

Pastor's Report April 2023

The following is an update regarding items within the Ministry Areas and Communications.

This is informational in nature.

The only action needed by the Governing Board is to agree to a date to hold an all-Leaders meeting.

I. Upcoming Activities and Dates

Apr 15	11am	Austen Eadie-Friedmann Memorial Service
Apr 16	10am	Welcome Mitra
Apr 20	1pm	Senior Social
Apr 22	All day	SNEUCC Lay Delegate Training at FCCW
Apr 23	10am	Intergenerational Earth Day service
Apr 29	7:30 - 8am	Marathon Start/send off
Apr 30	10am	Guest Speaker singer/song writer Peter Mayer
May ??	Date tbd	Meeting with EWCC re Summer Services
May 4	7:30pm	Sally Rogers Every Day is Mother's Day concert
May 7	3 pm	Rev. Debbie's Installation in Colchester
May 14	10am	Mother's Day and SNEUCC Executive Minister Rev. Darrell Goodwin
May 17	9am	June July August Share Content Deadline
May 20	9am-12n	SNEUCC Regional Gathering in Oxford Ma
May 20	3pm	Alyssa McDonagh and Evan Salvatore Wedding
May 20	7pm	Winds of Song concert
May 28	10am	Maria's last day as Music Director
May 29	10am noon	Memorial Day Hill Cemetery Commemoration Town Parade and ceremony
Jun 10		Town Wide Yard Sale Leader?
Jun 11	10am	Aurora Stone Baptism
Jun 18	10am	Father's Day
Jun 17	9am – 4pm	SNEUCC Annul Meeting Worcester Ma
Jun 19		Witness Stone Project Ceremony
May - Jun	Date tbd	Juniper Webster Baptism
July - Aug	9am worship	Sue preaching July 2, 9, 23, Aug 27, Sept 3; Noah July 16

II. Ministry Areas

A) Worship:

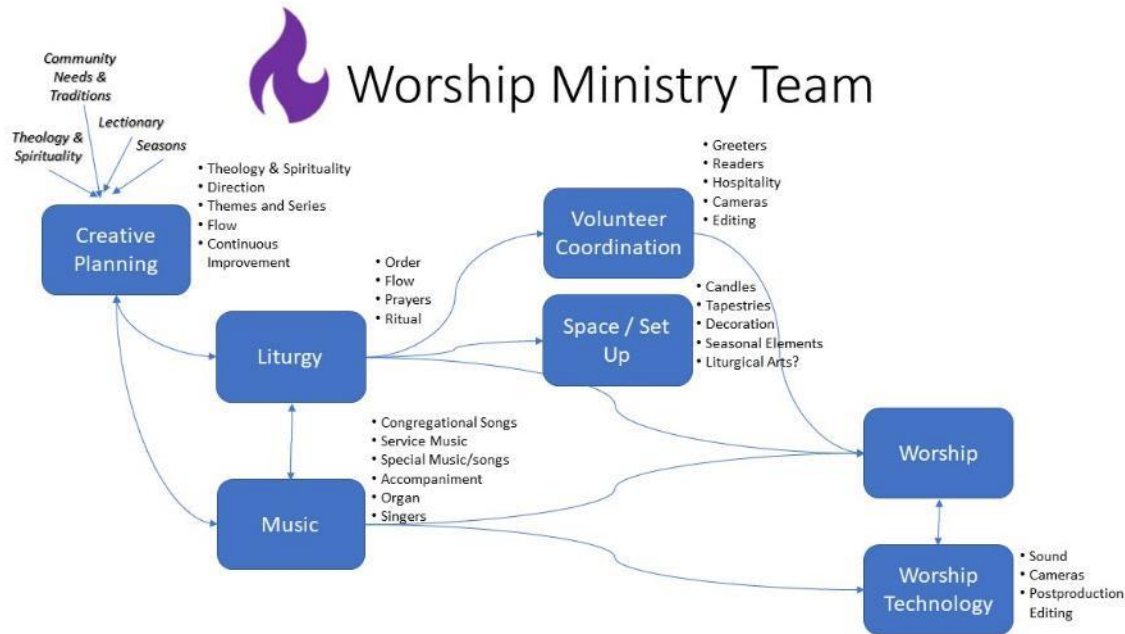
Twelve people attended our worship retreat at the Mercy Center. Overall, the day was successful in building community and helping us begin to see worship as an integrated ministry. Next steps include holding an abbreviated session for anyone interested in worship who was unable to attend.

Following our retreat, Maria shared that she is stepping down as our Music Director at the end of May. Maria intends to continue to be part of the music team and occasionally share her gifts of music and song during worship, but she recognizes that we need additional skills in a Music Director going forward. We will celebrate her ministry on May 28.

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In the meantime, we are forming a search team and updating the job description. We will follow a similar approach to what we did at the end of 2021.

Regarding the Worship Ministry Team Structure, I have asked the team to consider the following refinement:



Creative Worship Team will shepherd the direction of Worship, refine the flow and liturgy of worship, and explore proposed and potential themes for worship. The Creative Worship team will include representatives from other teams that are part of the overall worship ministry, e.g., music, deacons, technology, liturgy, hospitality, etc. (

Music Ministry Team (all involved in music) will meet at least monthly outside of Creative Worship to build community within the music ministry, review upcoming worship themes, share ideas for songs we may want to sing, as well as learn/rehearse new songs. Although it would be great to have a choir again, in the meantime, it would seem helpful for the music folk to gather from time to time as well.

From time to time, e.g., once a year, gather everyone involved or interested in other aspects of worship, greeting, reading, etc. for a second hour conversation to appreciate their contributions, learn from one another, create an entry point for people who may be curious about the overall ministry.

B) Care Team: The deacons are continuing to clarify roles and responsibilities. Within the month, they will be calling a meeting with all people interested in participating in the Care Ministry in some way.

C) Faith Formation/Lifelong Learning: Mitra will be with us April 16 and will begin re-energizing our children and family ministry. Meanwhile, we have had 8 responses to the 2023 Faith Formation/ Lifelong learning survey.

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D) Faith In Action: Paula and Carolina are willing to join Ginny on the Faith In Action core team. An initial meeting will be planned in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, \$89 remains for the Woodstock Academy Ukrainian Student Support. At the end of the semester only one student will remain.

The first Senior Social will be held April 20.

Plans for the Earth Day worship service are coming together. We envision fewer interactive stations and a focus on local food/farming.