Ministry of Spiritual Life

Our working mission statement:
The ministry of Spiritual Life aims to honor God by designing and producing worship that is fascinating, soulful, and transformative, and by making the care of CUCCNM members and friends a shared, joyful, prayerful priority.

Our wish list:
- Regularly plan with the pastor to integrate into worship the talents of “homegrown” musicians and other artists, ideally including poets, photographers, actors, painters, quilters, puppeteers, storytellers, dancers, film/video makers, etc.

Worship is the heart of our congregation We expect to encounter God in worship by praying and singing, listening to the Word of God in Scripture, reflecting upon good news, sharing communion, and committing ourselves to God’s people in baptism and confirmation. Worship is not the only forum in which God meets us and we respond to God, but it is the one thing we do together. The Spiritual Life Ministry team help us bring our best vision, preparation, and execution to the service of worship.

Think back to the service of confirmation in November 2019. We shared an hour in the lives of four inspiring teenagers, experiencing the faith we share through their experiences, passions, and sensibilities. With God’s help, they promised to follow the call of Jesus in their lives, and we promised to support them in the living of their lives. In faith, we believe God promised to bless them and the larger world through them. Confirmation reminds us all that we are children of God, students and friends of Jesus, burning in but not consumed by the fire of the Holy Spirit, sisters and brothers and parents to one another. We look forward to sharing the sacred, covenantal experience of confirmation again in May 2021.

Covid-19 challenged our worship expectations and practices in 2020. Even so, God’s Spirit moved our friend and brother, Erjon Rovolli, to seek baptism, which providentially occurred on Easter Sunday. The pandemic was still new, then, and we thought—hopefully but irrationally—that it might disappear like the seasonal cold or flu. When we could not return in large numbers to the sanctuary on Easter, it began to hit home that we were experiencing a contagious disease far more threatening than the flu. That was hard to bear, as was celebrating the Day of Resurrection virtually, but Erjon’s baptism reminded us that God’s sacramental grace persists through illness, separation, hardship, despair, and is not finally defeated even by death itself.