



The MINISTRY TEAMS of John Wesley United Methodist Church 2026



Sign up to serve

John Wesley United Methodist Church

270 Gifford Street
Falmouth, MA 02541

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www.johnwesleyumc.org

Our Ministry Teams

Our Ministry Teams reflect our Mission to **Love God, Love Others and Serve the World.**

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STAFF

Pastor	Rev. René Perez
Administrator	Lyndsey Melchiono
Audio/Visual Coordinator	Myles Lowery
Music Director.....	Dr. Michael Smith
Treasurer	Eliose Harmon
Sexton	John Loewen
Graphic Designer.....	Lynn O'Brien, <i>Volunteer</i>
Publicity Coordinator	Lynne Brown, <i>Volunteer</i>

Our Leaders and Pastor would be happy to talk to you about your passions in doing God's work here in Falmouth and Cape Cod. Please reach out and talk with them one-on-one.

With Blessings to you,
The Leadership Team of JWUMC

At-Large Ministry

At-Large Leaders: Marti Jeglinski, Tracy Jaekel, and John Geoghan

Mission/Role: The primary role for At-Large Leaders of the Leadership Team is in serving both the Leadership Team and the congregation. We ensure Leadership Team accountability to the congregation for the effective administration, planning and implementation of approved Ministry initiatives.

Ministry Focus

Leadership Team: As At-Large members, we attend all Leadership Team meetings and add constructive thoughts to discussions. We serve additionally as a resource to the Chair Person of the Leadership Team when he/she needs independent voices to give balance to a discussion among Ministry Team Leaders. We apprise Leadership Team leaders of ideas for growth as well as possible issues that may require additional Leadership Team support.

Congregation: As At-Large members, we are the eyes and ears for both the Leadership Team and the congregation, able to sense church community issues and opinions that need to be heard and considered in Leadership Team decisions. We bring the needs, concerns, and celebrations of the congregation to the Leadership Team.

Ministry Teams: As At-large members, we may also serve as members of Ministry Teams, participating in the discussion and planning of the Ministry Team initiatives.

Family Ministry

Ministry Team Leader: Amy Clatanoff-Brown

Ministry Team Members: Lynne Brown, Jenn Linton, Jennifer McCarthy and Jaime Sterling

Mission: Cultivate an atmosphere of love, belonging and purpose for the younger members of John Wesley. We do this by providing environments to teach Biblical principles, enhance our students' faith, and develop relationships with their peers.

Ministry Focus

Nursery/Parent Room: Located in the Education Wing, nursery care is available during the service for infants to 4 years old.

Sunday School: Sunday School is offered to preschoolers through High School during the 9:30 service in our Education Wing. Children attend the beginning of the service with their families before being dismissed to age-appropriate classes where they learn about God through Bible lessons, activities and dialogue.

Confirmation: Confirmation is a season where students have the opportunity to gain a deeper knowledge of the church while also learning about and building on their foundations and beliefs. After completion of confirmation, students have an opportunity to publicly confirm their faith in Jesus Christ and enter into membership in the UMC.

Student Ministry: Our purpose is to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all youth to experience the wide-open, spacious life that God intends for them. Our youth group is for all students in grades 7-12, and meets weekly in our youth center. This is a time where students can connect with others and have a great time while also learning more about the life God intends for them. In addition to our weekly meetings, we attend special events, retreats, and summer mission trips.

Young Adults: Life provides new challenges as we move from students to adults. We seek to provide a welcoming place for our young adults as they navigate through a time of changing priorities and responsibilities, jobs, college, training, careers, changes in relationships, and finding out who they are as an individual. Young adult events may include meetups at local restaurants, ax throwing, bowling, concerts, and more.

Finance Ministry

Ministry Team Leader: Patrick Shanley

Ministry Team Members: Brent Finemore, Lisa Asendorf, John Geoghan and Charlie Bresnahan

Financial Secretary: Matt O'Connor

Treasurer: Eloise Harmon

Mission: To financially account for and enable ministries that nurture persons in their faith. The Finance Ministry Team (in consultation with The Leadership Team) will raise, manage and disburse the funds of the congregation that help realize the mission and vision of the church. Our goal is to maintain a financially viable and sustainable church.

