

Elementary and Youth Choirs of FUMCOG



Welcome to the FUMCOG Children's Choir! The following is a short description of our offerings and general rules and guidelines for enrollment and participation. All choristers enrolled must have a completed enrollment form. This may be obtained from the Director of Music (hard copies are available in the choir room) or may be downloaded from the music pages on the website at www.fumcog.org. Hopefully most of your questions will be answered.

Contact Information:

Kevin J. O'Malia, Director of Music

Church phone: (215) 438-3677

Mobile phone: (609) 933-4232 (please call this number only in emergencies, please)

Church e-mail: omalialia@fumcog.org

Choirs – here is a summary of our offerings:

Elementary Choir

- Offered to children grades 1 through 5, the only prerequisite is being able to read some words. Music literacy is similar to learning a language, so children are often able to pick up music while learning other language skills. .
- Exposure to all types of sacred music, including classical, spirituals, ethnic and world music. Tolerance and love are taught through understanding, expressed in this indigenous music.
- Rehearsals will be on Sundays following worship. There will be a brief lunch in the choir room at 12:30, and we will rehearse from approx. 12:45 until 1:30. (schedule below).
- We will gather in the dining room downstairs for Linger Lunch weekly. Please ensure that your child eats a well-balanced meal. Please avoid sweets before rehearsal, and also any dairy product is not ideal – this coats the vocal chords and is not conducive to proper singing. If any of these foods are served, please serve them after rehearsal.

Musical Instruction:

In addition to preparing for our Sunday anthems, we will be learning about music using many senses! We will be learning musical notation and reading, moving to the music, hearing and listening to music and singing music. The curriculum I use for this is called Voice for Life, published by the RSCM America, and interdenominational offering. We will be using the light-blue book, and I will have copies for all choristers. This volume will cover musical instruction for the whole year. This volume is \$9.95 per book. Please make the check payable to FUMCOG, and put "music department" in the memo.

I also offer piano lessons to all ages and levels of experience. Please contact me (information above) if any of you or your children are interested in this! This is only a requirement for incoming children – returning choristers should have this already.

Attendance:

Attendance at weekly rehearsal is crucial for all to not only merely learn the notes, but to blend as an ensemble, and take notes and markings given by the director. It is also my hope that we will form closer bonds of friendship in this weekly regimen.

At the same time, I understand that we all lead busy lives. I therefore ask the common courtesy of timely notification of any absence. If you know ahead of time that you cannot attend any rehearsal or service, please sign the giant calendar on the piano. If there is no chance to do this, please send an e-mail (contact information above).

I also ask that everyone is prompt, so we can make the most of our time together. Every choir member is equally important!

Attire:

We will be using red cassocks (robes) whenever the choir sings in a church service. Under these choir robes, please wear Sunday best. For concerts (such as Candlelight and Spring Concerts) please dress them in concert black. Please avoid jewelry drawing attention, make sure hair is properly out of any face, and any sort of perfume or cologne is prohibited.

Rules – the following rules are expected to be observed in the church and choir rooms:

- 1) Only one person speaks at a time. If the Director of Music is giving instruction, all ears will be open and all mouths will be closed.
- 2) If you would like to speak, please raise your hand and you will be called upon. Since only one speaks at a time, all mouths will be closed (including the Director!) and all ears open.
- 3) We will speak in a conversational tone. No shouting or yelling. By the way, this is REALLY bad for the singing voice!
- 4) No running, unless the Director permits it in a movement game.
- 5) No name-calling, poking fun or fighting – we are a community and we ALL need to respect each other. We are all friends and we will support each other.
- 6) The church sanctuary is a holy place, meaning set apart. We need to treat it that way by sticking to the rules especially when in the church itself!
- 7) My motto is work hard, play hard. We will have many opportunities to be active, including our weekly lunches/dinners, parties, and any outings that may be arranged. In rehearsal, I ask that we follow all of the above rules, so that rehearsals are also a fun experience, and that we show our best selves when in front of the congregation and the community. It is a blessing and privilege to be singing this music and to be leading our families and friends in song!

