



Wisconsin Gossellers Mar/Apr 2020 Newsletter

COVID-19 & the Wisconsin Gossellers

The Leadership Team has cancelled our April-July rehearsals and events. We'll reevaluate before August, as the COVID-19 situation evolves.

As for the planned visit from members of the Gospel & More choir, Martin has been in contact with Stephan from Essen. They plan to reschedule their visit for sometime in 2021. As of now, there appear to be three possible time-frames for that trip. The Leadership Team is working with them to determine what works best. We will keep you posted!

We are keeping you everyone in our hearts and prayers as we all stay #safeathome. Please be healthy!



I found this picture on Facebook and was in awe of the true nature of the child's helpfulness. Let us all help one another lift our crosses as we face the COVID-19 pandemic together. - Alicia

Hello & Prayer from Marika from Wiehe, Germany

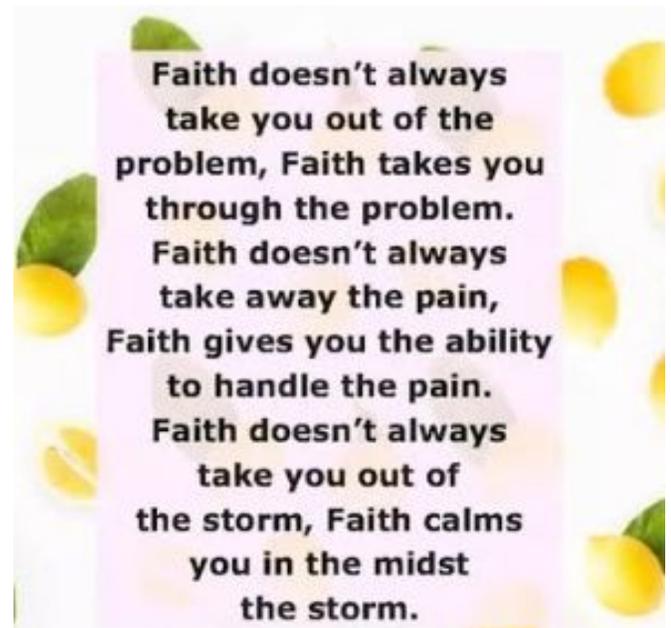
Hi to you all,

I still love to remember your gospel-concert last year. So many things have happened since then. Let us pray together that God will help us to find a Way out of this corona situation. Let us recognise the mistakes we made in the past.

Let us ask God to help and support all concerned, the sick, their relatives, doctors, nurses etc., And to strengthen scientists to find a cure, and provide politicians wisdom to make the right decisions.

Marika Holle
(from Wiehe/Germany concert)

For encouragement: <https://youtu.be/fileE9iiklZk>
(We are not alone, our God is with us - a wonderful hymn)





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“Enjoy This Life” by Kimberly Redding

“Be the Church: Protect the environment. Care for the poor. Embrace diversity. Reject racism. Forgive often. Love God. Fight for the powerless. Share earthly and spiritual resources. Enjoy this life. “

This United Church of Christ statement challenges us to live "unapologetically Christian" lives, to align our daily actions with our faith in a God who loves *all* creation. So we volunteer, collect canned goods, and (less often) write letters. But do we just as consciously *enjoy this life*?

Somewhere along the way, it seems to me, much of Christianity confused joy with reward and privilege. Think “protestant work ethic,” the prosperity gospel, or even the idea of dessert as a prize for members of the Clean Plate Club. Some Christian groups equated joy with frivolity and sin: If true joy comes from God alone, earthly pleasures are—at best—static interference; they get in the way of hearing the intended message. But the UCC puts “Enjoy this life,” right up there with the expectation that we “fight for the powerless” and “reject racism.” *Enjoy* is an active verb—and a mandate of Christian living.



What does it mean to ***enjoy life*** in an unapologetically Christian way?

From the Greek: *empiplemi* (to fill up)

And the Hebrew: *tselach* (to prosper) or *ratsah* (to be pleased with, accept favorably, delight in)

Nothing here about enjoyment as the absence of sorrow or the pursuit of conscience-numbing frivolity. Poking around the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, I found other clues:

1. Holy Joy often includes incredulousness or an incomprehensible situation. Think of Sarah laughing in Gen 18:12, or the 5000 people who were somehow satiated fed by 2 loaves and 5 fishes.
2. Holy Joy holds us “in the now.” It interrupts, just for a moment, regrets, plans and fears.
3. The best joy is communal. The ancient celebrations of Sukkot and Passover are meant to be *shared*.
4. Matthew 25:46 suggests (to me, at least) that joy is inherent to life. Denying joy = denying life.