Ministry Focus

Annual Budget: Every year we produce and recommend (for TLT approval) an annual budget for the church (in collaboration with all ministry teams) that includes anticipated income from pledges, building use rents and fund-raisers. We ask Ministry Teams to project expenses through year-end and we compare their projections to income. We suggest possible adjustments that can be made to support the church's mission and vision.

Counting and Depositing the Offering: Our Financial Secretary oversees teams of dedicated counters who provide consistency and safeguards in the process of counting our offerings. The Financial Secretary is also responsible for recording and tracking receipts from on-line giving.

Overseeing Stewardship: We encourage Christians to fully embrace their vocation as stewards of God's many blessings and to give to the church willingly and cheerfully. We provide information and assistance to those considering making a planned gift to the church. The Financial Secretary produces reports following each quarter to inform those who have made pledges, where their giving stands relative to their annual pledge.

Administering Funds: The Finance Ministry disburses funds that are needed for day-to-day expenses and (in cooperation with The Leadership Team) determines where and how funds are best utilized and invested for the future. The ministry team also administers bequests and memorials in accordance with their donor's wishes and as directed by The Leadership Team.

Financial Reporting: We produce easy-to-read monthly reports of our asset holdings, cash position, statement of activity, tracked fund balances and other financial statements and, where appropriate we compare them to the monthly and annual budget. The Treasurer provides ministry team leaders with monthly reports of their spending for their review and comments. When needed, we help support funding of unanticipated expenses or opportunities.

Provide for Annual Audits: We make provisions for and receive an independent annual review of our financial reports by a local CPA firm.

Fund-Raising: The Finance Ministry Team provides support for all fund-raisers.

Hospitality Ministry

Ministry Team Leader: Maryellen Geoghan and Christine Quesnel

Guiding Scripture Verse: Hebrews 13:1-2 “Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!”

Mission: To strengthen our bonds as a church community and within the greater community by bringing people together for fellowship and the sharing of food.

Opportunities to Serve on the Hospitality & Events Ministry Team

- **Coffee Hour:** Every Sunday morning, after service. We offer morning beverages and snacks in our Fellowship Hall to bring people together for fellowship after worship. If you like to cook, opportunities abound to provide snacks, desserts, and other breakfast items. Help with set-up, clean-up, and organization is also needed.
- **Collations:** Following memorial services for members of our congregation, our team will help with a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the memorial service to provide an inviting environment for mourners and family of the deceased to connect.
- **Celebration Sundays, Concerts, Cookouts, Game Nights:** We have many opportunities throughout the year to bring folks together. Some events are put on in coordination with other church congregations. Help with food preparation, set-up, clean-up, and organization are always appreciated!

Invitation & Connection Ministry

Ministry Team Leader: Lianne Carbone

Ministry Team Members: Ted Burt, Dianne Belamarich, Carolyn Reynolds, Lisa Asendorf, Frank O'Connor, Loretta Croft, Maryann Petrone, Elizabeth Martins

Guiding Scripture Verse: “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.” (Ephesians 2:19)

Mission: To seek/provide/promote avenues for engagement with our community of faith. This is for all who desire it, inside and outside our walls.

Opportunities to Serve on our Team

- Be a greeter or tend the Welcome Desk for Sunday morning services and special events
- Follow up with newcomers to help them engage at the level they desire
- Share ideas that would create meaningful connection within the body
- Share ideas and plan events to draw people of all ages in to our fellowship
- Take Photos and videos to add to our website and APP
- Help distribute flyers and “get the word out” in social media for events at the church

Invitation & Connection Ministry – AGAPE CARE

This is a ministry for our people who can't get to church. The team is made up of people who feel called to this type of one-on-one care. People who would like a visit can sign up on the website under the Connect Tab, Agape.

Invitation & Connection Ministry - CARD MINISTRY

Cards are sent when we notice that we haven't seen someone for a while, we acknowledge birthdays if they are provided, we send encouragement to the sick and bereaved.

Invitation & Connection Ministry - GREETERS

Greeters are at the front door before each service to be sure everyone feels welcome and can find their way around. They help with directing children, getting name tags, and answering questions. The schedule is sent out quarterly. There is a Greeter Basics document and we have short meetings periodically to be sure everyone is comfortable!

