



The Fellowship of Worship Artists



Transforming

the World Through Worship

The Fellowship of Worship Artists exists to assist worship leaders in creating meaningful worship experiences that bring people into deeper relationships with God and each other. Founded in 1955 as the National Fellowship of Methodist Musicians, The Fellowship has grown to include worship artists, clergy, and laity involved in all aspects of worship from a variety of denominations and experiences. We are an ecumenical organization and all are welcome.

We Are:

- Musicians, clergy, dancers, artists, lay ministers, and others, all involved in creating, supporting, and implementing worship in local congregations.
- An affiliate of The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, and serve as a resource for all worship artists.
- An open fellowship that provides training on all aspects of worship through events, publications, webinars, and the myriad connections that are made with other worship leaders.

Our Calling:

We are Christians called to minister through our creative gifts to foster worship which makes disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Mission:

To create and support:

- Worship Arts that lead to spirituality and faith formation
- Relationships that lead to hospitality, fellowship, and nurture

Our Structure:

The Fellowship is recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization by the Internal Revenue Service and operates within the confines of its Bylaws and Standing Rules.



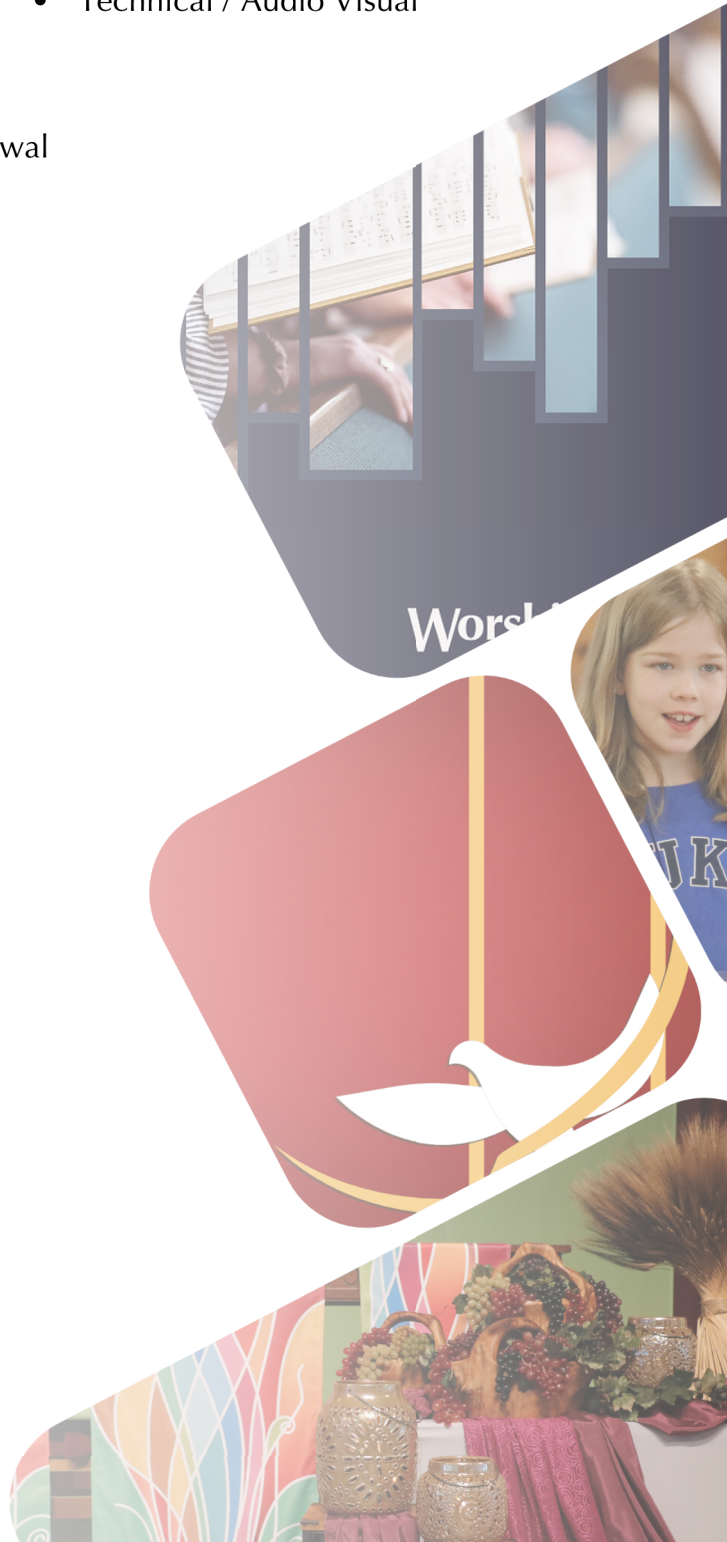
Cultivate. Equip. Worship.

