel, Meg Gillard

### **Christian Concern**

Steve Farrell, chair, Bill Phelan, Bill Abeles

### **Christian Concern Subgroups**

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

### **Hospitality Ministry:**

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

### **Communications Ministry:**

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

### **Green Team**

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

### **Ad Hoc Reopening Committee**

Pastor DBR, David Caughey, Amy Bean Stowell, Barbara Pease, Barbara Fry.

### **200th Anniversary Committee**

Rich Barron, Meg Gillard, Linda Caughey, Mark Lawrence, Sue Eymann, Pastor Debbie Bennett-Reynolds.