Invitation & Connection Ministry – NEWCOMERS GROUP

If someone new decides they would like to get more involved, they are invited to join a Newcomers Group. It meets once quarterly and they have their own messaging group via the APP and website.

Invitation & Connection Ministry – WEBSITE

Our website, <https://www.johnwesleyumc.org/>, is an active and well-maintained resource. We work to keep its content current, accurate, and engaging, and we always welcome your comments and suggestions.

Outreach & Missions Ministry

Ministry Team Leader: Donna Fish

Ministry Team Members: Bonnie Valade, Anne Tupper, Marge Dean, Marie Syverson, Tracy Jaekel, Judi Hildreth, Penny Dean and Kate Finemore

Mission: As a Christian church, we identify needs in our community and around the world that can be met by the gifts and talents of the members of John Wesley UMC.

Ministry Focus

Collections: Throughout the year, our congregation collects various types of non-perishable items and clothing for numerous organizations on Cape Cod including the Falmouth Service Center (local food pantry), Belonging to Each Other (provides housing and support for the homeless in Falmouth), In from The Streets (provides shelter and hot meals to homeless in Falmouth during the cold months), and many others. For example, we provide non-perishable food items to those struggling from food insecurity, school supplies for underprivileged children, and socks and personal items for the homeless living in shelters right here in Falmouth.

Donations: Based on needs and the availability of funds, the O&M Ministry Team identifies non-profit organizations that will receive financial donations from JWUMC. Recent recipients of financial support include Habitat for Humanity, Belonging To Each Other, Falmouth Service Center, Falmouth Community Veterans Center, Tommy's Place, Mercy Ships, Dr. Bella's Hope Cottage Mission in Africa, Upper Cape Chaplaincy, Salvation Army "Dress a Doll" program, UMCOR, World Central Kitchen, Alternative Gift Market of Cape Cod, The Falmouth Walk, Fishing for the Mission 22 and others. One way we generate donations is through our "Changing the World Campaign" in which each Sunday, during the offering, all loose change and cash provided in special offering envelopes is donated to organizations such as the ones listed above.

Projects: JWUMC, through the O&M Ministry Team, has made a multi-year commitment to support the efforts of a member of our church community who is working to spread the message of Jesus Christ to unreached communities in the Middle East.

Building Use by Community Support Groups: Although this effort is managed primarily by our Trustees, JWUMC provides meeting space to many organizations in our community who offer support services to individuals in need. Some of these organizations are Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Al-Anon, English as a Second Language learners and tutors, and the Mark of Promise Brazilian Church.

Outreach & Missions Ministry – SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

Team Leader: Jenn Linton

Team Members: Nancy Peterson, Matt O'Connor, Tracy Jaekel, Bonnie Valade, Nancy Leger, Helen Bresnahan, Cynthia Syverson-Mercer, Lianne Carbone

Mission: To address important social and justice-related issues affecting our church, our community, and our world, in ways that are biblically faithful.

Since forming in early 2025, we have organized the Falmouth Interfaith Collaboration on Homelessness, which meets quarterly at JWUMC to improve our community's ability to help our unhoused neighbors. Throughout the colder months we've hosted a weekly hot breakfast for our unsheltered neighbors.

If you are looking for assistance with housing, food, mental health, or other needs in Falmouth and the surrounding area <https://www.falmouthmasshelp.org/> contains a comprehensive list of different types of help available to you.

Outreach & Missions Ministry – THE WESLEY HOUSE THRIFT SHOP

Team Leader: Cynthia Syverson-Mercer

Team Members: The Thrift Shop is operated entirely by volunteers and is managed by the Thrift Shop Committee. The founding members are Cynthia Syverson-Mercer, Donna Fish, Marti Jeglinski, Lynne Brown, Dianne Belamarich, Noreen Byrne, and Carolyn & Frank Reynolds. There are many more members but the named members will be considered founders for the purpose of this document.

Mission: To afford a fun way to re-use and repurpose donated items to support the community and generate revenue for the missions and ministry of the church.