What We Offer...

- Tools and resources for each worship arts area:
 - Choral
 - Dance
 - Art
 - Visuals
 - Preaching
 - Handbells
 - Instrumental
 - Technical / Audio Visual
- Opportunities to experience meaningful worship
- Opportunities for spiritual growth and spiritual renewal
- Opportunities for relationship and connection

How Are We Making This Accessible?

- Regional and national events offered in person and virtually
 - Music & Worship Arts Week
 - Regional chapter events
- Print and digital communication
 - *WorshipArts* Magazine
 - Each issue from 2000 - present is available in digital form in the Member Resources section of our website
 - Growing article catalogue from past issues for ease of use
 - Fellowship Connections
 - Mentoring, new-member guides, discussion groups
 - Fellowship Reflections – Weekly Devotional Email
 - Social media
 - Members-only discussion forums and resources





The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts is a community of diverse worship artists who are not of one mind on a wide range of theological and cultural issues. We acknowledge that we have been blessed by the gifts and presence of a variety of people. We covenant to uphold the sacred worth and dignity of all persons, without exception. We welcome all into membership and leadership in The Fellowship, including:

- persons with divergent theological and political convictions, even as we seek to emphasize our connectedness and unity in Christ;
- persons of all races, cultures, ethnicities, and socioeconomic conditions;
- persons at all places on the spectrum of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression;
- persons of various ages and life experiences, and persons who are differently abled.

Christ made no mistake in opening the table of grace to everyone. Therefore, our membership and its leaders commit to embrace one another with boundless compassion and affirmation so that the reign of God might be made known “on earth as it is in heaven.”

~ Approved May 4, 2019

Music & Worship Arts Week 2024

June 24 - 28 | Lake Junaluska, NC

[Music & Worship Arts Week 2024](#) will magnify God's miraculous permission – Let There Be! – as a universe-shaping refrain of hope, wonder, and endless possibilities for all who work and volunteer in the glorious array of worship arts. Come! Join us as we embark on an awe-inspiring journey into God's creative power at work in the world!

Music & Worship Arts Week (MWA) is a multi-generational event designed for worship leaders, musicians, artists, dancers, actors, and pastors of all denominations who seek education and renewal in a spirit of inclusivity and grace. We welcome all.

MWA offers participants the opportunity to work with and learn from renowned leaders in the fields of worship arts, make new friends and reconnect with colleagues, be renewed in a beautiful setting, and worship daily in creative and inspiring ways. Music & Worship Arts Week has been described as "one of the most palpable examples of God's artistic gifts at work", so if you haven't already done so, we hope that you'll take some time to learn more about this transformative event and make plans to join us at Lake Junaluska this June.

