

The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music & Worship Arts

QUARTER NOTES

Summer 2020

Florida Chapter

Vol. 43, No. 1

A letter from the President of Florida FUMMWA

Dear Members and Friends of the Florida Fellowship,

We are a fellowship which by definition is an association of people who share the same interests. One of the most important parts of that association, or fellowship is getting together and sharing our ideas, our joys, our concerns and growing together for the cause of the kingdom of God. That is why it was such a difficult decision to cancel our summer workshop because of the concerns over the Covid-19 worldwide pandemic.

There was an exciting week planned for you. Fortunately, all of our clinicians have committed to postponing their time with us to either 2021, or 2022. Beth Green has assembled a wonderful design team who has decided "The show must go on!" They are currently working on plans to put together a virtual workshop that will feature content that will be available through our website (www.floridafummwa.org). We will have interesting educational sessions, devotions, reading sessions and more.

Beth and her team have had to make a sudden shift to rescue our 2020 workshop, so these plans are still being developed. I am grateful to her, the rest of the design team and Judi Hurst who will be responsible for hosting all our content on our website. Look for details in this newsletter and in future communications.

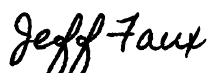
Plan to carve out some time June 7 – 11 to watch all of our videos and participate in our evening virtual gatherings. There will be no charge to participate, but you do need to register. Be on the lookout on our website for those details.

I hope you will see this as an opportunity to introduce people to our group. Invite colleagues, friends, choir members and pastors to check in on our FREE virtual workshop. With your help we can reach even more people. Those who were not willing to commit to a full week away may be willing to access a video and a virtual gathering. We hope to take advantage of this opportunity to introduce our fellowship to an even wider audience. Participants do not need to be Methodist, or even from Florida!

Look for our announcements by connecting with the Florida Fellowship on Facebook (Florida FUMMWA) and Twitter (@FFummwa). I invite you to partner with me by sharing this opportunity via these online platforms as we make our announcements over the next month. You could forward this newsletter to those who might be interested.

Hitting the cancel button was not easy, creating a brand-new workshop experience in just a few weeks will be even more difficult. But I know that you will be blessed and enriched by the hard work the design team is doing right now. I am looking forward to 'seeing' you at Workshop!

Grace and peace,



President, Florida Fellowship

Be Wise

Be Safe

Be Well

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National FUMMWA WEBSITE:
<https://www.umfellowship.org>



Florida Chapter Website:
<https://www.floridafummwa.org>

WORKSHOP 2020 is Going to be ... "DIFFERENT"!



by Beth Green
Workshop Chair

Your Workshop Planning Team is hard at work “switching gears”! June is just around the corner and we want to provide both social and professional elements during our scheduled Workshop week June 7-12. Right now, due to the pandemic, we are planning to provide them online through our website. The information you find here is fluid and may change even before you receive this, so please continue to check our website for the most current information.

We're also planning to offer live, online Zoom calls on the evenings of Workshop, Sunday through Thursday, starting at 7:00pm. To sign up for our Virtual Workshop Zoom calls, please go to <https://www.floridafummwa.org> and give us your name, church, and email address so we can send you the link for each night.

Sunday will be purely social and catching up with everyone. Monday through Thursday, part of our time together will be discussion or Q/A related to some of the videos, documents, etc. posted on the website and those people who are providing the audio or video content. As an example, you will receive materials like Jeff Faux's "Top 10 Choral Anthems for Adults" on the website, and then have the opportunity to ask him questions on the Zoom call for that evening.

Do you have something you would like to share with the group? The idea can be as big or as small as you would like it to be, although we request at least a 3-minute video. Is this the opportunity you've been learning, preparing, training, waiting, and praying for? Will you step out of your comfort zone? Is the Holy Spirit prompting you?

If so, please keep in mind that the sooner you can record/write/draw/dance/etc, the sooner we can compile and try to figure out how to divide the

content, releasing some each day. A couple of examples? 1) Our Workshop Chair-Elect, Michael Ekbladh, will record a 4-part video of how to put together a musical. 2) Tom Huffman is going to request new organ music from publishers and plans to record for your listening pleasure before workshop week. Do these examples help you think of something? I hope so.