The Thrift Shop operates to meet the purposes listed below:

1. Financial support to the church and its ministries.
2. Benefit the local community through low-cost resale of donated goods.
3. To serve as a volunteer opportunity for the church and community members.
4. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle opportunities to encourage stewardship in the church and local community.

Anticipated Goals

- Community engagement
- Church membership engagement
- Additional revenue
- Offer fun engagement for volunteers and customers
- Repurpose and recycle clothing and household goods within our local community

Kindness Policy

We believe that everyone deserves to be treated with kindness and compassion. We are dedicated to providing a safe environment, free of harassment, for each and every volunteer and customer.

Spiritual Growth Ministry

Ministry Team Leader: Jennifer Linton

Ministry Team Members: Anne Tupper

Mission: The Spiritual Growth Ministry team works to create opportunities for everyone to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ and to deepen their relationship with God through studies, small groups, retreats, prayer, and other experiences.

Ministry Focus

Book Studies: A variety of groups meet to study the Bible and other Christian topics throughout the week. Some groups are ongoing while others meet for a specified period of time. They are an excellent way to get to know others in the church as well as learning about our shared faith.

Prayer Meetings: Because we believe in the power of prayer, we have a Prayer Meeting on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. This time of guided prayer and reflection lasts about 30 minutes and includes prayers of thanksgiving and petition for the church, members, friends, and the world. Participants are free to pray silently or aloud as they wish.

Prayer Chain: Have a prayer request? Members of the prayer chain are available to pray for you and your needs. Requests are kept confidential. Go to the church website to send a prayer request to the chain or the pastor: <https://www.johnwesleyumc.org/prayer>

Retreats: Throughout the year, we hold various types of retreats, usually here at the church, for a deeper spiritual growth experience.

Men's Breakfast: Join the Men's Breakfast in the Fitzgerald Room, on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 am. This group discusses secular subjects as well as subjects related to faith and the roles that men play in our families, church and community.

Whole-Life Spiritual Growth: Growing spiritually includes not only study, prayer, and worship, but also the implementation and application of our faith. Many of our Spiritual Growth activities incorporate fellowship, service, and outreach.

Staff Parish Relations Ministry

Ministry Team Leader: Brent Finemore

Ministry Team Members: Orville Smith, Daniel Almy, Pastor René Perez, Rob Blomberg, Tracy Jaekel, Penny Dean, Lynn O'Brien and Anne Tupper

Mission: To provide the congregation with a staff that enhances the vision of the church. We serve as a liaison between the congregation and the staff. As the personnel department for the church, we advertise, interview, and hire the staff, support them in their ministries and review their work to maintain the highest standards for our congregation and the community. The Bishop appoints the Pastor.

SPRMT Bible Verse: Romans 8:28 KJV "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Ministry Focus

Staff Job Descriptions: The SPRMT develops detailed job descriptions for each staff member of JWUMC. These are regularly reviewed and updated depending upon the needs of the church.

Employee Handbook & Safe Sanctuary Policy: We maintain and update the Employee Handbook and the Safe Sanctuary Policy.

Staff Professional Development: The SPRMT encourages and finances staff professional development to keep our people current with new ideas and trends in their fields.

Annual Reviews and Salary Recommendations: Annual reviews are conducted with each employee in the fall. This is a two-part process: a self-evaluation and a SPRMT evaluation. Staff salary adjustments are made following the reviews.

Pastoral Evaluation for JWUMC and the NEUM Conference: An evaluation of the Pastor is done for JWUMC and for the NEUM Conference each year. The team meets with and reports to the District Superintendent on the Pastor's work and the work of the church.

Search to Fill Vacant Positions: The SPRMT advertises, interviews and hires for vacant staff positions in the church.

Staff Appreciation Campaign at Christmas: The SPRMT organizes the Staff Appreciation campaign to collect cash gifts at Christmas and distributes them to the staff.

Feel Good Benefits: The SPRMT distributes birthday cards and gift cards to each employee on their birthday. A mid-year card of appreciation and a gift card to a local restaurant is distributed in June.

Stewardship Ministry

Ministry Team Leader: Dianne Belamarich

Ministry Team Members: Ted Burt, Kate Finemore, Tracy Jaekel, ...additional members welcomed.

