

2025/2026 Annual Report

Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua, NH

Music Program 2025-2026

The Music Team is doing all the music programming in-person, with a remote option for our music team meetings. We changed our Wednesday evening rehearsal times slightly to see if we could accommodate more people. We now rehearse at 7:15 - 8:30 Wednesday evenings in the chapel, followed by small group and soloist practice, and at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary. This year, we've been back at the church building after our year at Rivier, and during the first month back we held services outdoors in the parking lot, sometimes singing in the rain!

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, Kathy Grossman, and our newest member Sara Martin, 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 32 choir members this year: (Bass: Paul I, John L, Dave K, Steven S, Steve S, and Tim C; Tenor: Lindsey H, Kathy G, Burns F, Libby M, Mike C, Jessica P, and Wendy G; Alto: Mary L, Mary S, Laurie B, Emma R, Anne S, Geri D, Kathy F, Marissa V, Rocio G, and Martha H; Soprano: Brenna W, Kathleen G, Pam M, Kim S, Vengerfelutta S, Shoshanna K, Pat J, Kristal V, and Sara M). We had 1 rejoining choir member (Tim Cleaveland), and 7 new people come to sing with the choir this year: Pat John, Shoshanna Kelly, Dave Kelly, Wendy Geffner-Smith, Steven Skoldberg, Rocio Gutierrez-Skoldberg, and Steve Shaw), 6 of whom were new to the church: (Shoshanna, David, Wendy, Steven, Rocio, and Steve).

We currently have four church members (Kim Steele, Rob Bate, Anne Smith, and Kathy Grossman) doing the work of posting recordings to 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 on all but one of 42 Sundays of the church year, for a total of 39 choir anthems, 2 Christmas Eve songs (for two services), 3 children's or family choir songs, and 39 special music performances by soloists or small groups. Faith Formation Director Sadie Kahn-Greene has been facilitating the children's participation.

Mary Licking bid on the music team's auction item to choose a song for a service, and she and a small group sang a beautiful and fun song!

The music team sponsored one service led by musician Matt Meyer. This was followed by lunch provided by the music team, and a workshop of protest singing led by Matt after the service.

Our choir also sang in three ceremonies this year. We sang at the celebration of life services for John Burkitt & Dan Murphy, and at the ordination and naming of Sámhna Scott.

Guest Musicians

We had great participation by many church members and friends who provided special music for a total of 24 solos and 15 small groups. Vocal soloists and small group singers include Tess George, Harry Purkhiser, Kathy Grossman, Marissa Volpe, Brenna Woods, Lindsey Hedrick, Jess Woods, Kathleen Griffis, Vengerflutta Smith, Steve Ladew, Sara Martin, Kathy Fletcher, Kathy Grossman's brother Eric Meyer, Anne Smith, Laurie Barry, Mary Licking, Geri Davidson, Pam Michael, Kim Steele, Paul Introcaso, Kristal Vinson, Sean Chadwick, Laurel G, Shoshanna Kelly, Libby Masek, Marissa Volpe's sister Margo Houde, Vanessa Hale, Jed Holland, Sharon Machado, and Abby B.

Instrumentalists include Mike Cooper on guitar & mandola, Sara Martin on cajon & drum set, Burns Fisher on clarinet, Jaydan H on clarinet & trumpet & bass clarinet, Kathy Grossman on guitar, Mary Licking on harmonica, Sharon Machado on jaw harp, and Graham C on cello. A very special thanks to Jaydan and Sara for providing instrumental music on frequent Sundays throughout the church year.

Dancers include Olympia P, Laurel G, and many youth!

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, including your beautiful and enthusiastic congregational singing!

Review of Music Budget 2025-2026

We purchased only eight new choir songs this year. We opted to intentionally use more music from our current library in order to see what was still relevant.

We hired substitute music directors for 2 Sundays and 2 Wednesday nights. Gary Finger, Dan Murphy, and Jennifer Erdody helped Jed to have some well-deserved time off this year.

We paid for the UU digital hymnal this year.

We sponsored a service and workshop by visiting musician Matt Meyer.

We resumed regular piano tunings when we returned to the sanctuary.

Goals for 2026-2027

- To provide music for worship services.
- To continue to focus on helping the congregation feel joyful and connected 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, the ministerial intern, and the worship associates to continue to bring meaningful music to our congregation.