

WORSHIP ASSOCIATES ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

Rev. Janet Newman Burns Fisher Kathy Fletcher Roy Goodman
Elizabeth Lewis Sharon Machado Dan Murphy John Sanders Anya Zakiewicz

Worship Associates meet once each month during the church year. We focus on the elements involved in Sunday morning services. Our discussions are directly related to the spiritual concerns and needs of our congregation as a whole. We look at all aspects of our Sunday services and review their effectiveness in the overall outcome of each service.

Worship Associates actively participate by filling roles in the service as needed by our Interim Minister, the Rev. Janet Newman and also by our Interim Director of Lifespan Religious Education and student minister, Meredith Olson. Normally, we assist by performing the Chalice Lighting, the Words for Reflection and Extinguishing the Chalice. Sometimes we tell the Story For All Ages or hold the Conversation With Our Children. And sometimes we'll contribute part of the sermon or lead the entire service, as we did this year with our "What is Your 'Good Book'?" service and also with the Bread Service, when Janet had a medical emergency.

We also help out by hosting a guest minister, when needed. This past year, we've hosted two guest ministers: Rev. Jeanne Nieuwejaar and Rev. M'ellen Kennedy.

Of course, we also had a very special kind of guest minister during Candidate Week when Rev. Allison Palm was assisted by former Worship Associates, Laurie Goodman and Gary Lerude and was unanimously called to be our new settled minister. Laurie and Gary had also assisted and organized the "Search Committee Reflections" service.

Our participation fits in with the belief that having members of the congregation in visible roles during Sunday Service creates a unified and comfortable ambience to each service.

We have a great list of volunteers to lead our summer services this year:

- 6/21 Jerry Ross on "Deeds And Not Creeds"
- 6/28 Roy Goodman on "The Ten Commandments"
- 7/5 Gary Lerude on "Preparing For a New Ministry"
- 7/12 Mary Licking on "A UU's Perspective on Bonhoeffer"
- 7/19 Elizabeth Lewis and Lori Lerude on "The End of Life"
- 7/26 Laurie Goodman on "Finding the Sacred in Ruins"
- 8/2 Dan Murphy on "Naked And Not Afraid"
- 8/9 Pat Ladew on "40 Years of Yoga, Off The Mat"
- 8/16 Sharon Machado on "How Open The Door?"
- 8/23 Rev. Allison Palm on "Stepping Boldly into the Unknown"
- 8/30 Grace & Ben Morton and friends on "Music For The Soul"
- 9/6 John Sanders on "My Kind Of Buddhism"

We remain sensitive to the needs and desires of our church community, especially as we embark on a new settled ministry. Rev. Allison Palm and her Worship Associates welcome all suggestions, words of appreciation and concerns regarding how we might improve our Sunday worship experience.

John Sanders & Anya Zakiewicz, Co-Chairs