



Trinity United Methodist Church

626 Norwood Street • Spartanburg, SC 29302
864.585.4884 • TrinitySpartanburg.org

Ben Chumley, Director of Music Ministries
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Parents and Families of Joyful Noise Choir Members:

Welcome to the start of another exciting season of the Trinity United Methodist Church Music Ministry! Thank you for participating with us; we're all looking forward to a fantastic year of fun, learning, and great music! Attached please find our general policies and guidelines. Please read over them carefully and feel free to contact me anytime with any questions or concerns. Please see the last page for information about our new Remind group, which we'll use this season to more efficiently send and receive notifications.

The green information form at the end of this packet is required for all Joyful Noise participants; please complete and return it by our next rehearsal or meeting.

We have a few dates already on the calendar:

- Our first worship service participation of the season will be on **World Communion Sunday, October 7th**. We'll join the adult Chancel Choir to sing *Mungu ni Mwema with God Is So Good* (included on your Joyful Noise CD) as the offertory anthem our 10:30 worship service. Please plan to be in the choir room to rehearse by 10:10am.
- **There will be no Joyful Noise rehearsal on Tuesday, September 25th.**
- We will again ring as part of Trinity's annual Advent Concert Series on **Sunday, December 2nd at 7:00pm**. This will be an exciting opportunity for our group to play for and alongside our adult bell groups! We will rehearse **Saturday, December 1st 11:30-noon**. (The children will be joining the adult groups, who will rehearse 10am-1pm.) Depending on availability, we may also play one of our concert pieces during 10:30 worship on December 2nd.
- On **Sunday, December 9th at 10:30am**, we will present our annual Christmas musical during worship. **We have scheduled a tentative rehearsal on Saturday, December 8th, 10:30am-noon.** (If we end up not needing this time, you will be notified well in advance.) This year, as we work on our music in rehearsal and discuss the importance of gratitude and sharing during the Christmas season, we'll again spearhead a church-wide outreach project in our community. More information and ways to help will be announced closer to the Christmas season.

And a couple of spring dates waaay in advance:

- Palm Sunday is **April 14, 2019**. We'll join the adult choir & bells in 10:30 worship for our traditional palm procession and introit. (This year's song, *Hosanna to the Lord*, is included on your Joyful Noise CD.)
- Mother's Day is Sunday, **May 12, 2019**. In what has become a Trinity tradition, we'll again take over the 10:30 worship service, providing all music, leading all readings and liturgy, delivering the morning message and a special grown-ups' lesson, and recognizing our mothers. This is a special day for our church and our music program; you won't want to miss it!

And a couple upcoming church events (not specific to the Joyful Noise Choir):

- Harvest Fest is scheduled for **Sunday, October 21st**, 2-5pm. Join us (rain or shine!) for free games, crafts, food, and activities for all ages, including a rock wall, sand art, bingo, cake walk, face painting, putting green, and much, much more!
- Caroling & Chili will return this December (exact date/time TBA)...all ages are invited to join as we stroll Converse Heights, sing our favorite carols, and return for a delicious chili supper! More information will be given out as plans are confirmed.

Thank you again for allowing your child(ren) to participate in this season's music programs at Trinity! As always, if you ever have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the church (864.585.4884 x16) or by email (benchumley@yahoo.com).

Looking forward to a GREAT year,

Ben



Trinity United Methodist Church Music Ministry

Children's Program Policies and Guidelines

ENSEMBLES

The Joyful Noise Choir operates as a combined choral/instrumental ensemble. Our program is open to all children age 5 – 5th grade. We will focus on engaging, faith-based, child-friendly music education, active and meaningful participation in worship, teamwork, responsibility, and leadership. As part of our commitment to teaching our future church leaders to lead by example, we will sing/play in Sunday worship several times throughout the year and opportunities for additional participation will be provided as the children progress.

REHEARSALS

Regular, faithful attendance at rehearsals is the key to any musical group's success and also serves as a powerful tool to teach commitment and responsibility. All members are expected to attend and actively participate in all scheduled rehearsals and performances. Please notify the director or assistants of any known absences or conflicts as early as possible.

**This year's rehearsal schedule will be
Tuesdays 4:45 – 5:30pm in the choir room**

Our program operates in conjunction with the Spartanburg School District 7 calendar. If school is out for a holiday, teacher workday, or is cancelled due to weather, Joyful Noise rehearsal will do the same.

If your child attends Trinity's afterschool program, arrangements will be made with Children's Center & church staff to escort choir members to and from rehearsal. We ask that you arrange to pick up your child as close as possible to the end of rehearsal each week. **It is our policy that no child is allowed to leave the church unaccompanied, nor will they be allowed to leave with anyone other than a parent or legal guardian without prior, written permission.**

ADDITIONAL REHEARSALS

From time to time, in order to prepare for special programs and presentations, additional rehearsals may be scheduled. Normally, these will be held on Saturday mornings for about an hour and will be announced well in advance. When the group sings/plays for Sunday worship services, members will typically be asked to arrive at church 30-45 minutes prior to the service to allow time to prepare and warm up.

SAFETY

The safety of our children is of utmost importance. All teachers and assistants interacting with your child at any time during rehearsal will be Safe Sanctuary approved, meaning that they have undergone extensive background and reference screenings and have received specialized training in child safety, medical, and emergency procedures. Detailed information about the Safe Sanctuary program and Trinity's screening practice is available on our website, www.TrinitySpartanburg.org, and printed copies are available upon request. Parent-volunteers assisting at any time during the season will also be required to successfully complete Safe Sanctuary screening and training prior to serving; please see the director with any questions.

