

Worship Brainstorming

“Quest: Travel as a Spiritual Act”

Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at Dave and Karen Booth’s home

6:00 pm Cookout Potluck

7:00 pm Worship Brainstorming for

July 25 – August 29, 2021

The Worship Team will be brainstorming for a 6-week series. Members of all ages and backgrounds are invited to participate in the one evening commitment. The ideas generated at the brainstorming are used in worship.

Sharing the meal is an important part of our time together. Please join us for dinner at 6:00 pm. We will have a picnic style potluck at 6:00 pm with burgers fresh off the grill. Please bring a dish to share. Suggestions: burger buns, baked beans, potato salad, drinks, or your favorite summer picnic food. The brainstorming begin will begin at 7:00 pm.

You’re invited to RSVP and bring a dish to pass. Sign up at church, contact the church office a 231-798-2181 or Office@LakeHarborUMC.org, or contact Karen Booth.

Please pick up the brainstorming packet, read the scripture readings and Pastor Mary’s message synopses, and preview videos when they become available. Copies of the packet will be available at church and online. **Safety protocols will be the same as at church (masks are recommended for those who are not fully vaccinated).**

Whether you travel far away or see your local surroundings as if for the first time, pilgrimage has long been a spiritual practice, and “journey” a deeply-felt metaphor for our spiritual lives. “Quest” comes from the Latin root meaning “ask, seek.” This four-week worship series (which we are expanding to six weeks) will encourage us to open ourselves more fully to the curiosity and wonder, reflection and transformation that travelers—not merely tourists—experience when they choose to immerse themselves in soul-widening adventures.

2021 theme connection: There is rich blessing in discovery and diversity

Key word: Reconnection

Key scripture:

Resources:

- Worship Design Studio materials
- Introductory video by Marcia McFee <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JISsNBI95OQ>
- “Travel as a Spiritual Act” webinar with Rick Steves <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJ3sL-RKnTM>. **Note:** The video is almost one hour and forty-five minutes long. Watching it is probably the single most important thing you can do to prep for the brainstorming. Here is another option: “Why We Travel” by Rick Steves. Length: 26:47. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9bprJ6V_4c

- “Path to a Miracle” by Hannah Anderson. This is the story of a journey of a different sort. <https://lakeharborumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Path-to-a-Miracle-Bible-Studies.pdf>
- Nala’s World: One Man, His Rescue Cat, and a Bike Ride around the Globe by Dean Nicholson. Synopsis and pictures: <https://www.amazon.com/Nalas-World-Rescue-around-Globe-ebook/dp/B083J18VVH>

Music:

- How Great Thou Art UMH #77
- Cry of My Heart TFWS #2165
- Just a Closer Walk with Thee UMH #2158
- For the Healing of the Nations UMH #428
- There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy UMH #121
- We Meet You, O Christ UMH #257



- Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here UMH #647
- Jesus Calls Us UMH #398
- Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing UMH #671
- Theme song: “The Quest” by Dr. Marcia McFee. Lyrics:

*Leaving home, we set our seeing,
On a quest for deeper meaning.
What we find can change us for the love of all
The love of all the creation and its beings.*

- Prayer song: “Stepping In” by Christopher Grundy
<http://www.christophergrundy.com/stepping-in-lyrics/>,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DTSh10xaGuY>

Visuals: Map, globe, journal

- Marcia McFee’s Pinterest board <https://www.pinterest.com/worshipstudio/quest-travel-series/>
- World map papers for making votive, candles, flags, luggage tags, etc. https://www.amazon.com/Monolike-Vintage-Poster-Wrapping-Design/dp/B07GV6VCZV/ref=sr_1_10?dchild=1&keywords=map+paper&qid=1620311069&sr=8-10 & https://www.amazon.com/World-Traveller-Gift-Wrapping-Paper/dp/B078W3BBJD/ref=sr_1_13?dchild=1&keywords=map+paper&qid=1620311069&sr=8-13

- Alegreya font family – available free at <https://fonts.google.com/specimen/Alegreya+Sans#standard-styles>

Hands-on items: Friendship bracelets, postcards

(https://www.canva.com/design/DAEdtnWpR4/8geQifKKQoC0sl241Zfcig/view?utm_content=DAEdtnWpR4&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=sharebutton&mode=preview) , food from around the world (salt, cheeses)

