

Worship Associates Annual Report 2022-2023

Worship Associates: Charlotte Cardone, Pat Ladew, Sonrisa O'Toole, Carl Phillips, Emma Rearick, Vengerflutta Smith, Danielle Van Dusen, Richard Widhu

The Worship Associates met monthly, often in a hybrid format, with Rev. Allison Palm, after her sabbatical, Director of Faith Formation Sadie Kahn-Greene, and Ministerial Intern Caro Barschow during 2022-2023 to plan Sunday morning services, suggest and review changes and additions to the standard order of service, and share feedback about the services.

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

September: Belonging
October: Courage
November: Change
December: Wonder
January: Finding Our Center
February: Love
March: Vulnerability
April: Resistance
May: Creativity
June: Delight

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.

Christmas Eve returned to two evening services. We also had several special services: one led by a guest preacher; one Switch It Up Sunday workshop; an outdoor animal blessing, and five Worship Associate led services, including an online evening solstice service and a casual in-person only Christmas Day service.

Multiplatform services were offered for the entire church year. We continued to integrate video and audio recordings and Zoom participants while returning to in-person interactive worship activities.

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

Again this year, all of our summer services will be multiplatform. We think you'll be delighted with who is leading worship and what they have planned. Rev. Allison led 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.

Thanks to the Worship Associates, Tech Team, Music Team and our wonderful staff, we are continuing to provide a high-quality multiplatform worship experience.