

Worship Committee Report 2021

Altona Mennonite Church AGM 2022

We have experienced another year of learning to worship together, with an expanded notion of what it means to be together. We have found ourselves navigating the same, yet changing tensions: together and apart, solitary and in community, silent and singing.

A question asked by our committee at the first meeting of the year was, “what is in in the field of vision? What is seen and unseen?” At the time, we were considering how to prepare visuals as we ventured into video recorded services. Now I would like to use this question to frame our gratitude to all those who have contributed to the changing ways we have worshiped together. For all the seen and unseen ways you, as a congregation, have contributed to worship, we thank you.

We have felt the winds of the Spirit among us as we have woven together themes for worship throughout the year, including:

We began the year with a sharing service, inviting member of the congregation to answer the question, “where are you on the road,” followed by the theme of Loving Kindness and exploring the fruits of the spirit, ending before Lent with sharing stories of Loving Kindness.

Our Lenten theme was Deep Calls to Deep, where we explored calls to deep relationships, commitment, wisdom, health, growth, hope and ending with deep living. During this time we heard from Michael Pahl and Susie Fisher.

Through the spring we followed the Lectionary and hear from Mick Friesen, Ray Hamm, Greg Costen, and Marlene Wiebe and a music Sunday led by Marilyn Houser Hamm and Paul Krahn. Our plans changed quickly from a congregational picnic to an evening Zoom service.

As summer began, we entered the theme of Nurturing Joy. Laura, Julia and Norma Thiessen led us in worship, twice. We met in small groups and gathered outside on Paul and Margruite’s yard as we once again began to meet in person.

We began the fall with a Homecoming - back together in the sanctuary, joined World Communion Sunday, and welcomed new members into our congregation. We entered a Season of Learning around Truth and Reconciliation where we heard from members of the congregation about resolutions towards reconciliation, from Ray Hamm, as well as from MCCMB Program Coordinator Kerry Saner-Harvey. In our foyer we were met by works from Ken Loewen for Peace Sunday.

We ended the year Daring to Imagine God. We welcomed our new Hymnal with a music Sunday and were greeted by visuals created by children of the congregation, guided by Margruite Krahn and Karen Martens, that helped us to imaging God’s song, embrace, goodness and face.

The committee continues to welcome your feedback on past themes and services as well as your suggestions.

Submitted by Lori Dueck, on behalf of the committee: Marne Mierau Friesen, Elaine Loewen, and Marilyn Houser Hamm