

February 6, 2022

Notes from the Music Department

Thank you, Randy Jefferson, for leading us in song today. The long pandemic has necessitated the wearing of masks. This combined with social distancing has made congregational singing a real challenge. Leadership on the microphone is proving to be a very welcome and appreciated help.

One of the most beloved American songs, "**Tis a Gift to Be Simple**," came to us through the traditions of the Shakers. Written by Joseph Brackett in 1848 while he lived in the Alfred, ME Shaker Village, the song shared their core belief that satisfaction was not attained through the acquisition of power or wealth but through humility and simplicity. Led by Mother Ann Lee, the Shakers were the first American religion to acknowledge the full equality of women and to declare that women could be leaders. Side note: We have the flat broom today because of their efforts to make everything as utilitarian as possible.

"**Mo Li Hua**" was chosen as the Postlude today in honor of the beginning of the Lunar New Year. This Chinese song about a jasmine flower dates back to the 18th century and has found international popularity as a result of performances at events such as the Olympic Games. Many composers have been drawn to its haunting melody including Puccini, who featured it in his opera, *Turandot*. We thank Canadian Christopher Norton for today's lovely arrangement.

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Music Making Opportunities

Our enthusiastic, vaccinated and masked UU Adult Choir meets Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 in our well ventilated atrium. No audition is required - just bring your good ears and a desire to join us in joyous harmonies.

Basic percussion technique building, drum games and adventures in music happen each Monday evening, 7:00-8:00, 1005 Steuben St. Wausau. There is no need to bring an instrument - the Drum Haven is full of authentic African and Caribbean drums and small percussion.