

Worship Team 2020-2021 Report

Membership: KC Arceneux, Hayden Catlett, Stephen Henninger (Chair), Kimberley Homer, Tommy Iafrate, Gretchen Luke, Rev. Pam Phillips, Ellen Plummer, Kristine Reid, Alyssa Short, Arthur Snoke, and Victoria Taylor.

Purpose: The Worship Team, in consultation with the Minister, is responsible for the weekly Sunday services and Mid-Week Gathering. Through dynamic worship opportunities, the Worship Team helps further the mission of our Congregation by inspiring spiritual and ethical growth for members and friends, creating a compassionate community for our Congregation, and transforming the larger community through our call to live our faith.

Achievements: For the 2020-2021 church year, the Worship Team confronted many challenges and was required to approach worship in new ways due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Moments of success included adding new Team members, including members from other states! Additionally, the Worship Team held a worship service *every week* of the year. We also continued hosting the Mid-Week Gathering for a mid-week worship opportunity. Finally, we saw the members of the Worship Team carrying a heavier load during weekly services: worship associates regularly contributed personal reflections, homilies, and sermons. Feedback from the Congregation was particularly impressed with these additions. Finally, while Jared and Natalie are not members of the Worship Team, Jared and Natalie created *incredible* music to share with our Congregation.

Lessons Learned: Through our virtual offerings, Congregants were able to attend and stay engaged with worship from *wherever* they were; we regularly had members joining while on vacation or visiting family and friends. This increased connections and engagement in our Congregation. The Worship Team also embraced technology: technology can enrich our worship, when used appropriately. We also learned technical skills of how to make videos, music, and other ways to enhance worship. Finally, we learned to give each other grace and not expect perfection - particularly because of technology - and also letting more voices in our worship from members outside of the Worship Team (e.g. the service where we invited 'artists' in our Congregation to share reflections). These lessons greatly enhanced our weekly worship.

Goals for 2021-2022: Looking ahead, the Worship Team sets the following goals:

1. Host quality way to host hybrid services. We anticipate members still wanting to connect virtually for worship.
2. Maintain accessibility in worship. Zoom allows us to have visual aids and closed captioning. Ensuring accessibility when gathering in person of Zoom is not lost.
3. Continue to expand Worship Team members. With the demand of a hybrid service, we will need more technological expertise. Further, we hope to add more young voices to the Worship Team to ensure our services remain dynamic and multigenerational.

Expenses to Date: \$566.47. Includes Soul Matters materials, video/music rights, and guest speaker.