

What's the News?

June 2022

A Word from Ben

*"If music be the food of love, play on;
Give me excess of it, that, surfeiting,
The appetite may sicken, and so die."*

(**Twelfth Night**, 1.1)

Ernie Johnson: "What was your major, by the way, Chuckster?"

Charles Barkley: "Music Appreciation."

Ernie: "And what did you do with that?"

Barkley: "They played music, I said 'I appreciate it!' and they gave me an A."

From **Inside the NBA**, May 10, 2022

Music has the power to lift us out of the everyday and into different experiences altogether. Hearing a favorite pop song for the first time in a long time can unlock a memory where it was on in the background for something big in your life. Hearing a familiar piece of classical music invites us to listen closely to its different components and pick up things we missed in our other listens. Singing old hymns in the sanctuary of your church reminds you of people who sang those hymns beside you in years past who might not be around anymore. Music, again, has the power to transport us, teach us new things, and remind us of who we are.

While we can all appreciate music when it's played from a recording or performed live before us, it is also true that getting inside the music yourself can unlock even more. While we have excellent music education programs in many of our schools, the



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Music Appreciation Sunday

We are celebrating the ministry of our vocal and bell choirs! Due to the pandemic, it has been several years since we have had a special worship service for them. Let's finally get together and enjoy the special gift both choirs selflessly give to First UMC.



Please join us for a morning of music on Sunday, June 12!

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.*

Psalm 98:4

Coming Up

June 7: Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

June 12: 4-H Meeting, after church

June 12: SHIP, 11:00 a.m.

July 27: SHIP, 11:00 a.m.



(A Word
from Ben,
Cont'd.)



opportunities for amateur musicians to learn and explore their talents beyond their teen years can seem scarce. Scarce, that is, outside of churches.

Where else do we get together and sing? Where else can adults, young, old, or in between, pick up instruments for the first time and be encouraged to keep trying? The gifts of the church are often hard to define or to assign a specific value to. We know, however, that group activities like music are good for us. They build confidence, challenge us, and build communities around shared interests.



So, like Charles Barkley, I also appreciate music. Even more, however, I appreciate that this church provides space for people to learn, grow, try things, and enjoy the fruit of the labor. I'm grateful for the work Regina and Risë are putting in with the choirs they lead to help all of us appreciate some beautiful music this month. Whether we are playing and participating or sitting back and happily listening, sacred music enriches our understanding of God, good and beautiful. So: you are invited Sunday, June 12 to appreciate music right here in Sunday morning worship. Play on!

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After we have been doing something for a while, it is helpful to step back and think about what we've been doing and how we can be more effective.

This is where now are with First United Methodist Church's communications process.

Currently, we use a number of methods to make you aware of what is and will be going on in the church, opportunities for mission and other ministries, and even thoughtful and prayerful encouragement.

Have you ever thought about how many ways we communicate at FUMC? We have this newsletter, Spiritlines, the Sunday bulletin, and Looking to Sunday, as well as email, mailed letters, and phone calls. That's a lot! And it's not a bad thing.

However, our communication does overlap in places, so over the summer we will be entering a time of reevaluation as we look at how and why we use each method, with the hope of creating a more streamlined, focused, and effective communications ministry.

Thank you for your support and prayers!

Blessings,
Janet Stafford
Communications Director