

## New Ideas About Ministry Emerging! Abbie Huff, The Nyack Project

Since its inception the Emerging Ministries team has been working to resource and support innovative ministries that might bring church outside of the walls of our traditional buildings and find creative ways to bring God to where people are already.

The team is constantly looking to cultivate new ideas for ministry, but especially opportunities for new leaders to try out creative forms of ministry. One hope is to someday have a cohort of “emerging ministries” so that the leaders of those ministries can support, sustain, and inspire one another as well as become an energy boost and loopback for all the churches in the presbytery.

The idea was birthed to set up an internship in a local café in New Rochelle to train someone in the art and business of running a café, with the theological framework of ministry woven throughout it. Emerging Ministries would fund this position and see what the Holy Spirit would do with it. Perhaps this person could then work to start a coffee shop in Hudson River that could also be a ministry or new worshipping community. So, a position description was written, the café owners agreed to a set of responsibilities, and this vision was set loose.

The Union Theological Seminary student that expressed interest was Suzanne Campise. In her first year in seminary, Suzanne has worked in a variety of settings with the “spiritual but not religious” and people from a range on the faith spectrum. While living in Asheville, North Carolina, Suzanne started a worship service for the service industry so that those who were serving brunch during traditional church times could find a time and place to gather and worship.

What Suzanne began to see as she interviewed for this café training position, was that it would not yet be a setting for a worship service. Perhaps faith conversations and perhaps services in the future, but not in this first trial opportunity. And Suzanne really felt called to explore the craft of creating a new worshipping community. It became clear that what she was hoping for looked much more like Abbie Huff’s work in the Nyack Project than learning how to run a café. And so Suzanne interviewed with Abbie and was a real match. The Emerging Ministries Team felt this was movement of the Spirit and agreed that they would support the opportunity for Suzanne to intern in Nyack, with the expectation that next year the café position would be clarified and ready to launch.

Suzanne is Lutheran, originally from Long Island, but has lived in Canada, New York City and North Carolina. She comes with great enthusiasm and hope for the future of the church as it learns to live outside of its walls and be present in the community in new ways. This summer, join Abbie and Suzanne in some of their upcoming events:

**Participatory Art @ First Fridays**

Main Street Gazebo, Nyack

6:00-8:00pm

June 3rd

July 1st

August 5th

**Bring Your Own Theology (BYOT)**

Casa del Sol, 104 Main Street, Nyack

7:00-8:30pm

June 23rd : Boundaries Inside & Out

July 21st : Conflict & Communication

Aug 18th : What Nourishes You?

**Creative Worship Community – details to follow**

Thurs, June 30th : Body Prayer – a free-flow dance experience

Tues, July 26th : Alternative Worship