We are so disappointed not to be able to connect with you all in person this summer, but we hope you will join us for our FREE Virtual FUMMWA Workshop for 2020. Please remember that an RSVP is needed [on our website](#) for the group portions (most likely Zoom calls), but most materials will simply be available on the website for your use at your convenience. We will save our "Draw the Circle Wide" theme for 2021 and are working with all of our scheduled clinicians to have them next year or the following summer when we can be together again in person. Michael Ekbladh is our Workshop Chair for 2021 and 2022!

During this time, please invest in your local communities and invite someone who has never considered The Fellowship to check out our virtual workshop this summer. This can also help connect us with people that we'd like to invite next year to our 65th anniversary celebration at the LEC in 2021!

A Daily Schedule for the Zoom Calls will be coming SOON!

Message from the Youth Deans

"Virtual YOUTH Music Camp"

Hello, Campers!

We are so sad that we will not be able to gather together this year for "music camp". Our week together is such an important tradition for so many of us. We learn, we sing, we dance, we sign, we act, we read, we laugh, we cry, we sing some MORE, we talk, we create, we eat, we play, we worship together, and we build relationships that last forever. During the week of camp this year, we are planning to create some music camp virtual opportunities so we can experience the JOY that camp brings to each of us!

Even though we won't be able to see you, we still want to "SEE" you! Please send us a short video (10 seconds) saying hello to all your friends at camp! Remember to state your name and church name! We will premiere a "Virtual Hello", created by Bryan, during the week of camp! It is going to be FUN and we want ALL of you to participate! Please send by May 29th to bryanbrowning1988@gmail.com

Be sure to "like" our Facebook page (Florida FUMMWA) and keep an eye on Twitter (@Ffummmwa)! We will be posting other videos from our youth team and leaders-devotions, short classes, and more! Also, be sure to visit our website for Music Camp information as it unfolds, as well as to enjoy some "workshop recaps" from previous summers.

We miss you! We pray that you are well and safe!

In His Service,
Stephany, Bryan, and Tree
Youth Deans

2020 Membership Information



Please go to the national website to find the membership plan that is right for you and your church. With these plans, you will have access to resources to help you gain new ideas for your ministry. JOIN *The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music & Worship Arts* at <https://umfellowship.org/membership/benefits-of-membership>
...and automatically become a member of The Florida Chapter! (*See below for additional benefits offered by Florida Chapter)

Hope to "see" you at Workshop! *Karen*

*Additional Benefits offered by The Florida Chapter

1. *Quarter Notes* newsletter delivered four times per year
2. A DISCOUNT on the yearly Florida Summer Workshop
3. FREE ADVERTISING—Online Website and Newsletter for events sponsored by or directed by any member

CHURCH in the COVID-Age

We are ALL living in what is easily described as a 'different' time! Nothing is what we would usually think of as normal. However, just as we have done in the past, people pull together, and something new and wonderful happens!

In this case, families are being reaffirmed and getting to know each other again as kid's schools and Mom and Dad's jobs are functioning at home online, some businesses are finding out they can retool in a way in which they might never have imagined, and churches are functioning in spite of arrests and lack of contact in person! The human spirit PLUS the Holy Spirit is an indomitable force!

Just in case your church is still trying to find its way, we asked our Council members to share how they or their churches have handled these uncertain times. We offer their responses here and on the next pages in the hope they will be helpful to you, as we all learn from each other and move forward together!

~ Rick Holdsworth—At Large

Our church has been live streaming our worship services for a few years so the transition from that aspect was easy, although we have had to think about the service differently because livestream is the main service, considering transitions, content, and length.

Since the start of the Pandemic, we have livestreamed a short @20 minute Wednesday evening prayer service as well as our Sunday worship service. During holy week we also streamed a Maundy Thursday service which was followed by drive up communion, and then we also streamed a Good Friday service.

We are sharing our space and technology by allowing a neighbor church to use our sanctuary and equipment to stream to their congregation. Using Zoom we are having church members record the scripture so we can get some of their faces in the Sunday livestream. We also are having folks send us pictures of them watching the service. We show them at the beginning of our stream during the greeting and announcements.

