

Our Mission: To unleash the musical gifts of our congregation and facilitate the offering of these gifts in worship in order to communicate the faith through music.

Have you always wanted to play the piano?

You can! Learn to play in a relaxed, informal setting in our Recreational Music classes starting in the fall. The classes, which will be taught by Nancy Whitecar, are for adults, who are beginners or who have forgotten how to play. No experience is necessary. Recreational music offers a stress-free environment, beneficial to your health and well-being, and offers an opportunity to have fun making music. Classes will be held at the church during the week, with daytime or evening classes offered based on student interest and availability. Participants can advance through several levels of instruction to develop their skills and deepen their appreciation of music.

For more information about this enjoyable program and to indicate your interest in the classes, contact Jon Hord, Fine Arts Academy Coordinator. It's never too late to have fun with music!

Congratulations to Nancy Whitecar, recently named Teacher of the Year by the Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum.

Music@First Fine Arts Academy Update

Our 8-week summer session begins **July 5**, with lessons offered in guitar, voice and piano. Please register by June 28th.

The **Spring semester Recital is Sunday, June 20th at 3:30 pm** in the Choir Room. All are welcome to attend.



Chancel Choir Ministry Trip

The Chancel Choir will be traveling on the weekend of June 12 and 13. Our trip is designed to offer opportunities to share our music and also serve as a mini-retreat for the group. Our first destination is Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton, Michigan, where we will have a time of devotions and tour the gardens. Next, it's on to Hillsdale, to sing a short set of music prior to the evening concert at the Gospel Barn (I guess that makes us the warm up band). Sunday morning, we will lead worship at the Bethel United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana, a church which is no longer able to have a choir. We'll enjoy a potluck lunch with the congregation before returning home to Plymouth. We invite your prayers for safe travel and a wonderful time of ministry and sharing.



Invitation

**It is the voice of the Church that is heard in singing together.
It is not you that sings,
it is the Church that is singing,
and you, as a member of the Church,
may share in its song.
Thus all singing together ...
serves to widen our spiritual horizon,
make us see our little company as a
member of the great Christian
Church on earth, and help us will-
ingly and gladly to join our singing,
be it feeble or good,
to the song of the Church.**

Dietrich Bonhöffer, *Life Together*

Not ready to sing, ring bells or blow your horn? You can still support the music ministry:

Usher for a NOTEworthy concert
Bake cookies for a Fine Arts academy recital reception or choir bake sale
Be on the music committee, supporting the music staff and assisting with special projects
Design a poster or flyer for a music event
Sponsor a NOTEworthy concert or scholarship for a Fine Arts Academy student

I recently spent a long weekend in Vancouver, British Columbia, accompanying my husband, Mark, to a conference. I had the rare treat of a Sunday off from my regular duties and a chance to attend worship in new places. On Sunday afternoon, I attended a Jazz Vespers service at the United Church of Canada across the street from our hotel. An excellent jazz quartet played secular jazz songs in alternation with short meditations by the Pastor. Though I was skeptical at first, by the end I understood the intent of the service—to invite those who might not come to worship on a Sunday morning, or at all, to take a step or two closer to God. Sunday evening at 9:30 pm, Mark and I ventured a few blocks farther downtown to Christ Episcopal Cathedral for a service of Compline —prayer for the close of the day. The sign outside the church advertised “30 minutes of exquisite chant,” and indeed it was. The Schola, a group of six men, opened the service with a gorgeous rendition of “This Joyful Eastertide,” and sang each chant with beautiful tone and careful attention to every nuance of the text. As the church filled with incense, the sights and sounds of busy downtown Vancouver faded away.

In the next few days, as I thought about those two services, I was reminded that there are many paths to God. One only has to visit a few different churches to experience different ways to worship and different slants on the faith. I’m very glad our congregation has been open to so many different musical styles, sometimes in the context of a single worship service. God doesn’t ask us to find a place in our faith and a way to worship that’s comfortable and remain stuck there, frozen and fossilized. He brings many experiences into our lives to help us grow, and I’m glad our worship can reflect an openness to enter in to many ways of speaking with and listening to God. We can worship through them all if we are willing.

— Marcia Van Oyen

Musings from the Bench

Coming in the Fall! Youth Choir for grades 7—12.

**Heartfelt thanks to all of our musicians who share their talents and give their time in our choirs, orchestra, bell choir and worship bands.
Your ministry is a tremendous blessing to our congregation.**

**We’ll all be celebrating another great season of ministry together
at the Music Ministry Picnic on June 2nd
for our musicians and their families.**