

Nurture Commission Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2021 @7PM via Zoom

1. Present: Lisa Rosenberger (Chair), Glenn Book, Beth DeGoede, Ellen Flury, Trina Hollinger, Olivia Knight, Pastor Pam.
2. We reviewed the January minutes pertaining to planning.
3. Lisa reports that the Nurture Commission appointments for 2021 were confirmed and submitted to the church office.
4. Lent--Begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17, 2021
 - a. We discussed sending out Lenten activity suggestions to the congregation via the church office all-church email. We plan to use last year's ideas with some changes.
 - i. Lisa has a program that allows her to edit pdfs. Glenn will send the pdf documents from last year to Lisa for her to edit/reformat for email and send back out to Nurture members for proofreading and approval. We should look for those documents in the next week or so.
 - ii. The link for the 40acts challenge is no longer active. Other options online seem to be very Roman Catholic-centered, so we aren't sure if they would be appropriate. Lisa will replace this online suggestion with a notice that the Brethren Press 2021 Lenten Devotionals are available through the church office.
 - b. We discussed ways for people to share their Lenten activities with the rest of the congregation, replacing last year's bulletin board idea since we are not in the church building.
 - i. Congregants could email their sentences and/or photos of feedback to Nurture. This information could be collected into some kind of collage or slides for presentation during the offertory on Palm Sunday and maybe also Easter Sunday.
 - ii. **Lisa has created a Nurture Commission gmail account that we can all access whenever we want the congregation to email submissions. That way, no one's personal email is overwhelmed.**
 1. **Username = EtownCoBNurture@gmail.com**
 2. **Password = 0pent0all (zero replaces the O's) no caps**
 3. **First Name = Etown**
 4. **Last name = CoBNurture**
 - iii. Olivia mentioned Facebook stories and Instagram as additional methods of contact that may reach a broader group of people than emails alone. These avenues include widgets that allow for people to ask a question, and that would promote more interaction.

- iv. Lisa checked with the church office about putting those questions on the church Facebook and Instagram accounts. The church office has suggested that the Nurture Commission create its own Facebook account that links to the church Facebook account. We could set up our own administrators for that account who would be able to monitor and collect feedback. The Nurture social media accounts could be used for different activities as time goes along--Lenten feedback, Scavenger Hunt, and others. These could be very helpful to have to support our church's growing online ministry. Lisa will be asking Olivia to look into setting up the Facebook and Instagram accounts for Nurture.
- v. Lisa has created a Nurture Commission logo for use on our social media. (The original is clear--Ellen's screen shot is a bit fuzzy.)



- 5. Women's Spirituality Retreat Plans--Planning for this event is tabled for now due to the pandemic.
 - a. Pastor Pam reminded us that just because something is on our usual to-do list does not mean we have to do it. We should keep this in mind as we look at our Nurture timeline throughout the year.
 - b. Until we are clear for in-person gatherings, we must make the decision to hold off on some activities.
- 6. Game Night Online--Occurred January 31, 2021.
 - a. Olivia reported that participation was sparse but enjoyed by the participants. Pinochle was the game of choice. Several participants voiced interest in playing again on another game night.
 - b. We discussed the benefits of offering additional game nights, perhaps monthly as a start. Perhaps weekly if it really takes off.
 - c. The next Game Night date will be February 28th, the last Sunday in February.
 - d. We discussed the benefits of promoting the game nights in a variety of avenues.
 - i. Lisa will contact the church office about putting a game photo advertising the event on the church Facebook and Instagram accounts.
 - ii. Olivia will email a list of the January participants to Lisa. Lisa will reach out to them to ask if they would recommend others who may want to play.
- 7. Scavenger Hunt--Considering April or May springtime for this
 - a. This would be set up for households to participate in together.

- b. Ellen will create a document to share with the Nurture Commission before our March meeting. This will include the following:
 - i. The start of a list of potential “treasures” for families to find and photograph to submit,
 - ii. Suggestions for determining the “winners.”
 - c. We will need to determine a process for submission of the “finds.” Social media seems a likely choice. Olivia will be the “tech crew,” investigating the Facebook, Instagram, and email options through which participants can make submissions. We want to include as many people as possible, so having an email option in addition to Facebook would not exclude those without Facebook accounts.
8. The Blessing of the Children--This spring, May/June. We will discuss planning for this at our March meeting.
9. Outdoor Movie Night--Planning for summer, likely in July.
- a. We can project a movie in the open area behind the Memorial Garden.
 - b. People can tune in on their car radios from their cars or sit on picnic blankets and lawn chairs in the grass with speakers provided by the company.
 - c. Glenn will bring potential dates to our March meeting for discussion.
 - d. We discussed food options, such as popcorn or having a food truck come in for the event. What are the safest options due to the pandemic?
 - e. Glenn mentioned that the movie company offers some fundraising options. He will investigate and share at our next meeting.
 - f. Lisa will ask for a Nurture budget update at the next board meeting so that we know how much money we have available. She will ask about receiving budget updates on a regular basis.
10. Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner--Activity idea for after we are in the clear for in-person gatherings.
- a. Pastor Pam had mentioned this idea last year, pre-pandemic. Someone in the women’s Bible study recently mentioned how fun this would be once we can be together again. Ellen thought we should consider including it in our discussion.
 - b. The Nurture Commission would decide on a date/time for the dinner and coordinate arranging groups. Sunday mid-day meal after church often works well for this. The dinners take place in private homes.
 - c. People who want to host a dinner sign up to do so and provide the main course. They say how many people they can include at their table. Child-friendly or not?
 - d. People who want to participate sign up to attend with their number of people (# of children?), any food allergies/sensitivities and whether to provide a vegetable or dessert dish.
 - e. Sign-ups could be via our Nurture email or on paper to turn in. We would not want a posted sign-up because of the surprise element.

- f. Nurture Commission members review the sign-ups and match up hosts with attendees. This would be the potentially challenging part of the planning.
 - g. On the day of the dinner, attendees are notified as to the address of their destination. Email sounds ideal for this.
 - h. Not until the guests arrive do the hosts or other guests know “Who’s Coming to Dinner.” Hence the name.
 - i. We could ask for photos of the different dinner parties to put on slides during the service or to post on our Nurture social media pages.
11. Coffee with the Church Board is slated for the Sunday School hour, starting at 9:15AM this coming Sunday, February 7, 2021. Glenn will attend as our Nurture representative.
12. Our next meeting is planned for March 3, 2021, at 7PM via Zoom. Reminder that this is the first Wednesday of the month.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Flury