NOTES: Are there **people who can share about travel experiences** that have been transformational? Ivan Ivanov, Dave & Karen Booth, Julie Jones

2021 marks two important anniversaries for LHUMC:

1. 65 years since charter (April 22, 1956)
2. 5 years since merger with Lakeside UMC (June 2016)

July 25, 2021: “Leaving Home”

Scripture: Psalm 121 (NRSV) Assurance of God’s Protection, A Song of Ascents

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
 from where will my help come?
² My help comes from the LORD,
 who made heaven and earth.
³ He will not let your foot be moved;
 he who keeps you will not slumber.
⁴ He who keeps Israel
 will neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵ The LORD is your keeper;
 the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
 nor the moon by night.
⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil;
 he will keep your life.
⁸ The LORD will keep
 your going out and your coming in
 from this time on and forevermore.

Scripture: Exodus 13: 17-22 (NIV) Crossing the Sea

¹⁷ When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, “If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.” ¹⁸ So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.

¹⁹ Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the Israelites swear an oath. He had said, “God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place.”

²⁰ After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. ²¹ By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. ²² Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Synopsis: The story of the pilgrimage of our ancestors in faith reminds us that traveling, moving, leaving home, is part of our faith story. There are times when we need to leave what’s familiar in order to grow and thrive. Beginning a journey involves leaving “home”—whether that is a physical place in order to explore another part of the world, or changing a mindset that keeps us from expanding our spiritual capacity.

Felt need: To understand that God is with us on the journey of life and faith even and especially when it feels like the unknown

Visuals:

Children’s time possibility: Salt from different places around the world. Salt adds flavor (and comes in many different colors). Celebrating unique flavors.

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities:

Music: Lead On, O Cloud of Presence (FWS 2234), Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (UMH 127)

Worship Leader: Dave Lorenz

Discussion points:

August 1, 2021: “The Encounter”

Scripture: Psalm 146 (NIV)

¹ Praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

² I will praise the LORD all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

³ Do not put your trust in princes,

in human beings, who cannot save.

⁴ When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;

on that very day their plans come to nothing.

⁵ Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD their God.

⁶ He is the Maker of heaven and earth,

the sea, and everything in them—

he remains faithful forever.

⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets prisoners free,
⁸ the LORD gives sight to the blind,
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,
the LORD loves the righteous.
⁹ The LORD watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.
¹⁰ The LORD reigns forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD.

Scripture: John 4: 4-42 (NRSV) – This could be done as a reader’s theater, perhaps using The VOICE translation (<https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John4:4-42&version=VOICE>).

⁴ But he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” ¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” ¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” ¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” ¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵ The

woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

Synopsis: Jesus often crossed paths with others not from his "tribe." He did not shy away, but often sought out these opportunities. He met people going about their daily lives and engaged with them at the point of their deepest yearning. When we seek out and are open to new encounters, new people, and new relationships, we can experience new spiritual connections with humanity and more spiritual depth within us. How can we shift our perception, redefining "strangers" as "friends we have not yet met?"

Felt need: To claim new experiences as a part of spiritual journey and one another as spiritual friends

Visuals: Lanterns from around the world. <https://www.pinterest.com/sudro/lanterns-around-the-world/>

Children's time possibility: Day and night happen all around the world. We all need lights and need to be the light.

Hands-on item:

Activity: Holy Communion

Media possibilities: "Spoken Word – Woman at the Well." Length: 2:36. Cost: We own it. A dramatic interpretation of the woman at the well, and her desire to be loved for who she is. <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/6702/spoken-word--woman-at-the-well>

Music: The Summons (FWS 2130), How He Loves Us, No Longer Slaves, The Servant Song (FWS 2222)

Worship Leader: Brad Hilleary

Discussion points:

August 8, 2021: "" - Rev. Dr. Margie Crawford preaching

Scripture:

Synopsis:

Felt need: To

Visuals:

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities:

Music:

Worship Leader: Rose Emmons

Discussion points: 1) Our first Sunday together after the merger was June 13, 2016. Brad Hilleary and Carole Rose preached on "Synergy through Unity" based on Isaiah 43: 16-21 and Psalm 133. We had been using this "Unity Prayer" for several weeks:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, which is pretty much everyone, since I'm clearly not you, God. At least not the last time I checked.