Event Highlights & Schedule Information

- Inspiring daily worship services
- Engaging seminars with world renown leadership
 - **Worship Design Team:** Rev. Dr. Khalia Williams, Rev. Dr. Gerald Liu, Hannah Barker Nickolay, Jackson Nickolay, Dr. Naki Sung Kripfgans, Dr. Anne Conover
 - **Clinicians:** Tom Trenney, Mark Miller, Dr. Emily Williams Burch, James Wells, Pamela "P.L. Grove, Brian Childers, Rev. Crystal DesVignes, Joseph Lee
- Choral, dance, orchestra, and handbell concerts performed by children, youth, and adult participants
- Organ recital on the Casavant organ at Waynesville First UMC
- Choral, handbell, and organ music reading sessions
- Annual youth talent show
- And more...

Click here to see our [event schedule!](#)



LET
THERE
BE

WorshipArts

Transforming the World Through Worship

WorshipArts is a professional journal published by The Fellowship for its members. It is received by clergy, laity, publishing companies, seminaries, and others involved in worship planning and leadership. It is a valuable resource filled with practical articles, philosophical debate, and theological insight.

Our journal is an excellent way to reach members across a wide array of interests, gift sets, geography, and church sizes. It provides access to instructional essays, tips and tricks for streamlining processes as they evolve, and to learn about new ways of doing things as technology continues to impact the ways in which we engage our communities. As easier ways of linking print media to digital media continue to emerge, the interplay between our content will continue to strengthen.

This publication offers endless opportunities to engage worship artists, and to help cultivate and equip them in their work.

Worship Cues, a new companion resource, will debut in January of 2024. This bimonthly newsletter will provide practical resources and actionable ideas, as well as links to supplemental content from prior *WorshipArts* articles, to help cultivate and equip our members to create transformative worship experiences throughout the lectionary year. Join The Fellowship now to engage these impactful resources.

Fellowship Connections

Intentional Relationships for Worship Artists

Fellowship Connections provides three avenues of connection for our members – Fellowship Friends, Mentor Relationships, and Discussion Groups – which will allow the experience of worship arts enrichment and community to be enlivened through intentional relationships with members of The Fellowship.

Fellowship Friends will pair members for a six-month friendship. Friends will share experiences, successes, programs, and personal tidbits to sustain vibrant relationships all year long.

Mentor Relationships will be available to members who experience the need for a seasoned worship artist to be a guide for them in their ministry.

Discussion Groups will be offered seasonally and focused on specific learning, professional connection and collaboration, or skill development.

Fellowship Connections connects members with members to help create transformative worship experiences in our local churches and broader communities.



Fellowship Reflections

Fellowship Reflections is a resource offered to members who are seeking a deeper relationship with God and one another.

Our weekly devotional follows the Revised Common Lectionary, and invites readers to encounter life-giving sacred texts with the whole person – heart, mind, soul, and body – through the written word, meditation, music, and soul care prompts. These devotional emails are also interspersed with artistic mediums such as song, dance, images, and poetry that further enliven the reflection for the reader.

We invite our members to fully engage with all the components of Reflections. Use them for personal devotions, to center your choir or meeting group around the week's message, or utilize individual components to help you prepare for your worship services.

These weekly reflections arrive in your email inbox and can also be found in the Member Resources section of our website.

Digital Engagement

We use our website and social media platforms extensively to engage with our members and others in the worship artists community.

Our Facebook page has over 1,900 followers; and Fellowship Community, a private Facebook group with approximately 400 members, is a space for members to engage in conversation, share resources, ask for assistance on any number of issues, and to share information about upcoming events.

