**2021-2022 Annual Report of the Worship & Music Committee**

**First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta**

**Members:** Adeline Bailey, Peg Clifford, 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 training 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 members of the BRIDGES Program Council.

**Highlights of the 2021-2022 Year in Relation to Stated Goals**

1. The biggest challenge over this year has been to provide hybrid Sunday services in response to changing pandemic conditions. We are grateful to Mike Bailey, Elaine Barr, Kat Hawbaker, Ralph Olander, Al Tuttle, and Michelle Wilson for their efforts to acquire new technology and their willingness to learn new skills in order to produce a variety of effective services for both in Sanctuary and virtual participants.
2. 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?” In addition, Annie Warmke and Roger Kalter provided the inspiration for a multi-month Homecoming 2022 campaign, which launched in February and will culminate at the end of July. After two years of separation and isolation, we are aiming to celebrate FUUSM’s 157th year by reconnecting with members, friends, and families – near and far.
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.
4. We have made significant strides toward establishment of a library for choir music. Choir Director Martha Webster has organized the music we currently have and is working with Buildings & Grounds to identify the best location for storage. She also is honoring copyright laws by buying sheet music for all members of the choir.
5. We have continued to encourage lay participation, especially by including voices of members and friends in both virtual and in-person statements. Also, various groups (The Board of Trustees, Green Sanctuary, Choir, Men’s Group, Women’s Group, Finance Committee) have planned and presented Sunday worship services.
6. Despite obstacles, we have been able to present diverse perspectives: using recorded services from UUA, General Assembly, Meadville Lombard and other UU congregations, taking a virtual fieldtrip to a Brooklyn UU congregation, and signing on to Andrew McKnight’s zoomed service. We also welcomed 12 guest speakers, drummer Lawrence Rashad Greene and 11 others.
7. Reverend Hawbaker was able to hold non-Sunday morning observances (Blessing of the Animals, Winter Solstice) and the Christmas Eve candlelight service (in person and on Zoom).
8. We have continued to weave perspectives from world faiths into our services by highlighting diverse holidays, by observing World Interfaith Harmony Week, and by exploring concepts from the perspectives of multiple faiths.
9. Although we could not sing in the Sanctuary, we incorporated recorded singing by our own and other congregations/groups and by the FUUSM Choir. We have also incorporated instrumental music, recorded by pianist Randall Kidder or available from other sources.

**Future Plans**

As we recover from the pandemic situation, we will:

1. Continue improvement of our technology capabilities for both in-church and virtual services.
2. Revitalize the Worship Associates and Time for All Ages teams.
3. Maintain and expand our use of new worship resources.
4. Continue movement toward establishing the Music Library for the Choir.
5. Support the renewal of the BRIDGES program and collaborate on planning integrated activities.

**Thank You**

The Worship and Music Committee wishes to thank the many individuals who have contributed to the worship services this year and to express our gratitude to the congregation a whole for its constructive feedback. We appreciate the leadership that Reverend Kat Hawbaker has provided throughout this past year. Our survival has required all of us to pull together, and we have done so. We are, indeed, a beloved community.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha McGovern, Chair, Worship & Music Committee

**Service and Attendance Records 2021-2022**

**2021 Households**

March

7 UUA Service: Loved into Being – Rev. Mariela Perez-Simons 24

14 The Hidden Spirituality of Men – Rev. Hawbaker & Men’s Group 24

21 Investing in Other People: UU Women Past & Present – Women’s Group,

S. Mills & A. Warmke 24

28 Welcoming the Stranger – Rev. Hawbaker 24

April

4 Cherishing All Life -- Rev. Hawbaker \_\_

11 Resilient Religious Communities – Rev. Hawbaker 23

18 Earth Day: Resilience & Sustainability – Green Sanctuary \_\_

25 Annual Meeting 29

May

2 International Workers Day: Celebrating Labor & Unions – Rev. Hawbaker 21

9 Mother’s Day: All Children Are Our Children – Alice Stewart Rev. Hawbaker \_\_

16 A Day in a Life, A Life in a Day – Dr. Katy McDaniel 19

23 Arbor Day: Trees of Life – Rev. Hawbaker \_\_

30 Memorial Day: We Remember Them-- Actions that Sanctify K.Hawbaker, M.McGovern

June

6 Flower Communion: Common Unity – Rev. Hawbaker

13 Change of Heart & Mind – Dr. David Talbott on Daniel Parker, Universalist Preacher

20 Meadville Lombard in the Pulpit: “Going to the Well of Living Waters” – Rev. Nancy

McDonald Ladd (on Zoom)

27 GA Sunday Morning Service (on Zoom)

July

4 Dreamers All: Striving Toward the Ideal – Rev. Hawbaker

11 Growing Your Own National Park – Rebecca Phillips

18 How Do We Grow & Enhance Diversity? – Rev. Hawbaker

25 Widening the Circle of Concern & Participation – Rev. Hawbaker

August

1 Vulnerability & Resilience – Zena Grecni

8 Field Trip to Planetarium **and** Watch Party “Braiding Sweetgrass” Rev. Bob LaVallee, First

UU Church of Albuquerque

15 How Can We Keep from Singing? – Choir

22 Logan’s Cabin: Insight into Multi-ethnic Living on the Ohio Frontier – Dr. James O’Donnell

29 Trekking Through Our Seasons – Sandra P. Bush, Poet

September

5 Attunement for Atonement – Lawrence Rashad Greene, drummer

12 Water In-Gathering – Rev. Hawbaker

19 Taking UU Principles with a Grain of Pepper – George Banziger, Piyush Shukla

26 Tilling Our Common Ground – Andrew McKnight

October

3 Blessing of the Animals: Reverence for All Life (UU+Book Club) – Rev. Hawbaker

10 Indigenous Peoples Day, National Coming Out Day: What Is a Welcoming Congregation? – Rev.

Hawbaker

17 A Deeper Recovery: From Grief to Sanctified Living – Rev. Hawbaker & M. McGovern

24 Social Justice Issues of Domestic Violence: The Road to Thriving: What does it take, how

can we get it for ourselves and help others get it? – Annie Warmke

31 Day of the Dead – Rev. Hawbaker with Jane Tumas-Serna

November

7 Navigating Uncertainties – FUUSM Board of Trustees

14 The Ethic of the Common Good – Rob McManus, Ph.D.

21 Thanksgiving Service [All Ages] – Rev. Hawbaker

28 Advent 1/Eve of Hanukkah: Light One Candle – Rev. Hawbaker

December

5 Advent 2: No Justice, No Peace – Rev. Hawbaker

12 Advent 3: Seize Joy – Rev. Hawbaker

19 Advent 4: All You Need Is Love – Rev. Hawbaker

*21 Winter Solstice Spiral*

*24 Christmas Eve for All Ages – on Zoom and in Sanctuary*

26 The 7 Principles of Kwanzaa – Rev. Hawbaker

**2022**

January

2 Fire Communion– Rev. Hawbaker

9 Open My Eyes That I May See – Rev. Hawbaker

16 MLK: The Third Reconstruction – Rev. Hawbaker

23 Pledging Our Support for FUUSM – Finance Committee

30 Chinese New Year for All Ages: Different Ways of Counting – Rev. Hawbaker

February

6 Charter Sunday: Launch of UU Homecoming 2022

13 World Interfaith Harmony Week: Can We Hear the Consistent Message? – M. McGovern

20 “Cosmic Colonization” Virtual Field Trip to First Unitarian Congregational Society in

 Brooklyn, NY – S. Mills

27 Black Lives Matter: Sankofa (Looking Back to Move Ahead) – Rev. Hawbaker