And while you're at it, God, please give me the courage to change what I need to change about myself, which is frankly a lot, since, once again, I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect. It's better for me to focus on changing myself than to worry about changing other people, who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying, I can't change anyway.

Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter than everyone else in the room, that no one knows what they're talking about except me, or that I alone have all the answers.

Basically, God, grant me the wisdom to remember that I'm not you.

Amen.

Media: "God of the New" (<https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/60778/god-of-the-new->). Image: Zipper merge.

August 15, 2021: "Take Me Where Love is Needed"

LHUMC Mission Trip reflections

Scripture possibilities: Micah 6:8; Isaiah 43: 1-4, 16-21; Proverbs 20:5; Ezekiel 47: 8-10; Psalm 23 (more info will be available as plans become more concrete)

Synopsis:

Felt need: To hear God's call to take love with us wherever we go

Visuals: Water

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities:

Music: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Worship Leaders: HS Youth

Discussion points:

August 22, 2021: "The Reflection"

Scripture: Isaiah 65: 17-25 (NIV)

- ¹⁷ "See, I will create
new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.
- ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I will create,
for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight
and its people a joy.
- ¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem
and take delight in my people;
the sound of weeping and of crying
will be heard in it no more.
- ²⁰ "Never again will there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not live out his years;
the one who dies at a hundred
will be thought a mere child;
the one who fails to reach a hundred
will be considered accursed.
- ²¹ They will build houses and dwell in them;
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
- ²² No longer will they build houses and others live in them,
or plant and others eat.
For as the days of a tree,
so will be the days of my people;
my chosen ones will long enjoy
the work of their hands.
- ²³ They will not labor in vain,
nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;
for they will be a people blessed by the LORD,
they and their descendants with them.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer;
while they are still speaking I will hear.
²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
and dust will be the serpent's food.
They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,"
says the LORD.

Scripture: Revelation 21: 22-27 (NRSV)

²² I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Synopsis: When we begin to broaden our experience of other places and people, we face the reality of religious differences. If we continue to reflect and open our hearts, what feels so different may not be as far from us as we thought. Images like light and water are common themes across faith traditions as we seek peace, provide for basic needs, and offer love and compassion for those suffering and oppressed. How can deeper reflection connect us to the wider human family and free us to explore possibilities for a better world?

Felt need: To find common ground with people who are different from us and see God at work

Visuals: Reflections – water, mirrors, light.

Children's time possibility: Cheeses from around the world. Abundance.

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities:

Music: He Leadeth Me (UMH 128), 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord), Goodness of God (Bethel Music), Shall We Gather at the River (UMH 723)

Worship Leader: Jim Post

August 29, 2021: "Returning Home"

Scripture: Psalm 36: 5-9 (NIV)

Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.
⁶ Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.
You, LORD, preserve both people and animals.

⁷ How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
⁸ They feast on the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from your river of delights.
⁹ For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

Scripture: John 15: 1-17 (MSG)

¹⁵ ¹⁻³ “I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn’t bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

⁴ “Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can’t bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can’t bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

⁵⁻⁸ “I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you’re joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can’t produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

⁹⁻¹⁰ “I’ve loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you’ll remain intimately at home in my love. That’s what I’ve done—kept my Father’s commands and made myself at home in his love.

¹¹⁻¹⁵ “I’ve told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I’m no longer calling you servants because servants don’t understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I’ve named you friends because I’ve let you in on everything I’ve heard from the Father.

¹⁶ “You didn’t choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you.

¹⁷ “But remember the root command: Love one another.

Synopsis: After stretching our spirits and loving more of the glorious creation and its peoples, we return home, but we are not the same. We have returned memories of new friends and new perspectives – and maybe even new convictions to be more active and loving citizens of humanity right where we reside. Jesus says “abide in me” and follows that up with the commandment to love one another.

Felt need: To see how God transforms us through travel – whether near or far away – and calls us to love better through it

Visuals: Photographs

Children’s time possibility: Ways to show friendship – friendship bracelets.

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities:

Music: We Are Marching (FWS 2235), Your Love Oh Lord (Third Day)

Worship Leader: Brian Mosley