

Waterford Congregational Church, UCC
Music Director's Annual Report for 2022

January 2023

Another year has come to a close and I find it time to reflect on our music for 2022. We are still under the umbrella of COVID and ever changing variants. Who would have thought that the pandemic would still be a factor in our lives? We have been able to enjoy worship together most of this year in the church with a live choir. We can celebrate this progress, at least!

Kay Leslie has accompanied the choir again this year. When she is not available, George Wiese fills in. This sharing of responsibility allows the choir to sing most of the time. Thank you for your dedication, Kay and George.

George continues to educate the congregation on hymns through the ages and does a great job at choosing hymns on a theme. It is fun to hear about the wonderful church music he shares weekly.

I thank the choir members who are so dedicated to bringing music to the worship services year round. Each Sunday folks in the congregation comment on how lovely the choir sang the anthem. Recently we had an outside comment from our Facebook Live platform from an arranger and writer of choral music. He happened to find our little church's Sunday worship in which the choir sang one of his anthems, Long, Long Time Ago, and he wrote to let us know how much he enjoyed our rendition of the piece! Here is a portion of what he had to say.

"I hope that your choir is back to full strength and ready to fill the new year with song! As I watched them sing, I actually found myself humming along and smiling at the light-hearted style they were using. They reflected the mood we envisioned when we wrote the piece and did so with a nice choral blend and warm expression. The accompaniment was "right on" and I think I detected a subtle rhythmic "swing" in the conducting! People who aren't musicians react to everything they see and hear - and your folks seem to do a fine job of projecting the spirit of the song. Congratulations to all of them!" Don Besig

Thank you to our dedicated musicians, our supportive congregation and community, who embrace and support music in our church.

Yours in music,
Jane Morse