



Wisconsin Gossellers July/August 2021

In-Person Rehearsal!

Yes, we're planning a regular full-day rehearsal

**10am-3pm on Sept. 11th
at Olivet UCC**

313 W Prairie St, Columbus, WI 53925



Please wear your mask, bring a friend, and come
make some joyful noise!



Who is this masked
donkey? And where
can you find him?

A few questions about f2f rehearsals have come up. Please note:

1. *Everyone who attends rehearsal must be fully vaccinated.* We do understand that some of us have medical conditions that prevent vaccination. For now, we do not encourage those people to attend rehearsals.
2. Even with vaccinations, *we will observe physical distancing guidelines while singing.* This means we will likely be sitting in the pews, so as to remain ca. 6 feet apart while singing.
3. *We will sing in masks.* Try singing in different kinds of masks to see what works best for you!



Mission Statement: To bridge cultural divides and touch souls through the transformative power of gospel music.

Vision Statement: A world where God's love triumphs over that which divides us.

PICK TWO. TWICE!!



Here's the link to "This is the Day!"

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17aR1Whfz6-5Qr1BQaUQCPSijHC-Kuh6W/view?usp=sharing>

Looking for a new way to think about the Hebrew Bible (OT)?

Check out *The Meaning of the Bible* by Vanderbilt professors Amy-Jill Levine and Douglas A. Knight (2012). Rather than march through chapter-by-chapter, Knight and Levine offer a *thematic* approach to the Old Testament. Themes include creation, the self, the divine, law, justice and even geography. Throughout, the authors also share new findings from archeology and other fields.

Knight and Levine want readers to notice how *complicated* the characters in the Old Testament are; the heroes are fault-filled, and the villains are sometimes creative problem-solvers. Maybe what's sacred about the OT is that it can help us notice the myriad ways imperfect people hash out relationships with God and with one another.

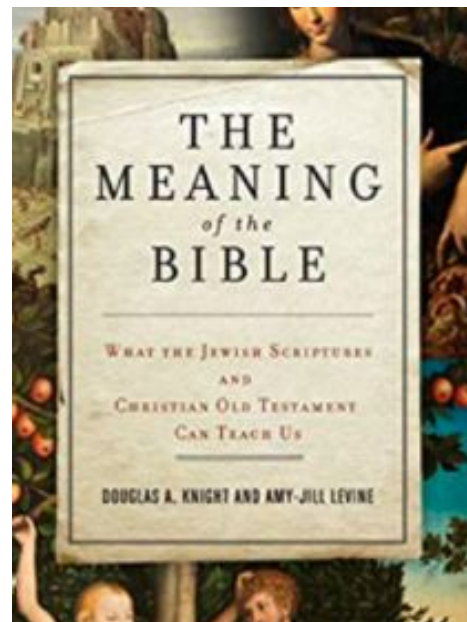
Isn't that basically what you and I are trying to do too?

The WI Conference has shared "This is the Day!" but we **need your help getting the word out about the WI Gospellers.** Just...

- cut'n'paste the link into a short email or text.
- follow up with a phone call.
- Invite singers to join us Sept. 11th. The vast majority of Gospellers joined after a personal invitation.

What might happen if each of us reached out to

**2 congregations
&
2 singers?**





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What I learned (from a 14 year old) this summer...

The Atlanta
Journal-Constitution

Back To School Tokyo Olympics Crime & Public Safety Coronavirus Sports

It's worth knowing what's really going on. [Subscribe today for 99¢.](#)

Opinion: Gender pronouns at schools pave a path to acceptance



"Hi! I'm _____. My preferred pronouns are..."

I'm hearing more & more youth & younger adults introduce themselves this way. And to be honest, my secret reaction was often, "OK. Whatever."

This summer, my almost-niece Jordan helped me "get it."

- Kimberly

Cutting 14 inches from her waist-length hair and adopting a pixie cut in 2017 began as an act of charity, but for Jordan Ricks, it would quickly become an act of resistance. When she walked into church wearing a graphic tee with "self-rescuing princess" and her new short cut with Emma Watson-inspired baby bird bangs, a misguided greeter turned to her grandmother and said, "You have such a wonderful grandson."

"I was really mad," said Jordan, 14.

"Every time she passed by that church, she felt furious," said her mother, Katie Ricks. "That is the first time I really heard (her) saying, 'Why don't they ask about your preferred pronouns?'"

Earlier this month, Jordan, now a freshman at Druid Hills High School, received affirmation that her school, at least, is starting to see things her way. At the orientation for freshmen and sophomores, school staff instructed students to write their names and gender pronouns on their name tags... "I was really excited," said Jordan, who uses she/her pronouns. "I think it is really important when you are meeting new people for the first time. It can make everyone feel comfortable."

We've reached that moment when young people — as in *those born any time after 2000* — are pushing for change. Almost 2% of high school students, a much greater number than researchers previously estimated, identify as transgender, according to a 2019 report from the CDC...

"It can validate people," Jordan said. "It can end the awkwardness that comes with asking people their pronouns..." Ricks said she was pleased to hear that the school was encouraging widespread recognition of pronouns. "I feel abundantly more hopeful about the place that she is in," said Ricks. "It sounded from Jordan like it was a really welcoming environment. This experience blew out of the water my anxiety [about] high school..."

Full article from Atlanta Journal-Constitution (July 28, 2021) [HERE](#)

What have YOU learned this summer?



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<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Aug 14	11am 2nd Saturday fellowship	Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81066587079?pwd=NFJjWlh2aDhtSjh1eG4yQUFkMzNmQT09	Share our music & connect with someone!
Sept 11	10am - 3pm Rehearsal	Olivet UCC 313 W Prairie St, Columbus, WI 53925	In-person rehearsal!
Oct 9	10am - 3pm Rehearsal	Email wisconsin-gossellers.org with location suggestions!	In-person rehearsal!



Prayer anchors our faith lives whether we are gathered or scattered. Sharing our needs, concerns & celebrations lets us know and support one another better. Please e-mail prayer requests to WI Gossellers chaplain David Wernecke (kdwerbec@yahoo.com).

David compiles a list of prayers & shares them regularly via email. If you've not seen those emails, please let him know.

[CAPITA Productions](#) (City at Peace in the Arts) released a virtual version of "We Are the Drum" to schools in late March. They ALSO created a multi-part curriculum that expands on themes of the show, meets DPI standards, and was formally approved by Milwaukee Public Schools. Don, Nancy, Martin, KC & the Leadership Team have been brainstorming how we can partner with this amazing organization. If YOU have ideas, now's the time to speak up!