We are using "[livestream.com](https://www.livestream.com)" for our streaming service. The services can be saved then posted so folks can go back and view them if they aren't available during the actual streaming time. We have also been using "zoom meeting" for face to face meetings and chats.

No rehearsals. I send out weekly devotions and email to all of my choirs. Ring Sarasota had a 'un-rehearsal' on Monday evening using Zoom to just check in and connect with each other.

~ Karen Forrester—Membership Chair

Little did I know on Wednesday, March 11, I would be at my last choir rehearsal with my preschool choir for the season. Since the time had just changed and it was daylight outside during our rehearsal times, I had promised my kids that we would have some play-ground time the next week if they listened and did what I said. What a great evening playing instruments, doing movement activities and singing their favorite songs. Boy, what a difference two days can make...that following Friday as our schools were told to close, our church also followed suit because of our recommended state and conference guidelines. I have stayed connected with my choir kids by sending individual notes and connecting with parents by text and Facebook. At Easter, I was able to see many of my kids on a video in our church's prerecorded Easter service that is sent out by YouTube each week.

It has been different being part of our church's worship service by YouTube but know this is what must be done during this time. The Zoom app has been helpful in connecting with some of my choir parents and others on Wednesday nights for Bible study. This is the first time I have been able to participate with adults on Wednesday nights for a study, so this is a nice change.

I think that when we can get back to worship in our building, Zoom might still be used for some meetings since it has been successful.

As we weather this storm together, I feel personally that the communication between me and the parents is stronger than before this happened. As we transition back, I will continue the new communication as a great way to stay connected.

~ Tom Huffman—Worship Coordinator

*Organist & Associate Director of Music
Northwoods Presbyterian Church
Clearwater, Florida*

We are all trying our best to keep our choirs and congregations connected, engaged, and worshipping together—a challenge with no precedents in our lifetime.

Like many of you, at Northwood Presbyterian in Clearwater, we began live-streaming worship without a congregation on March 15. We have for several years been live-streaming two of our three worship services each week so we had the equipment in place. But after the first week, we realized a better product was necessary to enhance what we were used to. The purchase of a second computer, a video switcher, and a second camera allowed for a smoother flow and the ability to overlay hymn texts, and readings on the screen. We also added a Facebook Live option. It takes five people to run the technical elements but fortunately, our technical coordinator can use his whole family. It's not perfect and they are still learning how to make it all work smoothly, but we have worship!

The choirs have been replaced by a soloist at the traditional service, and the band at contemporary by a husband and wife duo along with a keyboard. We have the soloist also sing along (off-camera) with the hymns. This Sunday (May 3) we are planning to insert a recording of the choirs from March 2019 in place of a solo. The two pastors, organist, and singer for the hymns are the only others in the room. (We adhere to the 10 or under guideline).

Several of the program committees and the session meet via Zoom or Microsoft TEAMS. That has worked well. We also did that with the adult choir—not to sing but to stay in touch. The youth director is connecting in multiple settings with the youth for Bible studies, Sunday School, Game Night (they play Jackbox), Confirmation Class, even a group birthday party. There is also at least one adult Sunday School class and an adult Bible study meeting weekly with Zoom. The Associate Pastor recently initiated the weekly Bible study.

Now we are beginning to think about how to proceed when the next phase begins. Vocal

(Tom Huffman continued)

quartet or octet, full band, congregation limited to 50 people, 100 people? At least it's comforting to know we are not alone in this—in two senses: God is with us and every other congregation has to wrestle with similar questions. We're all in this together!

~Beth Green—Workshop Chair

I'm the Director of Classic Worship at First Church Melbourne, a United Methodist Church, where I direct the choir and handbells, create the slides for worship, create and print the Order of Worship, and schedule volunteers weekly as greeters, ushers, and communion servers for our 11AM service.

First Church Melbourne has a Thursday night service and then two Sunday morning worship experiences. These are a Modern service at 9:30 which also has had a Facebook Live for several months, and a Classic service at 11:00 with robes and choir. For Holy week, we had to make several changes.

