

Worship Committee

Report to the 1U Annual Congregational Meeting – May 19, 2019

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Dr. Janet Newman on behalf of the Committee

The task of the Worship Committee is to coordinate with the minister on the theme, format, and content of the worship services at First Unitarian Church.

This was an unusual time for the Team as Rev. Kathy Schmitz stepped back from her ministry in January 2019, and Rev. Janet Newman became the Bridging Minister at that time. Thanks to Rev. Kathy's work, much of the structure of the services was already designed and available to the Team and minister.

The Team and Janet met monthly except for February when scheduling difficulties prevented a meeting.

The Worship Team helped orient Janet during their January meeting, and they mutually continued to communicate expectations over the next months.

Because there was no time to plan themes for the services, Aubrey, Janet, and the Team decided on mini-themes month by month. January's mini-theme was "Ministry" since Rev. Kathy was leaving the ministry of 1U and Rev. Janet was entering it.

The mini-theme for February was "Love," and the Generational Reflections series began with the persons in their 90s and 80s presenting homilies in a service under Janet's guidance. Rev. Kierstin Homblette-Allen was a guest preacher.

The mini-theme for March was "Music," and Aubrey presented a sermon which was very well-received. The Generation for March was persons in their 70s and 60s. All the music groups at 1U participated in Music Sunday.

The mini-theme for April was "Nature," and RUUM gentlemen were recruited to present homilies on the theme.

Throughout this period, Words for All Ages were researched and skillfully presented to the congregation by members of the Worship Team, the Director of Children and Youth Ministries, and others in connection with the mini-theme each week.

In addition, volunteers from the Team, especially Karla Kizzort, provided the slides for the hymn lyrics and other material from the order of service, often on very short notice.

Members of the Worship Team are Dave Shine, Neil Boris, Karla Kizzort, Joe Donatone, John Brockman, Aubrey Connelly-Candelario, Ridge Holdridge, and for part of the year, Logan Donahoo.