

Worship Associates Annual Report 2024-2025

Worship Associates: Maurice Grant, Andrew Griffis, Julia Firmbach, Tina Marshman, Sam Murray, Dick Widhu, Brenna Woods

The Worship Associates met monthly with Rev. Allison Palm, Director of Faith Formation Sadie Kahn-Greene, and Ministerial Intern Erin Scott during 2024-2025 to plan Sunday morning services as well as share feedback about the services. This year, we spent some extra time discussing the logistics of worship, and offering feedback on our temporary set ups at Temple Beth Abraham and Rivier University.

Once again this year, our worship services were guided by monthly themes. However, this year we came up with our own themes. After a brainstorming session last spring, Rev. Allison and Sadie came up with the following themes for this year:

September: Creating Home
October: Authenticity
November: Practice
December: Peace
January: Seeking
February: Responsibility
March: Chaos
April: Wisdom
May/June: Blooming

Each month, we begin our meeting by reflecting on the services that have taken place since the last time we met and offering feedback. We begin planning services three months out, by brainstorming ideas for the worship services based on the themes. From those brainstormed suggestions, Rev. Allison writes a synopsis for the theme, summarizing what messages we hope the services will encompass that month. The following month we use the brainstorm and the synopsis to come up with specific worship services, and Worship Associates volunteer to participate, find readings and chalice lightings, and sometimes even lead the service.

We had two evening services for Christmas Eve, hosted this year at Alpine Grove due to construction. We also had an evening Winter Solstice service. Over the course of the year, we had one service led by Worship Associates, one led by the Board of Trustees, one led by the Pastoral Care Associates and one led by the Green Sanctuary Team. Two of our services in February were held fully online due to snow. We held a Child Dedication on Easter, where we dedicated 3 children.

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. Our Zoom setup has not been quite as robust in our temporary space, but we averaged 20-25 computers logged on to Zoom each Sunday.

Our Summer Services will begin on June 22. So far, we plan for all the summer services to be at Rivier University, and to move back into the sanctuary for the beginning of the 2025-2026 program year in September. We think you'll be delighted with who is leading worship this summer and what they have planned. Rev. Allison led a Summer Worship Workshop in May for those who are leading summer worship to take them through the planning and sermon writing process. A special treat this summer will be a three week pulpit swap between Rev. Allison and Rev. Kate Dean. Rev. Kate will lead worship on July 27, August 3 and August 10.

We will be saying farewell to two of our Worship Associates at the end of this year: Dick Widhu and Andrew Griffis. We are grateful for all the time, wisdom and energy they brought to our team! We hope to welcome three new Worship Associates to the team next year.