

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.

Chancel Choir selected to sing at General Conference in Tampa



Chancel Choir at International Choral Festival, Stowe, Vermont, 2008

This past spring, Marcia McFee, worship director for General Conference, issued an invitation for choirs to apply to sing at Conference in May 2012. As the application required, we posted three videos of our choir singing on YouTube, and submitted an application letter and information about our choir. Then we waited. A long time. On October 17, Marcia Van Oyen received an e-mail message saying our choir is invited to sing a lunch-time concert and offer music prior to the evening plenary session on May 1st. We had been selected out of a field of more than 150 applicants. It is a tremendous honor to have the opportunity to share our ministry at General Conference, the world-wide gathering of United Methodists which happens every four years. This opportunity reflects not only excellent music making, but also our emphasis on leading worship and sharing our ministry outside our own congregation with our mission trips. We are very excited to have this vote of confidence in our efforts.



Selections from Handel's "Messiah" on December 11

On Sunday, December 11, all of our music ensembles will be part of leading morning worship. The theme of our service will be "For Unto Us a Child Is Born," centered on musical selections and scriptures from Handel's "Messiah." Composed in 1741 and first performed in 1742, "Messiah" been performed for nearly 300 years, never falling out of favor. It still receives an untold number of performances every year. The Messiah phenomenon has no parallel in music history. In the concert hall and church sanctuary, "Messiah" continues to delight and inspire all who hear it.



Fine Arts Academy Winter Semester starts January 9

Contact Academy Coordinator Jon Hord to sign up for Kindermusik, or for private lessons in voice, guitar, piano or violin.

Also Coming in January:

More watercolor painting classes
taught by Vince Maiorana
Thursday afternoons, 3:30—6:00 pm

Recreational Music Making
Group piano classes in a relaxed, social setting
Taught by Nancy Whitecar
Monday mornings, 10:30—11:30 am

Preparation for Worship

The mission of the music ministry is “using our gifts to communicate the faith through music.” We do this through praising, teaching, proclaiming, comforting, edifying and inspiring others to join in the song. This coming year, the focus of our vision is to “encourage and invite people to become deeply-engaged, life-long worshippers.” We strive to help people **know Christ** by proclaiming the Word through music; **grow Christ-like** through fellowship in our music ensembles and service as volunteer musicians; **show Christ to the community** through choir mission trips, invitations to our music events, and partnership with community music organizations.

Over the past five years, it has been my goal to move the music ministry towards a worship-leading emphasis and move away from emphasis on performance. That means with each of our ensembles, we not only work on music, but we discuss why we do what we do, as well as how and for Whom. An emphasis on worship-leading affects what music is chosen and the attitude with which it is offered. Our Chancel Choir devotions each week this fall have been focused on four aspects of being worship leaders: **foundation** (the Biblical and spiritual fundamentals of who we are as a worship-leading choir), **relation** (being a family with a calling), **education** (working to develop the gifts God has given us for His glory), and **celebration** (applying all we have learned in the act of leading worship). These ideas flow out to all of our ensembles – in simple words for our youngest singers, and with more depth for our adult ensembles.

For those who attend worship on Sunday morning as part of the congregation, we provide the prelude as a brief time for you to focus your thoughts on worship. You can use that time to review the worship order, pray, look up hymns or Bible passages for the day, or simply sit quietly and think about all the ways God has blessed you in the past week. On many Sundays, prior to the prelude, I will give you some information about what will be happening in worship that day – perhaps there’s a new song, or a specific theme to think about, or a special way you can participate. Those few minutes prior to worship and while the prelude is played can be a “time out” from ordinary things, a time to breathe deeply, pause, “be still, and know that He is God.” Then join in with enthusiasm as we raise our voices in praise.

— Marcia

Musings from the Bench

Invitation

January is a great time to join one of our music ensembles!

After the Christmas season, we’re starting fresh with new repertoire for the new year, and you can join a group without needing to catch up learning music. All of our groups are open to all without audition. Come give us a try!

