

Associate Pastor Elizabeth Eckman  
Council Report February 2023  
Submitted: March 7, 2023

February was another busy month as we prepared for the Lenten Season. I spent a week in Nashville for continuing education with "Leadership on the Way" a group that meets 4 times in person and each month over zoom. This group has been very positive to my leadership journey and has given me more resources and people to learn from. I came back from Nashville and presided with Pastor Sarah over Steve Shearers funeral. I then was off again to New Orleans for another Youth Gathering planning meeting.

Upon my return from New Orleans I was removed from my position as Director of Mass Gathering. It is with deep sadness that my time working on the planning side of the Youth Gathering has come to an end in this way. I was not given reasons for my termination from the position, and no opportunities for growth or learning. I am very disappointed in the racist actions that were behind this decision and the lack of mentoring and guidance for me as a young leader. I am happy to explain further with any council member who would like to listen.

Youth Group has had to adapt a little this month. We managed to have 7 youth for a superbowl lunch youth group and one canceled open mic night. At the beginning of March we had a youth gathering interest meeting to begin talking about cost, fundraising needs, and what the youth gathering is. I am guessing we will have a group of 7-8 students which is a great number. We are having a Lock-in in the middle of March.

I lead the 8th Grade confirmation class in a lesson on Ash making and Ash wednesday. We enjoyed a warm evening in my driveway drinking hot chocolate and turning palms to ashes.

I was busy this month heading up the Children and Youth search committee interviews. Andrea Pahowka has been instrumental in helping to communicate with our candidates and schedule our interviews. We had 5 first round interviews and 2 candidates that we will have second interviews with. I am encouraged by these two candidates and looking forward to our second interviews coming up in March. The hope would be for someone to start beginning of July.

Our Seminarian Bethany lead adult sunday school twice in February. I took the time to work with her before her teaching and discuss growth areas for future teaching techniques. Bethany has been wonderful at saying yes to opportunities to learn and grow and is eager for feedback. She also preached twice already and takes criticism really well. I've definitely enjoyed the opportunity to be a part of her learning even though im not her supervisor.

Pastoral Care Visits: 4  
Funeral: 1 Steve Shearer