SJC REPORT FOR JUNE 3, 2021

A meeting of the Social Justice Committee was held on June 3, 2021 via ZOOM. Present were: Betty Gilson, Susan Irish and Rev. Rachel Tedesco. The following issues were discussed and decided.

1. Bank balance is $4,767.11, of which $1,255.82 is for *Read to Me, Father* and $131.00 is for RE scholarships.
2. BLM films
   1. The film for June 22 will be a documentary film called, “A Most Beautiful Thing.” This is rescheduled from May 25 due to a special Bridgewater Vigil commemorating the one year anniversary of the death of George Floyd. It’s based on a book by Arshay Cooper, and tells the story of an all-black rowing team, formed in a Chicago high school in the 1990’s.  Sam latched onto the book and film because of his interest in rowing, but, as it turns out, rowing is just the vehicle to telling a story about what it’s like to live in the West Side of Chicago, where segregation, poverty, drugs, gangs, and violence rule and—most often—ruin so many lives.  Watching these men tell their stories 20 years later—they came together to row again two years ago—was both heart-wrenching and uplifting.   Of particular interest was an effort by the men to connect with the Chicago Police Department—in an effort to start bridging the divide between the police and the community to promote healing.  This particular story was not part of the book but was a nice addition to the overall narrative. The film is on You Tube—for $3.95. Some people may be able to stream it another way.

Here is the link.

<https://tinyurl.com/vcxm4be>

Or dial in by phone:   +1 646 876 9923

Meeting ID: 524 750 5733

* 1. There is no film for July and August.
  2. The suggestion for September 28 is “All In”, a documentary about Stacy Abrams. It is available on Amazon Prime.
  3. We should be investigating films for the following months. We are requesting members to make suggestions

1. Plate selection
   1. June will be *Family and Community Resources* in Brockton.
   2. July and August will be MainSpring House lunches.
   3. September is the Crayon Project.
   4. October is BIC.
   5. November will be Guest at Your Table
   6. We will keep December open for now.
   7. There was discussion at the recent Parish Committee meeting that with the return to in person services the collection would likely increase. So perhaps we could resume splitting the plate rather than donating the whole amount. It was decided that we would resume splitting the plate provided that the total collection for the month was at least $400 (so that at least $200 could go to the charity).
2. MainSpring and Evelyn House lunches were made on Thursday, June 3 using the present protocols of volunteers delivering lunches, beverages and fruit to Betty’s house that day. Lunches for July will be made July 1.
3. Reports from Green Sanctuary and Peace Vigil Committees
   1. Green Sanctuary did not send an update.
   2. The Peace Committee booklet of peace readings and meditations was sent to the congregation May 28. Many thanks to Diane Breen for producing it and finding the cover photo. Also, to McKayla Hoffman for the final editing.
4. Update on Welcoming Congregation Renewal plans
   1. Holding meeting tonight, June 3, to work on plans for June13 service.
   2. Planning a movie discussion night, a la BLM movie discussion, on Monday June 28th, at 7pm, the anniversary of the Stonewall Riot. Details will be sent out shortly.
5. Rev. Rachel will send us the current schedule. (attached below)
   1. The SJC will have a table at the event.
   2. Rachel said that she and David Tedesco have prepared a poster board display of 5 years of SJC activities. This and somewhat updated copies of our SJC brochure will be on the table.
   3. Volunteers to staff the table so far are: Rev. Rachel, David Tedesco, Rita Roy, Ginger Irish, Susan Irish and Betty Gilson.
   4. David Wilson will be marking parking space on the parking lot with chalk and designate handicap and vendor spaces. He is also working with the vendors and working on the schedule of events.
   5. Rachel will prepare an article on our BLM the Banner Dedication which will be at 2:00 pm at the church before the events start at Stanley Iron Works Parkland.
6. We decided on possible July 4th participation
   1. If the church participates in the celebration, we will have a table at the event.
   2. The table will be set up like the one for Juneteenth.
7. Rachel’s other reports
   1. Rachel attended the Bridgewater Vigil on May 25.
   2. She has been working with Nadia Clancy of E. Bridgewater of the E. Bridgewater Coalition for Change; and attended and spoke at one of their meetings.

The next meeting will be on Thurs., July 1, 2021 at 7:00 pm on ZOOM.

**Draft Schedule for the Juneteenth Celebration – (Rachel’s version)**

2:30pm Background DJ music

MC/DJ Justin Means starts pre-recorded song list.

3:00pm – Program begins:

1. Welcome from Assist. Town Manager Kimberly Williams
2. 1st Minister Opening: Rev. Gerald Wiggins gives blessing (10 minutes)
3. 2nd Minister – Rev. Beth Walden Stotts:

Greetings from Greater Bridgewater Interfaith Council (5 minutes)

1. Gospel Choir: “Lift Every Voice and Sing” – The Negro National Anthem (5 minutes?)
2. Speaker #1 - Dr. Karima Lewis, BSU (10min)
3. Gospel Choir piece
4. Speaker #2 - Dr. Kevin McGowan, BSU (10min)
5. Gospel Choir piece
6. Speaker #3 - Steve Rogan, Br. Historic Commission (10min)
7. Khakatay West African Drumming Ensemble from BSU (15min)
8. Speaker #4 – Dennis Gallagher, Town Council

& Trey Sheridan (?)

1. Male Bonding Band (15min)
2. Bobby Kane Jazz Band (30-45 min)

~ 5:30pm Recorded Music by DJ Justin Means until 6 pm.

~ 6:00 pm – DJ to send people off with:

“Thank you for coming to this first Annual Juneteenth Celebration.”

6:00pm. End and start clean up.