

March 9, 2023

## **Notes from the Music Department**

Much appreciation goes today to the mother and daughter duo. Christine Daniels and River McCarthy. When these two talented singers are not leading our congregation in song, Christine can be found at the Good News Project where she is their Executive Director. River keeps busy being an active student, especially in the music department, at Horace Mann Middle School.

**"Rise up"** is one in a collection of 12 original piano pieces by the contemporary English composer, Pam Wedgwood, that were inspired by contemplative works of art. Claude Monet's **"Parliament in London"** depicts the sun gently breaking through the early morning mist. In Wedgwood's interpretation, she introduces the chimes of Big Ben to set the scene, culminating in the sun rising as the piece comes to a dramatic close.

Clif Hardin is a composer, conductor and pianist living in the Washington, DC area. He has served as Director of Music at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation since 1983, where many of his arrangements and compositions including **"Traveller"** were first performed.

Spanish born Federico Mompou (1893-1987) studied extensively in France where he was greatly influenced by Faure and Satie. Mompou's musical style has been described as sensuous, dreamlike, colorful and tender. Written in 1914, **"Pajaro trieste"** translates as "Sad Bird."

You have heard several of Arizonian Dennis Alexander's contemporary piano pieces, mainly his contemplative and meditative music. His **"Toccata Espagnol"** concludes today's service in a fun, splashy sort of way. See you on the other side!

### **"The Year to Save the Earth"**

**Jim Scott, Composer Guitarist**

**7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 18, 2023**

**10:30 a.m., Sunday, March 19, 2023**

**First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau**

Mixing powerful songs and beautiful projected images, **"The Year to Save the Earth"** takes us from celebration to grieving, protest, learning and positive vision for the planet. Jim Scott's lyrical melodies and outspoken poetry celebrate what's beautiful, amazing and fragile, nurturing a spirit of collective action for our planet. (cont.)

The message is that the time is now! As well as hard reality, the program's message is one of optimism. There are many invitations for people to join in the singing and then to get involved in environmental action. Facing the urgency of the environmental crisis, the songs challenge us to feel, to learn and to act.

Putting ourselves in harmony is the first step, and singing together opens hearts and inspires community, commitment and then a movement. We hope "**The Year to Save the Earth**" will provoke thought, further discussion and move participants to take the vision home with us.

Prolific composer guitarist Jim Scott brings a warmth and humor with his jazz and world music influenced songs. He uses his prodigious guitar mastery and clear voice to touch hearts with his messages of peace, justice and the Earth. Over four decades, he has visited more than 700 UU churches. "**Gather the Spirit**" and several other songs of his are in our UU Hymn Books. Formerly a member of the Paul Winter Consort, Jim was composer of their celebrated *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass* and sang their anthem song "**Common Ground**".