

April 23, 2023

Notes from the Music Department

Our biannual Sing Sundays are the days when our congregation, with the leadership of our choir and songleaders Kara Hall and Amy Place, provides all of the music. It is said that what is needed to make meaningful music is a congregation possessing ears, voices, minds, hearts and a common heritage. The congregational voice is the heart of all church music. Singing together is "beautiful, meaningful, musical, full of the Spirit, responsive both to text and tune and magnetic in drawing together all who hear." Our Sing Sundays are when we experience this magic to the fullest.

The hymn list today includes several of our favorite hymns in addition to two songs that are in the category of "should be in the hymnals but aren't...yet." "**This Pretty Planet**" is also especially appropriate for this weekend's celebration of Earth Day. Tom Chapin, who describes himself as a musician, entertainer, singer/songwriter and storyteller remembers that this simple but profound song "wrote itself." A beautiful rendition featuring Judy Collins, a group of children, and Tom singing in canon can be found on YouTube using the keywords of "Pretty Planet by Tom Chapin."

"**Give Light,**" was composed by Terry Leonino who with her husband Greg Artzner formed the folk group, "Magpie." Years after the Kent State shootings, Leonino wrote, "As a survivor of the massacre at Kent State, for years I tried to write this song. It was difficult. It is such a very painful subject for me and for the many others who were on the hill that day in May, 1970. Thanks to the patience and love of my husband, I was able to put this pain into words about that time."

Music Making Opportunities

The **UU Choir** meets Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 in our well ventilated atrium where we prepare a variety of music to share with the congregation approximately once a month. No audition nor the ability to read music is required - just bring your desire to be part of our close knit community of singers as we create joyous harmonies. This month we are revisiting several of the pieces from our extensive repertoire that we will share April 30 for a festive "throw-back Sunday."

An additional possibility for group music making happens Monday evenings from 7:00-8:00 in the Drum Haven located at 1005 Steuben St. No previous percussion experience or musical background is necessary for membership in our **Drum Club**. All drums and other authentic small percussion instruments are furnished. Our time is spent in fairly equal parts of hand drumming techniques and skills building alongside fun drum circle improvisational activities and games.