

## 2024/2025 Annual Report

### **Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua, NH**

#### **Music Program 2024-2025**

The Music Team is doing all the music programming in-person, with a remote option for our music team meetings. We rehearse at 7:30 Wednesday evening and 9:15 Sunday morning. Our Wednesday rehearsals and our team meetings have been held in White Wing at the church, and our worship services have been in the lecture hall at Rivier University. Summer services were held at Temple Beth Abraham.

Team members include co-chairs Kathleen Griffis and Anne Smith, who is also our music librarian, co-secretaries Emma Rearick and Marissa Volpe, Member coordinator Mike Cooper, members Lindsey Hedrick, Brenna Woods, and Kathy Grossman, along with Music Director Jed Holland and Rev. Allison Palm, and they have done a great job in another year of changes.

Jed continues as a year-round employee, so he assisted all the summer service worship leaders as requested, providing keyboard music, solos, and accompaniments as needed.

We have had 29 active choir members this year. We had 1 rejoining choir member Cathy Brodeur and 2 new people (both of whom were new to the church: Steve Blunt & Libby Masek) come to sing with the choir this year.

We currently have four church members (Kim Steele, Rob Bates, Anne Smith, and Kathy Grossman) doing the work of posting recordings to [koober.uunashua.org](http://koober.uunashua.org), and have worked to input data correctly for the AV Team to do reporting in accordance with the music licensing requirements.

We provided music each of 42 Sundays of the church year, for a total of 44 choir anthems, 2 Christmas Eve songs (twice), 2 children's choir or songs, and 32 special music performances by soloists or small groups. Faith Formation Director Sadie Kahn-Greene has been facilitating the children's participation.

#### **Guest Musicians**

We had great participation by many church members and friends who provided special music for a total of 20 solos and 12 small groups. Soloists and small group singers include Kathleen Griffis, Anne Smith, Tina Marshman, Vengerflutta Smith, Kim Steele, Brenna Woods, Kathy Grossman, Lukas Firmbach, Lindsey Hedrick, Abigail Banner, Mary Licking, Sharon Machado, Marissa Volpe, Andrew Holland, Martha Holland, Harry Purkhiser, Mike Cooper, Emma Rearick, Kristal Vinson, Laurie Barry, Jessica Price, Tom Sheehan, Paul Introcaso, Jed Holland, Sadie Kahn-Greene, Erin Scott, and Rev Allison Palm.

Instrumentalists include oboist Corey Sweeney, guitarist Mike Cooper, and drummer Sara Martin.

I'm sure there were more that I have missed, because so many people contribute! Special thanks to people who stepped up multiple times, as well as our music team members who sing or play

whenever asked! And we are grateful to all of you who contributed in many many ways, small and big, throughout the year!

### **Review of Music Budget 2024-2025**

We purchased only 6 new choir songs this year. There was less need to purchase new music, as the songs in our music library had not been sung in recent years due to the pandemic, and there are fewer choir members.

We hired substitute music directors for 2 Sundays and 4 Wednesday nights. Gary Finger and Julie Oliver helped Jed to have some well-deserved time off this year.

Since we are worshipping at Rivier University this year, Jed has been using a portable electronic keyboard to provide music this year. We have not been tuning our church piano, which is staying at the church chapel this year. We will return to regular piano tunings by Paul Panek when we return to the sanctuary. Our organ has been removed.

### **Goals for 2025-2026**

- During this upcoming year our goal will be to provide music for worship services.
- The music team will focus on reintegrating into the renovated church building and helping the congregation to feel joyful back in the church.
- To keep personally connected to the individuals in the music program so they feel this church is their family, especially during troubled times.
- To find even more ways for church members and friends, including children and youth, to contribute musically to the life of the church.
- To interact with the minister, the DFF, any ministerial intern, and the worship associates to continue to bring meaningful music to our congregation.