

Music Ministries
May 2018 Report to the Governance Board
End of the Season Update submitted by Ellen Wilson

May 20th began our Summer Music season as our regular ensembles; Chancel Choir, Aldersgate Handbell Choir, MorningStar, Celebration Chimes, Sonshine Kids, and Youth Bells have paused for a much needed and well deserved break over the summer months. Summer Music will be filled by soloists and small ensembles as well as a reprise of the Chancel Choir on June 10th and July 1st.

All ensembles, including the leadership, have seen growth in overall skill and ability levels. Our music staff directors Kathy Lind, Heidi Fornes, Vanessa Martin, and Emily Johncox, are dedicated and work well together and with the children, youth, and parents. This church is also blessed to have Lisa Johnson Mott and Jorie Ronschke on staff as organist and pianist. They are amazing accompanists and their Sunday morning music choices are always inspiring. Many churches struggle to find even one competent person to play piano or organ, and we should consider ourselves fortunate to have Lisa and Jorie both on our staff. An additional note to that: because we have two pianists who work closely on their schedules, we have only had to search for a substitute once or twice in their tenure at First UMC.

The Children's Christmas program during the Sunday School hour in December was well done and is always a highlight of the Advent season. The February Music Ministries Benefit Concert was also a success in both the music and funds raised to benefit LUM and Habitat for Humanity. And in April, the Children led Worship Service (a combined effort of Children's Ministry and Music Ministry which replaced the Children's Spring Program held during Sunday School) was beautiful. We have heard many positive comments about this service and the desire for this to become an annual worship service.

And where would we be without the dedicated members of each ensemble who give of themselves and their time at weekly rehearsals and Sunday morning worship. Our soloists and instrumentalists also play an important part in worship. The participation in music of all of these musicians is a gift to this church that cannot be overlooked.

Music Ministries Outreach Ensemble, His In Song, continues to live out their motto "Making Music to Lift Your Spirit". Since September 2017, His in Song has entertained at: Aster Place (2 times), Mier Community Church, Creasy Springs Health Campus, St. Anthony Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Lafayette Urban Ministries Good Samaritan Follies, and Westminster Village. His In Song will be at Rosewalk Commons on June 12th at 7:30pm.

His In Song was honored to be asked to participate again in the Senior Outreach Program of the Honeywell Foundation in Wabash, Indiana. From their website: *"One of our very special programs is Senior Outreach, which brings live music and other entertainment into assisted-living facilities throughout the region. These performances and activities create social engagement and inspire active interaction for older adults. Senior Outreach programs are offered to facilities at no charge."* Honeywell Foundation arranged the 5 day 10 concert tour to the following facilities: Peabody Retirement Community in North Manchester, Mason Health and Rehabilitation Center in Warsaw, Blair Ridge Health Campus in Peru, Wynnfield Crossing Senior Community in Rochester (where we met Tim Delworth's mom), Parkview Whitley Hospital in Columbia City, Suite Living Senior Living Community in Marion, North Woods Commons in Kokomo, Victory Noll in Huntington (a Catholic Retirement Center made up mostly of retired nuns), McKinney Place in Logansport, and Autumn Ride Rehabilitation Center in Wabash. Our home base that week was at the Honeywell House in Wabash. We traveled 620 miles and lifted the spirits of over 435 senior citizens.