

Worship Associates Annual Report 2020-2021

Worship Associates: Andy Capen, Bob Coulter, Tess George, Eileen Herring, Pat LadewCarl Phillips, Emma Rearick, Robin Trudel

The Worship Associates met monthly with Rev. Allison Palm, Director of Faith Formation Sadie Kahn-Greene and Ministerial Intern Ben Atherton-Zeman during 2020-2021 to plan Sunday morning services, suggest and review changes and additions to the standard order of service, and share feedback about the services. In particular this year we regularly reviewed how virtual worship services were going, and improved both the tech side of things and the worship elements as the year went on.

Once again this year, our worship services were guided by monthly themes from Soul Matters.. Our themes for this year were:

September: Renewal

October: Deep Listening

November: Healing

December: Stillness

January: Imagination

February: Beloved Community

March: Commitment

April: Becoming

May & June: Story

Each month, we begin our meeting by reflecting on the services that have taken place since the last time we met and offering feedback. Then, the Worship Associates brainstorm ideas for the worship services based on the themes. From those brainstormed suggestions, potential worship services are discussed and chosen, and Worship Associates volunteered to participate, find readings and chalice lightings, and sometimes even lead the service.

This year we had 4 guest preachers, all during Rev. Allison's Parental Leave. We also took advantage of our virtual format to use parts of three recorded worship services, two from the UUA and one from the UU Ministry for the Earth. We also did a joint Coming of Age Service with UU Manchester, honoring youth from both of our congregations.

We were pretty successful in engaging kids and youth in our services, despite the virtual format. This was aided by our fabulous Wonderbot (many thanks to Frank Grossman!), which allowed children to open the wonder box virtually from home, and the opportunity for families to participate each week by lighting the chalice. We had one explicitly All Ages Service each month, and were able to engage several children and youth in making videos and audio recordings for the services.

Worship Associates also assisted Rev. Allison in leading a small group virtually with members and friends at the Huntington once a month. Typically, these groups were focused on the theme of the month.

Once again, all of our summer services will be held online. We think you'll be delighted with who is leading worship and what they have planned. Rev. Allison is leading a Summer Worship

Workshop in April and May for those who are leading summer worship to take them through the planning and sermon writing process.

We are beginning to plan for multiplatform worship, which we hope to move to in the fall. Rev. Allison has put together a taskforce to work on this, which includes Worship Associates, Tech helpers, a Music Team member and staff.