



MUSIC MINISTRY

“Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous. It is fitting for the upright to praise Him. Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to Him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully and shout for joy.” Psalm 33:1-3

What would life be like without the gift of music? It is part of our daily lives—from radio to TV, in movies, on phones, as we shop, favorite recordings, and in our worship. What a joy it is to have the gift of music in the life of the Church! Music inspires faith and helps us to prepare for prayer, celebrations, commemorations, and, so importantly, helps us to spread the Good News.

The Music Ministry of Gray United Methodist is rich and varied and offers many opportunities for spiritual, personal and musical growth. It is a means for participants to use the gifts and talents they have been given, not for their own glory, but for praising God and building His kingdom.

Goals

Our various Music Ministry programs all share these goals:

- 1) To give of time and talent to develop the skills required so that our musical offerings are our best gifts to God.
- 2) To share the fruits of these efforts in our church and in the community as we praise God.
- 3) To prayerfully and intelligently explore the many wonderful styles and types of sacred music and to choose texts and tunes with musical and theological integrity.
- 4) To embrace both the head and the heart of sacred music, recognizing that it has the ability to speak to both our intellects and our spirits

Philosophy

Although we strive for musical excellence, we want it to be fun. The priority is for each individual to be nurtured and loved as a Christian and as one who contributes to Christian Ministry through the Music Ministry. Though music reading skill is desirable, it is not necessary for most of our groups. All you need is the desire to participate and

the willingness to attend practices. Auditions are not required for participation in any of our musical groups.

Music Ministry Opportunities

Chancel Choir- The Chancel Choir of about 65 members is the primary adult choir of Gray UMC. As such, along with the Praise & Worship Band, it helps to lead the congregation in Sunday morning worship throughout the year. Weekly rehearsals are held from 7-8:30 pm on Wednesdays each week. The choir regularly utilizes its various small groups and soloists. It regularly participates in special services and concerts throughout the year.

The choir has an excellent CD, entitled "The Gray United Methodist Church Choir," and recorded in Nashville at The Grotto Studio. It is available for purchase for \$10 ? by contacting the church office at 423.477.3792 or by email: dawnrambo@grayumc.org.

Grace Station- Our Praise & Worship Band, currently consisting of guitars, bass, keyboard, drums, lead singer, and two or three other vocalists, usually helps lead the congregation in Sunday Morning worship and participates in other special music programs. Rehearsals are usually held from 8-9 pm each Wednesday.

Hand Bell Choir- The Hand Bell Choir is a 37- Schulmerich bell (C4-C7) choir of about 10-12 members. They rehearse weekly on Wednesdays from 6-7 pm and perform about every 4-5 weeks as well as on many special occasions and major holy days. Sometimes they accompany the Chancel Choir, and occasionally they play community related concerts like the Sycamore Shoals Celtic festival. The Bell Choir sometimes also uses a set of 37 Malmark hand Chimes (C4-C7). In addition to the full choir, there are usually two or more 2-4 person ensembles practicing for special performances. As part of community outreach, the Daniel Boone High School Bell Choir practices weekly at Gray UMC and uses our bells in seasonal concerts.

Youth Choir- Comprised of 6th graders through teens who are not in the Chancel Choir. Performs irregularly on special occasions and sometimes with Chancel Choir.

Children's Choir- Comprised of children up to 5th grade. Performs irregularly and on special occasions, especially holy days, and sometimes with the Chancel Choir.

Men of Praise- This group of five choir members sings mostly Southern Gospel music in the Gaither tradition. They practice on an irregular schedule to suit performance dates.

Special Programs- Each year and for the past 6 years, the Gray UMC Music Ministry program has joined with the Music Ministry programs of Sulphur Springs Baptist, Sulphur Springs Methodist, Jonesborough First Baptist, and Boone's Creek Christian Churches to present a special community musical program, usually at Christmas or Easter. Gray UMC has hosted these programs.

Gray UMC Music Ministry Staff

Music Ministry Director- Sandra Ford

Pianist- Melissa Powers

Organist- Judy Ellis

Praise & Worship Band Leader- Bryan Orchard

Hand Bell Choir Director- David Frost, Assistant- Ashley Ramsey

Youth Choir Director- Becca Mabry

Children's Choir Directors- Kim Castle and Susan Painter

Men of Praise Director- Sandra Ford