

THE WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM



Our mission is to work 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.

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Worship Ministry Team

Ministry Team Leader: Dianne Belamarich (dianne@johnwesleyumc.org)

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

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 is at 7:30 AM.

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 worshipping community.

Worship Ministry - USHERS

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.



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