

## Ministry Update Report May 2023

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

This is informational in nature.

### A. Upcoming Activities and Dates

May 14	10am	Mother's Day and SNEUCC Executive Minister Rev. Darrell Goodwin
May 16	7pm	Worship Retreat makeup
May 17	9am	<b>June July August Share Content Deadline</b>
May 20	9am-12n	<b>SNEUCC Regional Gathering in Oxford Ma</b>
May 19	5pm	Wedding Rehearsal
May 20	3:30pm	Alyssa McDonagh and Evan Salvatore Wedding
May 20	7pm	Winds of Song concert
May 21	11:00am	Values Team <b>Beliefs Conversation's</b> kick off
May 28	10am	Maria's last day as <b>Music Director</b>
May 29	10am noon	Memorial Day Hill Cemetery Commemoration Town Parade and ceremony
Jun 4	11:15am	Care Team Ministry Second Hour
Jun 6	afternoon	Witness Stone Project Ceremony
Jun 11	10am	Aurora Stone Baptism
Jun 17	8 – early PM	<b>Town Wide Yard Sale</b>
Jun 18	10am	Father's Day / Children's Sunday
Jun 17	9am – 4pm	<b>SNEUCC Annul Meeting Worcester Ma</b>
Jun 25	10am	Maci Sholie Fox Baptism
Jun 27	7 pm	Windham Association Annual Meeting ONLINE
May - Jun	<b>Date tbd</b>	Juniper Webster Baptism
July - Aug	9am worship	Sue preaching July 2, 9, 23, Aug 27, Sept 3; Noah July 16

### B. Ministry Update

#### 1. Worship

A mini retreat make-up session is scheduled for Tuesday May 16 at 7pm. Deacons, members of Creative Worship, and others who have expressed an interest in worship liturgy or music have been invited.

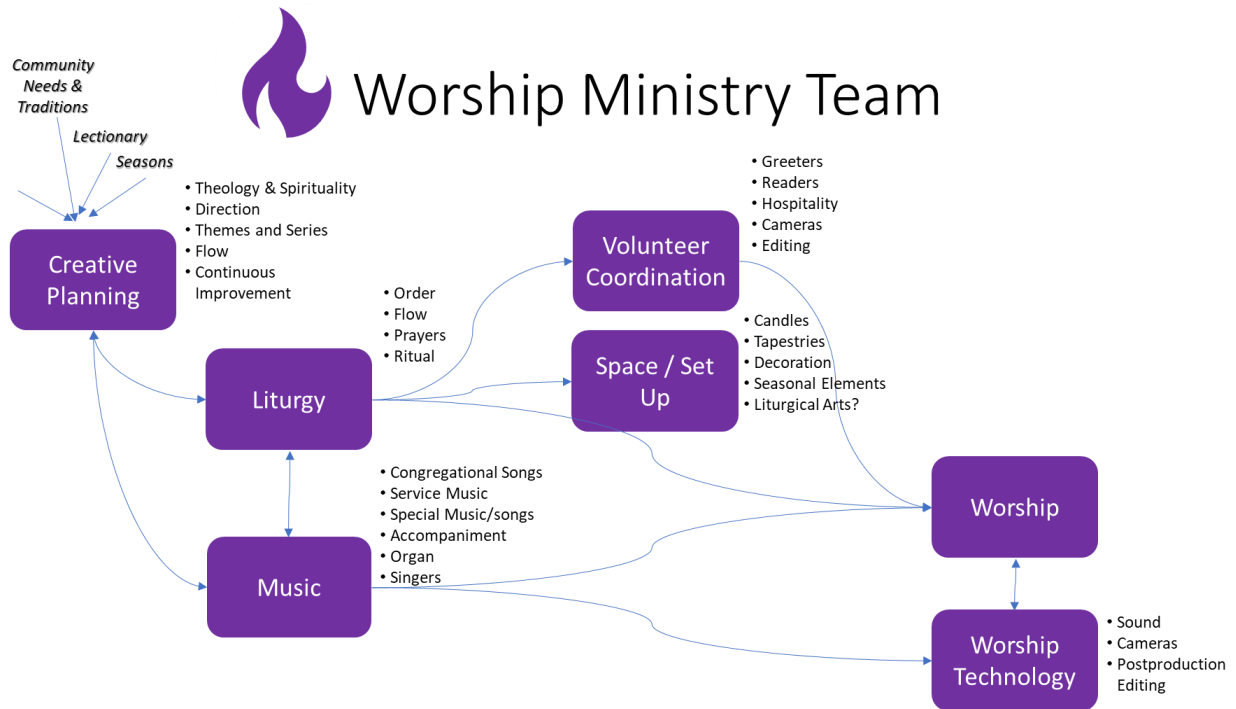
A search team is taking shape for the music director. Leilani, Rick, Donna, Leslie, and Jen B. have said they will help. Others are invited to participate if they are interested. We have started revising the Job Description from 2021.

Rick is willing to help in the interim and Maria will help plan June, July and early September.

Summer worship will be at 9am for July, August, and September 3. Worship in July will be at the Hill Church, and for August and September 3 at East. Rev. Sue will be having knee surgery the end of July and I have agreed to be on call if there are any pastoral emergencies during her time of limited mobility.

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Structurally, the Worship Ministry is coalescing around the following structure.



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.

We are moving the Creative Worship Team Meetings off of Saturdays, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays look most likely going forward.

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.

## 2. Care Ministry

June 4 we will host a conversation and organizational meetings for all who are interested in congregational care. This ministry area is about extending God's love and care to members and friends of our congregation through staying connected and lending a helping hand during times. The deacons will take the lead to facilitate the conversation and organize next steps.

Rev. Doe West has agreed to be present to hear people's questions and help us determine what training we might want to offer. She will also preach that day, on the topic of care.

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### 3. Faith In Action

We have a Core Team!

We met April 30<sup>th</sup>, and the team includes: Ginny Moylan, Paula Wilmot, Carolina Ahearn, Mitra Sarshuri, and Ryan Sarshuri.

The Core Team is organizing for the Town Wide tag sale, designate for the monies is yet to be named.

The Core Team will develop a process for identifying organizations to receive our grant monies, as well as a process for people who suggest new ministry/issue areas.

In addition, we are exploring the creation of GoogleGroups for issues/concern areas, e.g., environment, LGBTQ, Racial Justice, etc. The groups will make it easy for people who share an interest to connect, share articles, announce events, and engage in conversations.

The first Senior Social occurred in April. By all accounts, it was a joyful success – thanks in a large part due to Charlie’s organization and creative Music Bingo. Next monthly event is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup> 1 – 3.

### 4. Faith Formation

Bible Study will end for the summer at the end of May.

The children and family’s have welcomed Mitra joyfully. We are planning a family’s BBQ/get together in early June.

Mitra will spend time in July and August to plan the fall and to connect with families.

## C. Communications Update

### 1. FCCW Events Calendar

A “new” common calendar has been created to allow leaders to create and update events.

This is now separate from Lisa’s calendar.

All active FirstChruchWoodstock.org users have been invited/given access.

This is now the calendar that appears on our website.

In addition, we have started to add rooms to Google Work Space, i.e., Harrison Hall, Library, and Sanctuary. This will help us better schedule multiple activities and avoid multiple groups scheduling meetings for the same space at the same time.

### 2. Website Updates

Pages have been added to the website for Weddings, Funeral. Baptisms. And other Building Use Requests. These pages translate our policies regarding the use of the facility.