We generally have our Maundy Thursday service in our gym (Modern worship space) with round tables and acoustic worship band. We take communion together after several readings and a homily. This year, our lead pastor and his wife (who was our pastor until last year but is now the District Superintendent for the Atlantic Central District of the United Methodist Church) held a Seder meal at their home through Facebook Live. They sent out a shopping list of ingredients on Monday to allow people to purchase items to have the meal with them, or they could just watch and learn about the ancient practice.

For Good Friday, we generally have a Stations of the Cross set up for prayer in our Chapel. This year, we did a driving Stations of the cross, written by our Connections Pastor that included stops including our church parking lot, our local hospital, our local food bank, a garden, etc. I think he used the Book of Worship for the readings and prayers.

On Easter Sunday, we had our regular Facebook Live Modern worship service at 9:30. For our 11:00 Classic worship service, we have been

(Beth Green continued)

recording a few weeks at a time and posting the service on our website every Sunday morning right at 11AM (replacing the previous week's). I have been singing the hymns with our accompanist on the piano in the gym (moved in temporarily from our Chapel space) so that our Modern Worship director did not need to have two separate scenes for recording and moving all of his equipment. He has been helping other churches in our district use iMovie and secure the recording equipment needed for a great quality. He also goes to campus every Sunday morning to run the Facebook live modern service from there. This will continue when worship is live again, but I do not see us continuing to record the service I lead for our website.

We have recently started a weekly Zoom call just to check in with choir members, but it's a very small portion of the group. Many are nervous to try downloading something on their own, so each of us on the call is also on our cell phone putting someone else on speaker phone to try to participate in the meeting. I've sent out some links to help people practice their music, but singing on Zoom creates a problem with timing. If I had more participants, I could practice each vocal part on separate calls, but it is not a big enough portion of my group to make this effective.

Our care team is calling the full church roster every two weeks, so our choir members are getting check-in calls, and I am one of the team members making the calls.

A great result of those check-in calls is that we're able to update contact information for so many people and see how everyone is doing. We don't always get that personal contact with everyone who walks in the door, and we're able to do it safely. If someone's phone number doesn't work, we send an e-mail and try to get new information. We've found that several people have moved away but are still connecting with us weekly through Facebook Live. Some people have found a new church, but their new church is too small to create their own weekly service with current technology. Many of our regular church members are participating in the 9:30 worship enjoying the live comments feature, but then also watching the 11:00 service on the website with hymns, so we're actually having more contact with people!

~Tree Hazard—Youth Dean

- 1) How did you/your church handle Easter week services? PRE-RECORDED Maundy Thursday and YouTube Easter Services early in the week. "Livestreamed" on Facebook Live. On Good Friday we "livestreamed" last year's production of "The Living Last Supper".
- 2) How have you been handling weekly rehearsals / services? only praise team has continued to practice - service is then recorded immediately following.
- 3) What technology have you found to be helpful during this time? Facebook, YouTube, Zoom for meetings.
- 4) What has been the response to these changes? Most of congregation is grateful we are able to "broadcast" services. have started to do a "blended" service by recording hymn with organ, sermon and prayers in the Sanctuary then the contemporary music portion is recorded in the worship center.
- 5) Do you think any of the changes you have made out of necessity will be kept because you or your church found that "that really works well"? Unsure. Might continue some online studies. Will continue to offer livestream services when possible.

~ Joan FitzGerald—Past President

Our church handled the Easter week services by using online links that people could watch at any time. Pastor recorded sermon. I posted YouTube videos for the prelude & postlude and made two hymn videos. PDF Worship guide with the call to worship, prayers, etc. was provided. I used a modified version of the UM Discipleship virtual choir video of "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" for the opening hymn.

We haven't had any rehearsals or "live" services since late March.

I have been using Word Movie Maker to make the hymn videos. And using hymn accompaniments from <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/piano-accompaniment-recordings>

(Joan FitzGerald continued)

I don't really know what the response has been to these changes. I have had literally no personal communication (e-mails, phone calls, etc.) from our congregation or Session (I'm at a Presbyterian (USA) church) to know if they are enjoying or using the resources that I'm including. Did receive one text from a Session member thanking me (as a part of the team) for keeping the congregation connected.

I don't feel that we'll continue to make these resources available once we're back worshipping in person again. We already post the weekly sermons on our website.