Mission Statement

The Stewardship Ministry Team takes a holistic spiritual approach to Christian stewardship by encouraging our congregation to witness God's love through the discipline of generously giving of our time, talents, and treasures as a visible sign of our faith in God and love of neighbor.

What does scripture say about Stewardship?

Stewardship symbolizes our role as caretakers of God's creation. It signifies not only the management of material possessions but also the responsible use of our time, talents, and resources for the glory of God.

Genesis 1:26-28 underscores the divine authority given to humankind and our call to manage it with care and respect.

1 Peter 4:10 not only emphasizes the importance of utilizing our God-given gifts but also highlights the communal aspect of stewardship—serving others as an expression of God's love. The biblical meaning of stewardship is thus intertwined with service, responsibility, and accountability.

2 Corinthians 9:8, states "...God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others" and **Luke 6:38**, "Give and it will be given to you, a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back".

What the stewardship ministry team does:

We are responsible for managing a pledge campaign each Fall to support the financial health of our church. But stewardship is more than that, we also encourage parishioners to use their time and talent to represent Jesus in the local church and the world.

Author Adam Hamilton says "God's expectation is that you use your gifts to serve others, to build up the body of Christ, to further his work, and to glorify Him."

Trustees Ministry

Ministry Team Leader: Russ Brown

Ministry Team Members: Henry Brown, Karen Camp, Pete Stasis, Phil Eastman, Mark Karsner, Nick Stivaletta, Michele Lowry, Mike McCarthy, Richard Slowey

Mission: Trustees hold title to and maintain/enhance the buildings and grounds in order to advance their functionality, accessibility and safety. The Trustees vote on how to ensure a great environment for worship and how to maximize the use of our facilities. The Trustees vote to accept all donations and bequests and determine the best and proper use of the funds.

Ministry Focus

Landscaping and Snow Removal: Our 3.5-acre property requires constant upkeep and includes community gardens, a children's playground, recreational areas, and parking for approximately 150 vehicles. During the winter months we make special efforts to ensure that people can access our building and navigate our parking lots safely during periods of snow and ice.

Cemetery Maintenance: John Wesley owns two cemeteries in town. We contract with the Town of Falmouth and private landscapers to make sure the properties remain accessible and presentable for those who have loved ones buried there. We also sell plots to members of our church.

Building Maintenance & Repair: Our buildings consist of the main sanctuary, narthex, fellowship hall, commercial kitchen, chapel, library, several offices, education wing, two basements, four public restrooms, and John Wesley House (rented out for office space). Just like any home or business, the upkeep and maintenance of the areas, structures and systems is an ongoing effort. In addition to the basic systems of plumbing, electric, heating, and air conditioning, we have an extensive A/V system as well as Internet access throughout the buildings. We have a part-time sexton on our staff to manage the day-to-day maintenance and cleaning of the most-used areas of our buildings.

Building Use: Trustees manage the rental of our facilities by the many community organizations who request the use our buildings throughout the year. Although this does generate some income for the church, we keep the rental expense quite low for many of the organizations as our contribution to their efforts to support those in need in our community.

Safety and Security: Like any public space, we need to ensure that our safety and security systems are up to code and functioning properly. These include a defibrillator (AED), fire alarms and extinguishers, emergency lighting, emergency generator, security cameras, and doors/locks/keys. A member of Trustees participates in ensuring the security of our building after most major events.

Special Events: Special church events such as our Falmouth Road Race Parking, Plant Sale, Christmas Fair, and Rummage Sale often involve the set-up of tents, movement of furniture in the building, and direction of traffic. Trustees oversee these efforts.

Want to help? If you have an interest in any of these areas, or just have a strong back to offer, please reach out to a Trustees Ministry member.

Worship Ministry

Ministry Team Leader: Dianne Belamarich

Ministry Team Members: Betty Smith, Michael Smith, Linda Adams, Tracy Jaekel, Mel Trott and Anne Tupper

Mission: Works with the pastor to plan and provide worship experiences enhancing love, reverence and understanding of God, encourage us to live a Christian life in today's world, and inspire a response to Christ's commission to make disciples.

WORSHIP SERVICES: No two people worship God exactly the same way or have the same "worship needs." We continually strive to create worship experiences that are meaningful to each and every person.

