

2022-2023 Annual Report of the Worship & Music Committee

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta

Members: Adeline Bailey, Reverend Kathryn Hawbaker, Martha McGovern (chair), Maggie Meyer, Suzyn Mills, Annie Warmke (Martha Webster – Choir Director; Randall Kidder – Pianist; Jane Tumas-Serna – Aesthetics; Nancy Luthy – Board Liaison)

Mission: The mission of the Worship and Music Committee is to collaborate with the minister in planning and presenting meaningful and inspiring worship services of high quality.

Goals:

- Strive to achieve worship services that challenge the intellect, promote spiritual growth, connect emotionally, develop a sense of community, and inspire the congregation to action.
- Bring in speakers and provide services that represent diverse points of view.
- Continue to provide services and activities that promote interaction across the life span (generations) within the life of FUUSM.
- Increase the involvement of the congregation in the musical elements of the service through performances and hymn singing.
- Expand outreach to the community through performances and activities.
- Develop and encourage lay participation. Continue to recruit lay worship associates and leaders and provide ongoing guidance for laypersons to develop and deliver effective worship services.
- Strengthen a collaborative style of worship planning among the Worship Committee members, Worship Associates, members of the congregation and the minister, and (when it is reactivated) members of the BRIDGES Program Council.

Highlights of the 2022-2023 Year in Relation to Stated Goals

1. In terms of worship services, the Committee has endeavored to balance continuity and variety. We continued to organize services around the theme question of “How can we be mindful and authentic in cherishing all life?” as well as other UUA suggested themes and programs.
2. To address the goals of solidifying community and expanding our outreach, Annie Warmke and Roger Kalter provided the inspiration for a multi-month Homecoming 2022 campaign, which launched in February and culminated at the end of July. After two years of separation and isolation, we celebrated FUUSM’s 157th year by reconnecting with members, friends, and families – near and far. As follow-up from that event, we identified the first Sunday of each month as a “Bring a Friend” opportunity and are scheduling special coffees with tours on a quarterly basis. To raise community awareness, FUUSM also was a stop on Marietta’s holiday Tour of Lights, and recently, the Paper Airplane Contest brought publicity and community participation to FUUSM.
3. A major advancement has been the consistent acknowledgement of indigenous peoples. The Welcome routinely mentions our commitment to honoring the history of the MOV area, and the contributions and on-going challenges of native peoples are often highlighted in services.

Service Records 2022-2023

2022

March

- 6 A Homecoming Sunday: Cooperating in Community – Shukla Family, Rev. Hawbaker, Elaine Barr, Betsy Hune-Kalter
- 13 A March of UU Women’s Lives – Rev. Hawbaker, Maggie Meyer, Suzyn Mills, Martha McGovern (WL)
- 20 World Water Day – Rev. Hawbaker
- 27 International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery: Remembrance, Resolve, & Resilience – Rev. Hawbaker

April

- 3 A Homecoming Sunday: The Power of Giving & Service Our FUUSM Family – Rev. Hawbaker
- 10 Palm Sunday Sing Out Praises for the Journey -- Rev. Hawbaker
- 17 Easter Raise Your Hands in Praise – Rev. Hawbaker
- 24 Earth Day: Challenges & Opportunities in Appalachia -- Members of Green Sanctuary
WL: Rebecca Phillips **Annual Meeting**

May

- 1 A Homecoming Sunday – May Day “A Meaningful Message” – Laurel Hobden
WL: Rev. Hawbaker
- 8 Celebration of Parents Day: A. Clovis, L. Gallucci, J. Kidd, D. Thrasher WL: Suzyn Mills
- 15 Art Communicates Social Change in Community – Rev. Hawbaker
- 22 Migrations – Rev. Hawbaker
- 29 Memorial Day: Honoring All Who Serve – Rev. Hawbaker

June

- 5 A Homecoming Sunday -- Flower Communion Making a Difference Through Networks & Organizations – Rev. Hawbaker
- 12 “Where Will You Be? Dangers Facing LGBTQIA+” -- Jeanne Peters WL: Andrew Clovis
- 19 MOV Multi-Cultural Festival
- 26 “Woven in a Single Garment of Destiny” – Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray UUA video
worship service

July

- 3 A Homecoming Sunday “Nahum Ward – A Celebration of His Life” – Lace Lynch
WL: Suzyn Mills, Annie Warmke
- 10 “Because Church” – Rev. Sean Neil-Barron (part of GA 2022 Closing Worship *Meet the Moment*)
- 17 Working in a Circle – Rev. Hawbaker
- 24 “Our Windows on the World” – Carol Steinhagen WL: M. McGovern, S. Mills
- 29-July 31 HOMECOMING CELEBRATION WEEKEND When We Give Our Best – Rev. Kat

August

- 7 Reflecting on Our Homecoming Experience WL: Annie Warmke & Suzyn Mills
- 14 Intersectionality – Rev. Hawbaker
- 21 Caring Committee: “Our Caring Circle” – Cathy Rees “Comfort Care in a Caring Community” – Krissy Kearns WA: Rebecca Phillips

Record of Choir Performances – 2022-2023

March 6	“Become Yourself”
March 20	Solo by Martha Webster – “There’s a River Flowin’ in My Soul”
April 3	“I Will Sing”
May 22	“Tumekuja Kuimba”
July 17	“Life is Calling Us”
September 18	“All Will Be Well”
November 20	“At This Table”
December 18	“Dark of Winter”
December 24	“Gather Round the Manger,” “Candlelight Canon”
January 22	“The Oneness of Everything”
February 5	“Change the World”

Celebrations of Life

George R. Lisk	“All the Good People”	February 19
Thomas Sharretts	recording of FUUSM Choir “The Music of Life”	November 13