

Worship Associates Annual Report 2023-2024

Worship Associates: Charlotte Cardone, Julia Firmbach, Sam Murray, Sonrisa O'Toole, Vengerflutta Smith, Danielle Van Dusen, Richard Widhu, Dylan Yetter

The Worship Associates met monthly with Rev. Allison Palm, Director of Faith Formation Sadie Kahn-Greene, and Ministerial Intern Erin Scott during 2023-2024 to plan Sunday morning services as well as 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 gifts of:

September: Welcome
October: Heritage
November: Generosity
December: Mystery
January: Love
February: Justice & Equity
March: Transformation
April: Interdependence
May: Pluralism

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.

We had two evening services for Christmas Eve, as well as an evening Winter Solstice service. We hosted two guest preachers this year, and had 2 services led by Worship Associates. We also had two Switch It Up Sundays with workshops for all ages. New this year was a ritual to honor elders in the congregation, with 18 elders participating. We also dedicated 3 children on Easter.

Multiplatform services were offered for the entire church year. We continued to integrate some video and audio recordings and Zoom participants and sought to incorporate Zoom participants in whatever interactive elements might be planned for that Sunday. We averaged 25 computers logged on to Zoom each Sunday.

Our Summer Services will begin on June 23. The first couple will be at UU Nashua, and then we plan to shift to Temple Beth Abraham for services in July and August to accommodate our building project. 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, May and June 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.