- Our **Traditional Service at 10 AM** takes place in the sanctuary and is a conventional approach to worship: a message from the pastor, hymns, a children's message, and special music from one of our choirs or guest musicians. Communion is shared on the first Sunday of the month. We offer a staffed nursery to care for little ones and Sunday School for children. The service is live streamed and can be viewed on the church website, johnwesleyumc.org, on Facebook and YouTube.
- A **non-denominational Beach Service** is held at Surf Drive Beach most Sundays in July and August. This service starts at 7:30am.

MUSIC MINISTRY: Our music ministry includes an Adult Choir and a Hand Bell Choir at the Traditional Service. These music groups enrich our worship experience with a variety of music on a weekly basis as well as on special occasions. The Adult Choir and Hand Bell Choir rehearse on Wednesday evenings. Each of these groups welcome new participants who wish to praise God through music.

OTHER MINISTRIES: Integral to our services are the ushers. Offering a welcoming smile these individuals help maintain JWUMC's reputation of being a friendly and welcoming church. Readers participate in our services on a weekly basis and are an integral part of our services. The Altar Servants help by setting up the altar area before the service and prepare and serve communion. A/V volunteers assist in setting up microphones, running cameras and changing slides in the media booth.

The Worship Ministry Team welcomes anyone who is interested in offering their spiritual gifts to help enhance the sight, the sound and the depth of our worship services.

Worship Ministry - ALTAR GUILD

Ministry Team Leader: Betty Smith

The **Altar Guild** is a ministry of reverence and quiet service, dedicated to preparing the worship space and caring for the sacred objects used in worship. Members work behind the scenes to ensure that every service is conducted with beauty, order, and dignity.

Primary Responsibilities

- **Prepare the altar** for all worship services, including Sunday services, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and special liturgies.
- **Set up communion elements** (bread, wine/juice, vessels, linens) and clean them reverently after the service.
- **Maintain altar linens**, paraments, candles, and vestments—cleaning, pressing, and changing colors according to the church calendar.
- **Care for sacred vessels and furnishings**, making sure they are polished, in place, and handled properly.
- **Arrange flowers or other appropriate decorations** for the worship space.
- **Coordinate with clergy and worship leaders** about upcoming liturgical needs.

Key Skills & Qualities

- A sense of reverence and respect for the worship space
- Attention to detail and consistency
- A calm, behind-the-scenes manner
- Reliability and willingness to follow liturgical guidelines
- Ability to work quietly, thoughtfully, and sometimes independently

Purpose of the Role

The Altar Guild helps create a worship environment that reflects **beauty, order, and holiness**, allowing the congregation to focus more fully on God. Their work supports the sacramental and liturgical life of the church in meaningful and often unseen ways.

Worship Ministry - AUDIO VISUAL

Ministry Team Leader: Myles Lowery

The **Audio/Visual Ministry** supports and enhances the worship experience by managing the technical elements of the service. This team ensures that sound, visuals, livestream, and media operate smoothly so the congregation can focus on worship without distraction.

Primary Responsibilities

Sound

- Operate the soundboard during worship and special services.
- Adjust microphones, instruments, and overall mix for clarity and balance.
- Perform sound checks before services and troubleshoot audio issues.

Visuals

- Run presentation software (e.g., lyrics, announcements, sermon slides).
- Manage lighting cues if applicable.
- Display Scripture verses, videos, or other media at the correct moments.

Livestream / Recording (if applicable)

- Set up and monitor cameras for livestream.
- Ensure audio and video remain synced and clear.
- Upload or store recordings as needed.

Key Skills & Qualities

- A calm, focused presence—especially during live worship.
- Technical aptitude (training provided).
- Good communication with worship leaders, musicians, and pastors.
- Attention to detail and ability to react quickly when issues arise.
- A servant-hearted mindset, recognizing that the role supports worship rather than performing.

Purpose of the Role

The Audio/Visual team enables the message, music, and worship to be **heard, seen, and experienced clearly**, creating an atmosphere where the congregation and online viewers can engage fully with God and the service.

