



Dear WUMC Family,

One of the many wonderful things about Worthington UMC is the music and another is the children, and when the two come together with children singing and ringing it is truly a delight. I have enjoyed hearing and seeing this amazing ministry during my time here and it has been a joy to work with Gretchen Wessel and see the special way she leads children! At this time I need to share with you a letter Gretchen has written.

Dear Worthington UMC Family,

After 18 wonderful years, I would like to share with you that I will be retiring 8/1/2021 from my position as Director of the Children's Choir and Handbells here at Worthington United Methodist Church. Yes, these years were wonderful! There is nothing better than watching children engage in making beautiful music, worshiping together, and sharing their gifts with all of you. I have enjoyed so many experiences here at WUMC... our Christmas programs starring Baby Jesus, conducting the children while they sing in service and ring at Offertory, performing so many fun musicals, and singing and ringing inside and outside! Speaking of outside, I could not be more proud of these kids as they showed so much resilience and effort as we practiced outside throughout this pandemic. We were rehearsing right up to Thanksgiving and started up again as soon as the snow melted! They are a special group, indeed.

I want to express my sincere gratitude for the support and love that I have received here at WUMC. This was a difficult decision, but after 35 years working in the church setting, it was time to focus on family and worship in a different way. I would like to close with a quote from a favorite little song that I know: *"May Love and Happiness, peace and joy, be with you forever, wherever you are."* - With Appreciation, *Gretchen Wessel*

If you would like to give Gretchen a card or note, please feel free to bring it to the office and we will make sure she gets it. I also encourage you to reach out to her when you see her at church and let her know the gratitude you have for the years she has led this Children's Musical Ministry. She has given our children a wonderful gift that will be with them throughout life and she has enriched this congregation by the love and music she has shared. To watch her direct, especially during this past pandemic year, is to know that she has deeply cared for our children and sought to bring the best music from them while also encouraging them to be all God created them to be.

Know we will be focusing on finding someone to lead this ministry into the future and hope to have that person in place by early September so the Children's Choir and Handbell Season can get underway. If you know of someone who may be interested, please ask the person to send a cover letter and resume to [Jarod Ogier at WUMC, 600 High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085](mailto:jarod.ogier@gmail.com) or email jarod.ogier@gmail.com.

As reports continue to come of low vaccination rates and some spread of the virus, we ask you to please get vaccinated and be safe as we all try to enjoy more freedoms. We appreciate your patience and help in wearing masks in indoor worship as we try to be sensitive to the persons in our midst too young to be vaccinated or with a condition that prevents them from getting vaccinated.

Remember to bring a card or note for Gretchen as we thank her for her ministry among us! I hope you enjoy the remainder of July. *Cyndy*

Trip and Taste for July: National Veterans Memorial and Museum

We hope you can join in on our next Trip and Taste, Thursday, July 22. Gather at the church at 9:30 a.m. and we will go to the National Veterans Memorial and Museum and then head across the street to the Spaghetti Warehouse. Tickets for those riding the van are: Adults (18-64) are \$17.00 & Seniors (65+) are \$15.00. Make checks out to the church and we will buy tickets as a group. Please contact Sally Falk (baxfal@aol.com or 614-402-1823) to sign up for the trip or ask questions. We hope you can join us!!

Get Coffee (or Tea) with Dom!

Get to know our new associate pastor by visiting his community hours on the La Chatelaine patio in Worthington. Dom has reserved tables on the patio for Monday, July 19th from 8:00-9:45 a.m., July 20th from 2:00-3:00 p.m., and July 21st from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Drop-in for five minutes or chat for longer! All are welcome to visit, and coffee or tea will be provided. In the case of rain, we will gather inside the restaurant.

Concert on the Lawn—Heartsong

A few years ago, a group of friends circled around a piano for an old-fashioned hymn sings. Since then, *Heartsong* is now seven-member ensemble with a developed repertoire of both sacred and secular pieces. *Heartsong* believes music is a universal language that can be enjoyed by all. They share music at senior living communities, churches, fundraisers, weddings and more.

HE  RTS  NG

"May our music fill your heart!"

WUMC Room Reservation

If you are fully vaccinated you do not need to wear a mask when entering the building, except for the 10:00 am service on Sunday morning and concerts/services in the sanctuary. Masks are still required for that service in respect for children attending under the age of twelve and others who are unable to be vaccinated. Those attending the outdoor service at 11:15 a.m. do not need to wear masks. If the weather is such that the 11:15 a.m. service is inside, masks are required.

Groups are asked to limit the time of meetings to 60-90 minutes and social distancing is recommended during the meeting.

You may request space by calling the church office and talking with Tony or filling out the form online for your request. (<https://forms.gle/yKJHeoHQB4RNCwCx7>). Each request will be considered in light of the information above and the current state of Franklin County/Worthington.

Depending on your activity you may be asked to use sanitizing wipes to clean some of the hard surfaces.

Thank you for working together to make this a safe and usable space.