

Worship Committee

Chair and members:

- Stephen Henninger (Chair) (Worship Associate; WA)
- Kristine Reid
- Arthur Snoke
- KC Arceneaux
- Victoria Taylor (WA)
- Kimberely Homer (WA)
- Ellen Plummer (WA)
- David Lally (resigned in May) (WA)
- Jim Kern (resigned in April) (WA)
- Hayden Catlett (hiatus in January) (WA)
- Earle Irwin (hiatus in March) (WA)
- Rev. Pam

Purpose of the Committee: The Worship Committee advises the Minister on worship themes, elements, and rituals. Comprising lay-worship leaders (i.e. Worship Associates) and Congregants, this group meets monthly to discuss past services, upcoming services, and items pertinent to worship.

Achievements: During the 2019-2020 year, the Worship Committee is proud to have emphasized all family and multi-sensory worship, prior to COVID-19. Examples include activity tables throughout the sanctuary for individuals to engage with during the service. Additionally, a large portion of the achievements are post-COVID-19. Converting weekly worship to Zoom format has proved to be a considerable undertaking, but feedback indicates that the worship team is hitting the right notes on this front and providing impactful worships. Additionally, the mid-week gatherings have been an achievement - to provide impactful and sacred space on Wednesday evenings to extend worship throughout the week.

Lessons learned: While the majority of the lessons learned have been how to hold a meaningful virtual worship (e.g. power point, music, shorter sermon, etc) the worship committee notes that when we are able to incorporate the youth in services (e.g. YRUU leading a time for all ages for the mitten project) we have had particular success. Additionally, changing the seating in the sanctuary at the start of the year provided many challenges - and solutions - to the offering and lighting candles. The worship team had thoughtful discussions on these to make the seating structure work within the ritual of worship.

Expenses for the year to date:

Sunday services/flowers: \$310.57

Guest speakers: \$1800

How does the committee work to further our mission and vision? The worship committee works to provide spiritual and ethical growth and a compassionate community through weekly worship that is welcoming, thoughtful, and timely.

Goals for coming year and how do they further our mission and vision? Goals for the coming year of the worship committee are:

- Increase number of WAs (if necessary)
- Continue to explore other worship options, in addition to Sunday service and Wednesday gathering
- New technologies in worship, particularly when we return to in person we will still need to provide a virtual option for Congregants
- Need to purchase a license for certain technologies/aspects of the service (e.g. pieces in the hymnals)
- Incorporate the choir into virtual services
- Answering the question: how do we make music that won't put the Congregation at risk amidst COVID?