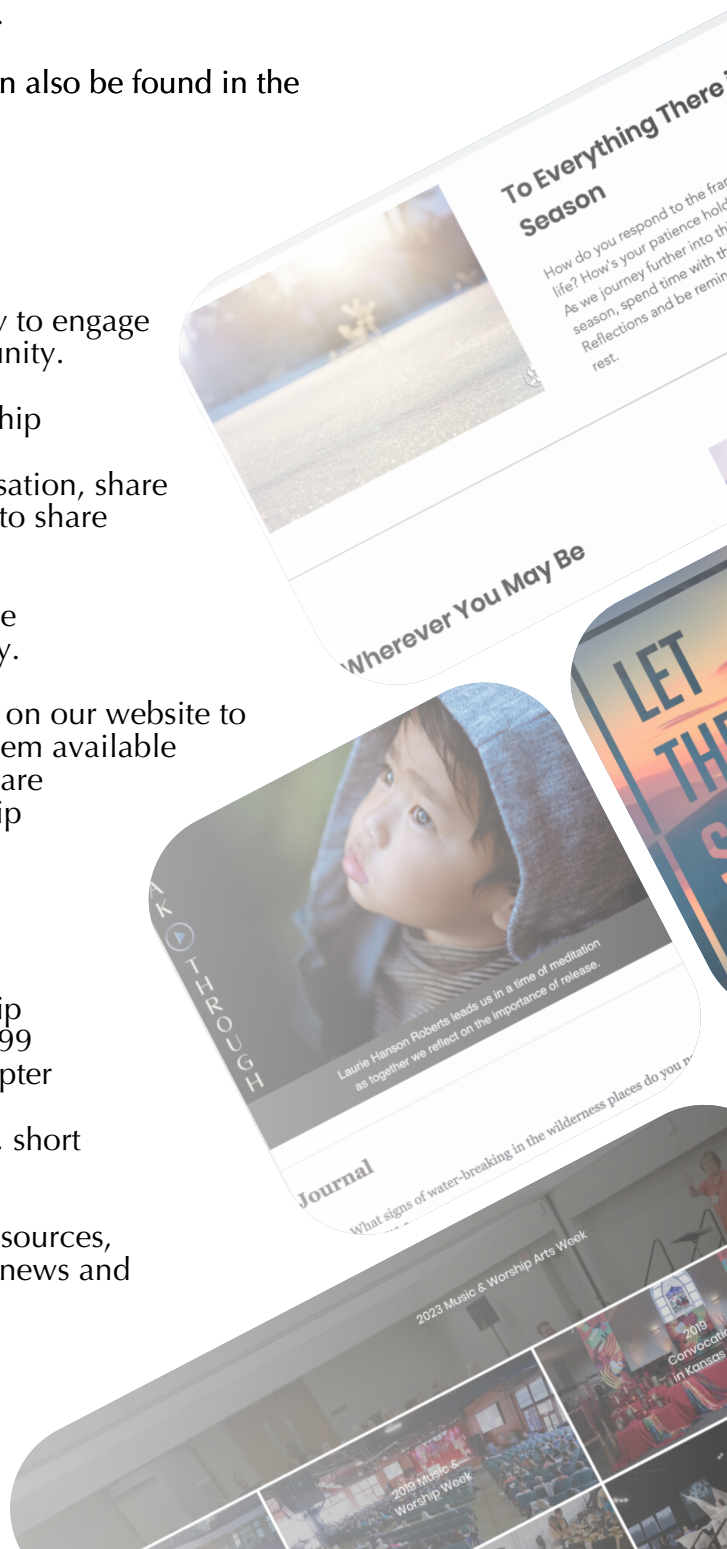
We use Instagram and Twitter to help share the work of The Fellowship of Worship Artists, as well as Vimeo and Spotify.

In 2024, we will be launching a new members-only forum on our website to centralize these opportunities for engagement and make them available to persons who aren't as comfortable with social media or are looking for a more targeted manner to engage other worship artists. We also continue to build the content available through our new website to cultivate and equip our members and others in this field.

The Member Resources section of our website features Fellowship Connections information; our weekly Fellowship Reflections email; all *WorshipArts* issues dating back to 1999 (including a list of all articles available in those issue); Chapter Members Content; Worship Links; the Revised Common Lectionary; choreography; dramatic readings, monologues, short scripts; job listings; and worship service slide packs!

Our website also includes links to other denominational resources, information about our membership categories, Fellowship news and updates, photo albums from past events, and more.

Join The Fellowship today to take advantage of all that our membership has to offer. Thank you for your continued support of The Fellowship of Worship Artists!





www.thefellowshipowa.org

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