~ **Beth Trotter – Treasurer**

Here is what the past month has felt like to me. I am in the choir, bell choir, & instrumental group, but hold no position in church leadership. The church closed on March 15. (First United Methodist Church, Hudson, FL) Stay away! No rehearsals or any kind of group meetings, then they started doing Sunday service online. I just went to the church website and clicked on a link which took me to YouTube. The first couple of weeks I started watching there, and then went on and checked out a couple of other online services, even on Easter Sunday!

~ **Jeff Faux—President**

We started recording services on Thursday morning the third week of March. We are fortunate to already have a high quality video system in place in our sanctuary. Because we have been recording our live service for a number of years, we were able to drop in hymns and choir anthems from previous services that went with the theme of the service. The idea of our congregation seeing a sanctuary filled with people and 120 singers in the choir loft reminded them of how we once worshiped, and the hope of how we will worship again.

We have communion six times a year. We have postponed our June communion to July and have ordered Fellowship communion cups that have a wafer and juice pre-packaged and sealed that we plan to use. Maunday Thursday is a communion service for us. We livestreamed that service and asked people to assemble their own bread and juice for communion that was consecrated virtually.

For the five Sundays of May we will hold live Sunday morning services that will be live streamed and we will continue that as long as needed. I will not have a choir rehearsal until June at the earliest. It is quite possible we will not meet again until the fall.

Emails, the church website and announcements during the videoed services has been the main way we have communicated. Lots of personal phone calls to check up on people as well.

A Basic, Simple Setup for Livestreaming Your Church Services. Includes Hardware and Software recommendations, along with tips and tricks to get the best out of your equipment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TKsLQYagYA>

How to Lead your Worship Team during a crisis

<https://www.worshipteamcoach.com/leadership-development/how-to-lead-your-worship-team-during-a-crisis/>

How to Create a Virtual Choir Video using WeVideo which is FREE for educators right now. March 26, 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0eiZioPkII>

How to Create a Narrated Video for Workshop in PowerPoint 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8JV3w4TOVw>

How to Look Nice and Communicate Well on Zoom Calls

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9odWah1XPA>



How is Kylie?

(Former Youth Dean
on Fulbright Scholarship,
teaching in Thailand.)

Time sure flies. The second year definitely did not go as expected, but I am still eternally grateful for my time with Fulbright, the wonderful people it's brought into my life, and amazing experiences I've had in Taiwan so far.

Today, March 26, 2020, I went to the doctor because of a sore throat and some congestion. Turned out to have a pretty high fever. In the course of one hour at the hospital, I was seen by an ENT, got a chest x-ray (it came back clean, so no Corona), went back to the ENT, then saw two different doctors for an additional

mini-exam and contact history to make sure I could not have picked up the virus somewhere. I left with a diagnosis of tonsillitis, some medication, and instructions to come back for additional tests if the fever doesn't go away. All for less than USD 50. The speed and thoroughness is always impressive, and I couldn't be more thankful to have access to such quality care during these uncertain times. I appreciate the Taiwanese medical system, both for the quality of care and their dedication to keeping Covid-19 under control! Please pray for my continued recovery, and all of the medical workers here.

Received on Facebook from Kylie on April 27th: Hi Judi - I'm doing well! Still have tonsillitis (it's chronic so this isn't unusual) but am otherwise in good health. Things are pretty normal here in Taiwan. Schools and businesses are still open, and people are living mostly normal lives with the addition of some added health precautions. The number of cases here is still very low compared to most other countries and the situation is being well managed. I feel very safe and fortunate to be here right now. I've been keeping up with the state of the U.S. and am sad to see that the situation over there is much more severe. I hope everyone with Florida FUMMWA is doing well and staying safe. Sending lots of thought prayers and love, along with a reminder to wash your hands!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



"How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy she gives,
But greater still the calm assurance,
This child can face uncertain days
because He lives!"

IT'S A GIRL!

Born almost two weeks early and after 21 hours of painful labor, Dylan James Manning came into our world via cesarean section on 4/21/20 at 2:31pm. She weighs 10lbs 3oz and is 20.5" long. She is ready to love Jesus.

