**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 2021-2022 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.
4. We have continued to make significant strides toward establishment of a library for choir music. Choir Director Martha Webster has organized the music we currently have and has established an area for storage in the RE Building. She also is honoring copyright laws by buying copies of 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, Green Sanctuary, Social Justice, Caring, and Membership Committees and the Braiding Sweetgrass study group have planned and presented Sunday worship services.
6. We have been able to present diverse perspectives by using recorded materials from UUA, General Assembly and other UU congregations. We also welcomed various guest speakers (Laurel Hobden, Jeanne Peters, Lace Lynch, Geoff Schenkel, Timber Hawkeye, Steve Free, Tony Mayle, Jay Warmke).
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 diverse world faiths into our services by having speakers of various faiths, highlighting diverse holidays, observing World Interfaith Harmony Week, and exploring concepts from the perspectives of multiple faiths.
9. Although we often could not sing in the Sanctuary, we incorporated recorded vocal and instrumental music. Lately, we have returned to regular performances by the Choir, and pianist Randall Kidder has creatively expanded his musical repertoire.

**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 as a whole for its constructive feedback. We especially appreciate the leadership that Reverend Kat Hawbaker has provided throughout this past year, the jolt of energy that Roger Kalter and Annie Warmke gave us, and the aesthetic attention that Jane Tumas-Serna has given to the seasonal and thematic displays in the Sanctuary. An ongoing challenge continues to be providing hybrid Sunday services in response to changing conditions. We are grateful to Mike Bailey, Elaine Barr, Kat Hawbaker, Ralph Olander, Al Tuttle, and Jonathan Brier 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.

We are, indeed, a beloved community.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha McGovern, Chair, Worship & Music Committee

**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

29-July 31 HOMECOMING CELEBRATION WEEKEND

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

28 Art: An Instrument for Building Community – Geoff Schenkel WL: Dawn Hewitt

September

4 Labor Day: Our Relationship with Our Work WL: Martha McGovern

11 Water Communion – Rev. Hawbaker + Reflections on Braiding Sweetgrass (A. Bailey, J.

 Coffey, K. Jacobs, J. Tumas-Serna)

18 Building a Beloved Community – Rev. Hawbaker

25 Mindfulness & the Path to Peace – Timber Hawkeye WL: Chris & Kelcey Jacobs

October

2 Forgiveness: Yom Kippur – Rev. Hawbaker WA: Martha McGovern

9 Making Decisions in a Democracy – Rev. Hawbaker

16 National Domestic Violence Month: How Women Learn to Thrive WL: Suzyn Mills &

Annie Warmke

23 Sources & Resources of Our Religious Faith – Rev. Hawbaker

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

November

6 A Time & Place of Welcoming and Belonging – Membership Committee & Rev.

Hawbaker

13 Message in Music – Steve Free WL: Rev. Hawbaker

20 Thanksgiving Service [All Ages] “Grateful for Gathering Together”– Rev. Hawbaker

27 Advent 1: Counting the Days – Rev. Hawbaker

December

4 Advent 2: Joy Ribbon Communion – Rev. Hawbaker

11 Advent 3: Love Love the Earth and All Creatures Great & Small – Rev. Hawbaker

18 Advent 4: Peace A Path of Peace: When the Sacred and Secular Intertwine – Rev.

Hawbaker

*21 Winter Solstice Spiral*

*24 Christmas Eve for All Ages: “Each and Every Child” –* Rev. Hawbaker (*Zoom, in Sanctuary)*

25 Brunch in Social Hall Worship & Music Committee

**2023**

January

1 Fire Communion– Rev. Hawbaker

8 “Stories That Heal and Guide Us” – Martha McGovern, WA: Suzyn Mills

15 “We Walk the Road They Traveled” – Tony Mayle (Associate Dean of Students &

Director of Diversity and Inclusion, MC) with students & Rev. Hawbaker

22 Lunar New Year: Year of the Rabbit “Measuring Time” – Rev. Hawbaker

29 A Work in Progress – Rev. Hawbaker

February

5 World Interfaith Harmony Week: Won’t You Be My Neighbor? WL Martha McGovern

with MJ Ebenhack, Carol Sedgwick, George Banziger (members of MOV Interfaith)

12 30 Days of Love “Love Where Been/Going to” – Rev. Hawbaker

19 Precedents That Guide Our UUA Presidential Election – Rev. Hawbaker

26 It’s the End of the World as We Know It – and I Feel Fine! – Jay Warmke Suzyn Mills, WL