REHEARSAL GOALS & INCENTIVES

Concepts of personal and group responsibility serve as the foundation of our music curriculum and are integrated into everything we do. Each rehearsal offers the opportunity to earn incentives based on the following systems and objectives.

Each choir member receives a nametag on a lanyard. At the end of each rehearsal, (s)he receives music note stamps for reaching the posted goals; once 10 stamps are amassed, (s)he is allowed to choose a prize (small toy or school supply) and receives a new, blank card. (CDs will be given to each child to assist in learning and memorizing the Songs of the Month and other pieces.)

- ♪ “I participated today!” (1 stamp per rehearsal)
- ♪ “I was respectful of people and instruments!” (2 stamps per rehearsal)
- ♪ “I have learned the Song of the Month!” (3 stamps per assigned song)
- ♪ Additional opportunities to earn stamps will be offered periodically throughout the season.

RECORDERS

We are very excited to again include recorders as part of our curriculum this year! This has proven to be another fun, engaging way to explore music and develop personal responsibility.

During the season, each child will be given a West Music 3-piece Soprano Recorder with cleaning rod and travel bag, which will be theirs to keep. These should be taken home after each rehearsal and practiced during the week. We will discuss upkeep and cleaning, and each member will be expected to bring his/her well-maintained instrument to rehearsal each week. (Extra classroom recorders will be available in case a member forgets his/hers, but these will be left in the choir room at the end of rehearsal to be sanitized and reused.) Replacement recorders are available for \$5.00.

Our curriculum, *Recorder Karate*, is a nationally recognized progressive, merit-based motivational program. At its heart is a positive reward system in which students receive colored "karate belts" to hang from their recorders for each progressively more difficult tune. Although each child is free to work through the program at his/her own pace during the week, we will set group benchmarks for rehearsal and will play as part of worship during the year. Should your child need additional practice (especially before a presentation in worship) or want extra help on anything related to our recorder music, we'll schedule one-on-one or small group practice immediately before or after our regular rehearsal time.

APPAREL

The Music Ministry stocks printed T-shirts for Joyful Noise Choir presentations. They are laundered and stored at the church and are worn each time the choir plays/sings in worship, as well as for all outside activities and performances. (Unless notified otherwise, any bottoms—pants, skirts, shorts, jeans—are acceptable.) Please indicate your child's size on the attached form.

Costumes for our Christmas musical will be provided as needed. Closer to December, choir members will be advised what to wear to church on the day of the musical. Participants in our Advent Concert Series will be advised on apparel closer to December; anticipate wearing dressy Christmas attire in red, green, and/or black.

COMMUNICATION

Notices and special information will be periodically sent home with your child. If anything needs to be signed or returned, please do so as early as possible. Please make sure that we have your current contact information, as additional information may also be sent via postal mail or email.

All parents/guardians are encouraged to join our TUMCjnc Remind group, which allows instant communication via text message and/or the free Remind app. Important notifications (rehearsal reminders, weather-related cancellations, emergencies, etc.) will be sent as needed throughout the season. To sign up, please follow ONE of the methods below:

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| <p>A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.</p> <p>On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:</p> <p>rmd.at/tumcjin</p> <p>Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.</p>  | <p>B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.</p> <p>Text the message @tumcjin to the number 81010.</p> <p>If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @tumcjin to (347) 756-4507.</p> <p><small>* Standard text message rates apply.</small></p>  |
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The Music Ministry publishes a weekly newsletter, *INCHOIRING MINDS*, which contains information on all of our adult and children's ensembles, including upcoming dates, announcements, and notices of outside performances. Copies are available each week in the choir and bell rooms and may also be viewed and downloaded on the music page of Trinity's website, www.TrinitySpartanburg.org. If your child has an outside performance that you would like to highlight or if your family would like to be added to our prayer/praise list at any time, please contact the director.

Should you ever have questions or concerns about any aspect of our programs or activities, do not hesitate to contact the director or any member of church staff:

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864.585.4884 x16; email benchumley@yahoo.com

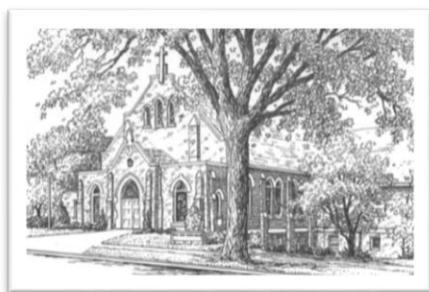
Rev. Neal Woods, *Pastor*
864.585.4884 x11; email nywoods@umcsc.org

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864.585.2392; email tumcchildren@bellsouth.net

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Trinity United Methodist Church Music Ministry
2018-2019 Joyful Noise Choir Participant Information

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Child's Name: | _____ |
| Mailing Address: | _____ _____ |
| Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s): | _____ |
| Contact Phone Number(s): | _____ |
| E-mail address(es): | _____ _____ |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Emergency Contact: | _____ |
| Relation to Child: | _____ |
| Emergency Contact Phone Number(s): | _____ |
| Anyone other than listed parent(s)/ guardian(s) authorized to pick up? | _____ |

| | |
|--|--|
| Birthday/Age: | _____ |
| Grade/School: | _____ |
| Hobbies/Interests/Activities: | _____ |
| T-shirt Size: | _____ (<input type="checkbox"/> Youth or <input type="checkbox"/> Adult) |
| Prior music training? If so, instrument(s)? | _____ |
| Any allergies/health conditions/learning needs that staff should be aware of? | _____ _____ |
| Other Information: | _____ |

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|---|
| Available/willing to help with (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>): <input type="checkbox"/> costume sewing/mending <input type="checkbox"/> set/prop building/painting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> providing snacks/party supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> supervision during extra Saturday rehearsals/trips |