Dylan and mom are doing great. And while these days are certainly uncertain, we are thankful in all things for a supportive family, answered prayer, and most of all God's love and strength.

AND.....We have some MORE exciting news!

It is with both extreme excitement and bitter sweetness we announce that I've been called to be the new Campus Ministry Director and Pastor of the Wesley Foundation at Florida State University and Tallahassee Community College! We are excited about the good and miraculous things God has in store for that community. I am honored beyond all measures to be trusted with this place; the United Methodist voice on FSU's campus is a vibrant and storied one and I'm humbled to get to step into that story.

This, of course, means leaving Florida Southern College, my alma mater, and call in ministry for the past seven years. Florida Southern is an incredible place full of AMAZING servants of Jesus who care deeply about the spread of God's good news across our campus.

This is not the way I wanted to leave FSC, with a global pandemic ending the semester in the way it did. In some ways I feel just like our seniors must be feeling, never able to say those final goodbyes. I have just told some of our leaders over Zoom, and, though they were very sad, they offered to pray for us, and they did so fervently! I was moved to tears by their thanks and prayers. I have loved every single one of these students so very much and have walked the journey of life with so many of them. Their passion for ministry is unmatched and I am grateful to have played a small role in their lives. I am forever changed by them!

Please pray for our family during this time! We are expectant and excited for what is to come, but stepping out in faith always bears its share of nerves. We find ourselves there right now.

Go Mocs! Go 'Noles!

From: BRYANT MANNING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For 32 years I have been a member at First United Methodist Church in Interlachen, Florida. I love my church family and they are all so special to me. I could never picture myself going anywhere else. God put me there and I am so grateful.

Over the first 17 years, I was single, which visitors did not know. I got married in 2003, but my husband Dave, who is a prison Chaplain was not at our church on Sundays because he was at the prison. Probably because of leading worship and being the choir director, a few visitors thought that I was the Pastor's wife. I was asked

several times "Are you the Pastor's wife?" and of course my answer was no. Beginning July 1, when I am asked "Are you the Pastor's Wife?" I can say YES I AM!



Pastor Dave Miller and his wife, Carol

We are both so thrilled and humbled to enter this next phase of ministry. I love my husband so much and am so blessed to be his wife. I am probably a little prejudiced, but even if he wasn't my husband, I would be so excited to have him as my Pastor. He loves the Lord and the Word of God. He has a wonderful background including a Master of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary and a Master's Degree in Counseling from Liberty University. He is a humble man with a great sense of humor. I am so excited to see where God will lead us in our next phase of life.

The Pastors that have been at Interlachen, Gene Maddox, AC Myers, and our current Pastor John

Bennett, have been wonderful and all have been so supportive of my husband as he has worked toward becoming a Pastor in the Methodist Church. We are so grateful to everyone for their support, encouragement and prayers, and I ask for all to be continued.

I personally never thought I would want to be a Pastor's wife knowing some of the stressful things that can come up, but I am looking forward to it. I have a loving church family who have a great deal of patience with me. Over the last 32 years they have always supported me through some of the most difficult times and the most joyous times. We are a team and a family.

We are leaning on the scripture from Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

From: CAROL TAYLOR MILLER



"Prayer & Praise"

If you have a prayer request that you would like to share with our Florida FUMMWA Family, please send it to floridafummwa@gmail.com and we will mention it here. If you would like the request to be anonymous, feel free to state that in the email. As people pray for your request and God answers those prayers, we also look forward to sharing your praise reports!

"Hear my prayer, O LORD, listen to my cry for help." –Psalm 39:12 (NIV)[i]
"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." –
Ephesians 6:18
"Pray continually." -1 Thessalonians 5:17

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for the families of all who passed away as a result of COVID-19.

Prayers for Judi Hurst as she continues with rehabilitation for a broken wrist and complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS).

PRAISE REPORTS

Thank you fellow church musicians for your expressions of concern following my fall off a step-ladder in January and subsequent brain bleed and craniotomy. Praise God that I'm improving steadily with physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy, and just resumed driving this past week. Moral of my story: ladders, step-ladders and such are not your friends! Be ye careful! ~Joyce Dawson

A CALL FOR DEVOTIONS

The Florida Chapter of The Fellowship is looking for your devotions to become part of a devotional series to be made available to our members and the public. We invite you to share with us using the following guidelines as you consider you topics and how you will present them.