Worship Ministry - LITURGIST/READERS

Ministry Team Leader: Tracy Jaekel

A **Liturgist/Reader** serves an important role in worship by helping lead the congregation through spoken elements of the service. This ministry supports the flow, clarity, and spiritual depth of worship.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Proclaim designated **Scripture readings** with clarity and reverence.
- Lead portions of the **liturgy**, such as calls to worship, prayers, or responsive readings.
- Assist the pastor or worship leader by guiding the congregation through spoken worship elements.
- Prepare in advance by reviewing the readings, practicing pronunciation, and understanding the context.
- Approach the role with a spirit of humility, attentiveness, and worship.

Qualities of an Effective Liturgist/Reader:

- Clear and confident speaking voice
- Respect for Scripture and worship traditions
- Ability to read with expression, meaning, and appropriate pace
- Dependability and willingness to prepare

Purpose of the Role:

Liturgists/Readers help the congregation **engage the Word of God**, fostering a meaningful worship environment where Scripture is heard, understood, and experienced.

Worship Ministry - MUSIC

Ministry Team Leader: Michael Smith

Music is a central part of Christian worship, helping to shape the spiritual atmosphere and deepen the congregation's connection with God. It not only expresses faith—it forms it.

1. Music Helps the Congregation Praise and Worship God

Music gives people a way to express gratitude, reverence, joy, lament, and devotion. Singing unites the congregation in one voice and directs hearts toward God.

2. Music Teaches and Reinforces Scripture

Many worship songs are based on biblical truths. Through repetition and melody, those truths become easier to remember and internalize. Music helps form a congregation's theology over time.

3. Music Prepares Hearts for Prayer, Scripture, and Preaching

Thoughtfully chosen songs create a sense of openness and readiness. Music helps the congregation transition into moments of reflection, confession, celebration, or response.

4. Music Builds Community and Unity

When the church sings together, it creates a shared experience that strengthens relationships and fosters a sense of belonging. Music unites people across ages, backgrounds, and experiences.

5. Music Enhances the Emotional and Spiritual Flow of the Service

Worship leaders use music to guide the emotional progression of the service—celebration, reflection, anticipation, and response. Music shapes the “story” the service tells.

6. Music Gives Space for the Holy Spirit to Move

Instrumental moments, contemplative songs, and congregational singing can create powerful opportunities for spiritual connection, healing, and transformation.

7. Music Supports Liturgy and Tradition

In liturgical traditions, music punctuates various parts of the service—calls to worship, responses, communion, doxologies, and benedictions. It reinforces the structure and sacred rhythms of worship.

8. Music Encourages Participation

Unlike sermons or prayers led by individuals, music invites the *whole congregation* to actively engage in worship. It turns spectators into participants.

Purpose of Music in Worship

Ultimately, the purpose of music in worship is to help people **encounter God**, express faith, and participate fully in the life of the worshiping community.

Worship Ministry - USHERS

Ministry Team Leader: Frank O'Connor

Ushers play a vital role in creating a welcoming, orderly, and safe environment for worship. They are often the first people worshippers meet when they arrive, and their service helps set the tone for the entire church experience.

Primary Responsibilities

Hospitality & Greeting

- Warmly greet worshippers as they enter.
- Offer bulletins, programs, or other materials.
- Assist newcomers by answering questions and helping them find seating.

During Worship

- Help people find available seats, especially during crowded services.
- Guide the flow of movement during communion, offering, or special moments.
- Remain attentive to the needs of the congregation (accessibility needs, parents with children, etc.).
- Assist with any unexpected situations to ensure services run smoothly.

Safety & Support

- Be alert to emergencies and assist with safety procedures if needed.
- Help maintain a peaceful environment by gently addressing disruptions.
- Provide support to pastoral staff and worship leaders as requested.

Offering & Communion

- Pass offering plates or coordinate other giving methods.
- Direct people during communion distribution.

Key Skills & Qualities

- Warm, welcoming demeanor
- Good communication and people skills
- Calmness and confidence in various situations
- Reliability and punctuality
- A servant-hearted attitude, focused on helping others

Purpose of the Role

Ushers help ensure that everyone who enters the church feels **welcomed, supported, and cared for**. Their service enhances the worship experience by providing structure, hospitality, and a sense of safety for the congregation.