

## **Worship and Music Committee 2020**

Committee members: Scott Johnson (chair), Cindy Saathoff (co-chair), Judy Meincke, Deb Tonsager, Craig Gustafson, Karen McConville, Robin Arneson, Deb Fristad, Dave Miller, and Pastor Carolyn Staats.

2020 has been a year like no other and our committee has performed extraordinarily well in this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic. In a year when most of the services were planned and executed remotely, the committee facilitated the preparation and recording of all regular and special services with care and safety, while continuing to deliver the Word to our congregation via social media and Zoom remote connectivity with professionalism and quality that improved the experience weekly.

As we move into 2021, we expect this scenario to remain the status quo until a vaccine is widely available and distributed within our community.

The committee helped plan music and worship throughout the challenging year.

Some of our services and activities of note included:

- Remote Wednesday night services during Lent, including the recording of multiple musicians contributing to the services submitting their performances, as well as in person.
- Remote Holy Week services with the aforementioned music and Word contributors/readers.
- Easter Flower pick-up with flowers delivered to vehicles curbside.
- Remote mid-week Devotions by Pastor Carolyn through the year
- On-Line Youth Sunday.
- Outdoor Worship in August.
- Four Remote Advent services in December.
- Remote Christmas Eve Service with many musical contributors.

Special Thanks to our music staff members who worked tirelessly, along with Pastor Carolyn prepare and plan the services and coordinate music throughout the year for each Sunday service and for special services in a remote setting:

- Craig Gustafson - Senior Choir
- Deb Tonsager - organist and pianist
- Anna Peterson - Secretary

In this unique year the staff, committee and volunteers found new and exciting ways to provide a rich and meaningful worship experience to the congregation when we could not gather in person. This took a tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes coordination and work and time to record not only services that "looked" normal, but truly elevated the experience for Worship for all of us at home.

The number of volunteers are too many to list but some are:

- Those that provided the technical ability to record, edit and post services.
- Those that provided music and readings to provide and enrich the worship experience.

- Those that took care of the banners and church decorating to keep the experience as “normal” as possible.

In a normal year we have numerous volunteers who oversee aspects of our worship and music experience at Mt. Zion. In this year there was an especially heavy focus on those that contributed to the success of the services. Some of these were:

- Readers.
- Singers in our Junior and Senior choir.
- Vocal and instrumental performance of special music.
- Technical production and delivery of the end product.

Cindy and I want to personally thank all the Committee, Staff, and of course Pastor Carolyn for their tireless commitment and contribution to create and deliver the excellent and meaningful Worship experiences that our congregation was able to share in 2020.

We look forward to gathering together again in person in 2021.

Sincerely,

Scott Johnson and Cindy Saathoff