

Go and...!

Notes from 11/17/2022 Gathering on Zoom – 15 participants

Planning Team: Pastor Judy Anderson Pastor Danielle McCleary, Pastor Jay Berry, Pastor Jill Collict, Pastor Dianne Lewis, Pastor Maristela Freiberg, Pastor Courtney Smith Westerlund

Theme: Go and....! (Now it's your turn)

Welcome and Prayer: Pastor Dianne Lewis

Most gracious God, be with us this evening as we come to the close of Go and. Yet Lord, let our hearts and minds be open to using the tools and resources we have gathered through this journey. Let us remember the importance of prayer, especially prayers of Lament. Teach us the art of listening to one another and give us the spirit to learn from one another. Help us Lord that we might walk according to your will that others may follow and become your disciple. And Lord, help us conduct your work with a spirit of hope, patience, and understanding, and Lord excite in us the wisdom and power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

Dwelling in the Word: Pastor Jay Berry

““Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. ¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. ²⁰ The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, ²¹ the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.” **Isaiah 43:18-21**

What catches your attention from the passage?

- Focus on doing new things, new ministry, new way
- What is “old” vs. “new”
 - o How do we hold a place for the things of old without it limiting our ability to move into what is new

How can we share God’s crazy love for the world outside of this Go And Gathering?

- Ecumenical Christmas caroling ministry opportunity
 - o Working together in the community and bridging our divides
- Telling the story in anew way starts with listening
- Bible theme: God is always doing something but no one listens
 - o Then God does something bigger and still people don’t listen
 - o Example: Jesus getting fed up and flipping tables

Poll: which session was most impactful to you? (This was difficult because you only had to choose one)

- Spread the News, January 27th with Vicar Kayla Hopgood
- Prayer First, February 24th with Pastor Giselle Coutinho
- Lament, March 31st with Pastor Jessica Lambert
- Listen, April 28th with Bishop Dwayne D. Royster
- Share the Good News, May 26th with Rev. Dr. Christa Compton

- Tell the Story, June 30th with Pastor Nancy Nyland
- Share the Story, July 28th with Pastor Marc Stutzel
- Do Likewise, August 25th with Pastor José Escalera and Pastor Erich Kussman
- Make Disciples, September 29th with Pastor Brett Ballenger
- Rejoice, October 27th with Bishop Tracie Bartholomew

Reflection from poll responses:

- Praying with strangers was inspiring (May with Rev. Dr. Christa Compton)
- Finding out that lament can come from a busy mind and not just a calm one
- Finding ways to comprehend the community's perception of a congregation
- Learning about ministry on the ground in urban areas (August 25th with Pastor José Escalera and Pastor Erich Kussman)
- Gaining ideas for dealing with burnout and not knowing where to start
- One on One conversations, permission to listen and invest in this (April with Bishop Dwane D. Royster)
- Connection and community across the Synod
- Accessible evangelism (June with Pastor Nancy Niland)
 - o Using elevator speech/pitch to share your relationship with God
 - o Using the questions to guide a conversation and learn how to share with others during a sermon or fellowship time
- Invitation to step away from the big picture and break things down into smaller pieces

We need your help! We would love to incorporate stories into Jersey Jottings in 2023 of ministry and evangelism that happened as a result of Go And. Please share your stories and/or photos with us!

- If you submit things, we will send you a gift!

Grant Opportunities

- If you have an idea but need assistance to get it off the ground, look for a grant application on our website <https://www.njsynod.org/go-and> coming in January 2023 to get (max) \$500 to help you in your endeavor

Go And Gather: We are in the process of discussing what might come next, until then submit those stories and grant applications

Sending: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-28

“¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²²reject every kind of evil. ²³May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. ²⁵Brothers and sisters, pray for us. ²⁶Greet all God’s people with a holy kiss. ²⁷I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters. ²⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”

Blessing of Hands: raise your hands up or focus on them as you read this blessing

Look at your hands. Notice their power and gentleness. Let us bless these hands together. I invite you to say each phrase after me.

Blessed be the works of your hands, O Holy One.

Blessed be these hands that have touched life.

Blessed be these hands that have nurtured creativity.

Blessed be these hands that have held pain.

Blessed be these hands that have embraced with passion.

Blessed be these hands that have tended gardens.

Blessed be these hands that have closed in anger.

Blessed be these hands that have planted new seeds.

Blessed be these hands that have harvested ripe fields.

Blessed be these hands that have cleaned, washed, mopped, scrubbed.

Blessed be these hands that have become knotty with age.

Blessed be these hands that are wrinkled and scarred from doing justice.

Blessed be these hands that have reached out and been received.

Blessed be these hands that hold the promise of the future.

Blessed be the works of your hands, O Holy One.

Blessing from Sundays and Seasons

We hope to see you soon!

Save the Date: Synod Assembly May 13th, 2023