

The Westend Gospel Singers toured Wisconsin in 2006 and 2010; The Wisconsin Gospellers visited Germany in 2008 and 2012. This September these choirs are joining to share the good news of gospel singing with additional UCC congregations in Wisconsin and Illinois. Individual Congregations host the Westend Gospel Singers at each stop throughout their tour.



Germans have a long acquaintance with gospel music. The Fisk University Jubilee Singers toured Germany at the end of the nineteenth century. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German theologian and martyr, was inspired by music he heard while serving as a pastor in Harlem. When he returned to Germany, he brought back recordings to play for his seminary students. Recent interest has been inspired by the witness of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as well as the music of Mahalia Jackson and the Golden Gate Quartet, among others.

Gospel choirs have sprung up across northern Europe, expanding the musical tradition of the church and enriching its faith. In former East Germany, where only 25% of the population still count themselves Christian, Gospel music also provides opportunities for evangelism. Eighteen years ago, the Eberswalde congregation, a leader in this movement, helped initiate the Berlin-Brandenburg Gospel Choir Gathering. This event now draws 400 singers each year and is often hosted in Eberswalde.



Please visit the
Wisconsin Gospellers online
www.wisconsin-gospellers.org

Westend
Gospel
Singers

THE WESTEND GOSPEL SINGERS from GERMANY PERFORMING SOON in a UCC CHURCH NEAR YOU!



THE WESTEND GOSPEL SINGERS

Eberswalde, Germany

The 35-voice Westend Gospel Singers is a dynamic outreach ministry of the congregation in Eberswalde, a city of 40,000 located 30 miles northeast of Berlin in former East Germany.

During their two-week September tour, they will sing gospel music in English at UCC churches in Wisconsin and the Chicago area, performing along with members of local congregations and The Gospellers, a gospel choir of the Wisconsin Conference UCC.

The congregation that sponsors the Westend Gospel Singers is a member of the Union of Protestant Churches (UEK), an ecumenical partner sharing full church communion with the United Church of Christ (UCC). This choir exchange is just one example of how the ecumenical partnership furthers mutual understanding and the work of the church.