

The Worship Committee

For nearly 25 years our congregation has valued a collaborative worship model. An active Worship Committee works every month with the Minister to plan services for the congregation and to fill the pulpit on the Minister's Sunday off. Lay-lead services have long enriched the congregation, letting us get to know each other in a deeper way and develop meaningful worship experiences that complement those of our settled minister.

The Worship Committee works very closely with the Minister to plan and deliver services that appeal to all ages in the congregation. Children participate in worship services and enjoy sharing their joys and concerns and listening to the Story for All Ages. They are a part of services until they leave for their Circles. This worship approach is extended on some Sundays to a Whole Congregation worship model where we are together as a church family for the entire service.

The Worship Committee is responsible for one service each month and invites members and friends to help in collaborative planning and preparation for that service. More than 70 people have participated in this model over the years sharing their spiritual development, interests and lives with us. For the past two years media has enriched all worship through the use of two large screen TVs that project visuals and live stream video. Worship Committee members do the work of preparation of this well-received addition to worship, prepare the sanctuary for every service, and take responsibility for technical support. Recent improvements to the front of the sanctuary include better staging for music and skits during worship and offer more options for placing the choir on risers in two different areas. The sound system now offers more microphones for speakers and singers, and we've made hearing assisted devices available for those with hearing challenges.

Like most congregations we have our traditions in worship such as an ingathering water communion ceremony, an outdoor service to celebrate our relationship with nature, an All Soul's service to honor those we have lost, a Winter Solstice service with greens, candles, and opportunities for all ages to share in the wonder as light changes and the cycle turns, two special music services, and opportunities for us to celebrate connection and service. Members and friends may have different spiritual backgrounds and interests, but worshipping together in an open and thoughtful way has made us a strong congregation with shared values and caring connections.