Theologian Gary Anderson writes, “Joy is not simply a moment of exuberation... It’s a piece of *objective evidence that God’s promises are true...*” When we pretend the Christian life is all service, study and self-denial we push away one of God’s holy gifts. God’s call to “Enjoy this life” challenges us to *let ourselves be filled up* with life, to delight in this unpredictable, messy, moment-to-moment life.



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Belt Singing Lesson #2: More Tips to Help Your Voice Students by Jennifer Moorhatch

One of the Wisconsin Gosseller singers, Mary Brown, found this article and thought to share it with us to learn some interesting singing techniques. Below is the article & reference for the article.

“One of our most popular blog articles is Belting 101: How to Help Your Students Use Their Full Voice by Erin Guinup. This article is chock-full of helpful and practical information not only for understanding what belting is, but also for learning how to safely teach it to your students. It includes many helpful exercises as well as references to different styles of singing.

But if you try some of these exercises on your own, how can you be sure that you’re getting the right sound or producing the tone correctly? We thought it might be helpful if we got together with Erin in person for further explanation and actual vocal examples of the exercises and vocal styles. Erin explains the differences between the production of tone in a classical/legit style, a mixed voice style, and a belting style. Not only that, she performs Broadway excerpts of each style so that you can really get a sense of the different sounds and tones that she is able to produce.

She goes on to work with Theresa, a student she has never worked with before, and helps her to sing through some of the exercises included in her article to find her first “belt.” You actually get to observe Theresa, a traditionally trained vocal student, adapt to Erin’s exercises and achieve success. Since most choral directors have received traditional vocal training as part of their education, observing this mini voice lesson can really help bring clarity and understanding to these exercises.

Perhaps you’re wondering why you should take the time to learn these vocal techniques. As Erin notes, belting technique is extremely useful for pop and show music, but it’s also used in many different styles of world music. Therefore, it can be just as useful in a choral classroom or private voice lesson as it is in musical theatre.

Basically, belting is a style of singing that your students hear on a regular basis in the music they choose to listen to, and many students want to be able to produce a similar tone to what they hear. A proper understanding of these basic principles and techniques can help you teach safe belt singing to your students and help them preserve their voices through their developmental years.

Thank you, Erin, for taking the time to demonstrate these exercises and techniques!

Here are some resources to help practice belting:

Choral Music Show Tunes

Musical Theater Anthologies

Broadway Vocal Selections

Broadway Vocal Scores

Stage & Screen for Young Vocalists

Musical Theater Junior Shows

https://blogs.iwpepper.com/index.php/belt-singing-lesson-2-more-tips-to-help-your-voice-students/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=choralall&utm_campaign=2020.03.vocaltips&utm_term=Belt%20Singing%20Lesson%202%3A%20More%20Tips%20to%20Help%20Your%20Voice%20Students&&utm_content=email&&cm_mmc=Act-On%20Software--email--Vocal%20tips%20to%20keep%20your%20choir%20creative%20and%20collaborating%20--Belt%20Singing%20Lesson%202%3A%20More%20Tips%20to%20Help%20Your%20Voice%20Students



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.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Lunch by</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Now-August	All rehearsals & events have been cancelled due to COVID-19 Pandemic			
Sun Aug 9, (tentative)	Sun 10am Service 11:30am Picnic (still tentative)	Folk Song Farm 4811 Pioneer Rd., Richfield, WI	Faith UCC	Worship

Be the Choir—Be the Church



How much time, food & money do you devote to 2nd Saturday rehearsals?

One way to “be choir” while we’re apart is to steward those resources wisely. Gas alone is easily \$10/rehearsal; over 5 months, that adds up to a generous donation! What about the 5 hours we spend together (& the yummy food!)? Let us know how you are “holding sacred space” by intentionally stewarding those dollars, hours & meals.

A prayer for us all: My Peace in Thee

Lord, let me find my peace in thee, for in prayer is the meaning of all things found; in sorrow, that you might console, in joy that you might know our praise; together singing the song of what is real and good and delightful; no fear over what is dark, for you are in darkness as well as light, and you have come to know us better than we can know ourselves, and in this we draw comfort; for no greater friend, no stronger ally exists.

--Rev. Greg Limongi, Hospice Chaplain (long-time friend and colleague of David Werneke)

*I sing hymns
to help keep my faith strong,
to remind me
that I am a child of God,
and to calm any fear in me.*

*A hymn for me
is more than just a song;
it is music
that touches my heart,
and when needed,
it can heal my soul.*

Amen

Mountain Wisdom@facebook.com

Music-based assignment

Practice:

1. Praise His Holy Name
2. Dirait'on
3. Heaven's on the Other Side

Video record yourself singing Praise His Holy Name. Send recording to Martin.

Mission-based assignment

Call someone you think might be lonely during the COVID-19 situation.

Create little surprise for your postal carrier, the health care worker who lives next door, or the young family across the street.