GUIDELINES

Provide a title, author and brief author information. i.e. Jeff Faux, Director of Sacred Arts, First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs, Fl.

Between 200 and 800 words of original material.

Can include pictures, or artwork in the public domain.

Can be prose, narrative, a skit, poetry or any kind of textual work.

Can include links to musical performances.

Should include scripture, or scripture reference.

Should conclude with a prayer.

Multiple devotions, or a series of related devotions are encouraged.

Please submit material that is your original work, that has not been previously published under copyright, and that you will allow to be used freely by others.

Submissions may be edited for clarity and content. Please submit to floridafummwa@gmail.com

Devotion written by Jeff Faux, Director of Sacred Arts, First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs, FL

DAVID

Michelangelo, 1501-1504

David, by Michelangelo, is one of the most iconic works of sculpture in the world. It is on display at the Galleria dell'Accademia in Florence, Italy where I had the opportunity to see it in person in 2015 while on a 10-day choir residency in Florence with my church choir.

Elvio Ancillotto, our excellent tour guide, gave us lots of interesting information about the statue. Some of the unusual characteristics include the fact that prior to the creation of this statue by Michelangelo, statues depicting the David and Goliath scene always included Goliath, typically with David in a victorious pose over the dead giant's body. This statue is different. It shows David before the battle.



A well-known story told in 1 Samuel chapter 17, is a familiar story of the underdog beating the bully. David, as a young boy went into battle with an enemy far more powerful than he. David entered the battle in faith, knowing the strength of God would carry him.

Some unusual elements our guide pointed out included the fact that the statue appears to show David as a man of great strength and power. As can be seen in this first picture, David stands tall, resolute, and is muscular. Elvio wondered aloud as to why Michelangelo portrayed David in this way when the story in Samuel describes David as a youthful boy. He went on to muse that while Michelangelo was a master of proportion, David's hands and head are unusually large in relation to the rest of the body. Additionally, he remarked, the statue is unusually slender from front to back compared to its height, a feature that is missed in pictures taken from the front. Therefore Elvio suggested we walk around the statue to see it from all angles in order to fully appreciate it. That was something I had not considered!

I took time to walk entirely around the statue and was able to view it from angles I had never seen in pictures. I concluded that David is looking in the direction of Goliath, so I decided to stand in the direction of David's gaze, the place where Goliath would have been. That angle seemed to transform David right before my eyes!

From that angle, the thinness of his body contrasted with the powerful torso I observed from the front. His rib cage changed from a muscular physique to one that seemed to be almost emaciated with rib bones protruding. The face seemed more boyish, less resolute. His oversized hands and head spoke of his youth in a way that belied the powerful man seen from the front. THIS was the boy described in the 1 Samuel story. THIS was the view Goliath had of David.

What Goliath was unable to see was the strength David possessed. Not a physical strength, but a one whose power came from his faith in God. "The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

The David that Goliath sees in Michelangelo's statue is the same David everyone else in the story saw. Someone too small and too weak for the battle. But Michelangelo gives us a different view. He has opened our

(DAVID: continued)

eyes much in the same way Elisha prayed to have his servant's eyes opened in 2 Kings chapter 6 to the chariots of fire that surrounded them and protected them. Michelangelo's David, through his faith in God, is powerful, resolute, and up to the task. There is no way he can lose!

The statue is a remarkable illustration of how we are called to live. We know the battles around us are too big for us to fight. Yet we are called by God to trust in His strength and persevere. We do not always win the battle in the way we think it should be won, but if we persevere, trusting in God, we know we are helping to carry out God's will in our lives. Walking continuously in God's will can be difficult. But the battle belongs to the Lord. "Go, and the LORD will be with you"



PRAYER:

Heavenly Father and Protector, you have demonstrated your power and might in the past. Give me the faith to persevere in the battles I must fight. Give me the courage, the faith, and the strength to face my Goliaths head-on. In trusting you may I always stand in your will. May every victory be your victory and all glory be your glory. I will go forth, knowing your strength is with me. In Christ's name, ***Amen.***

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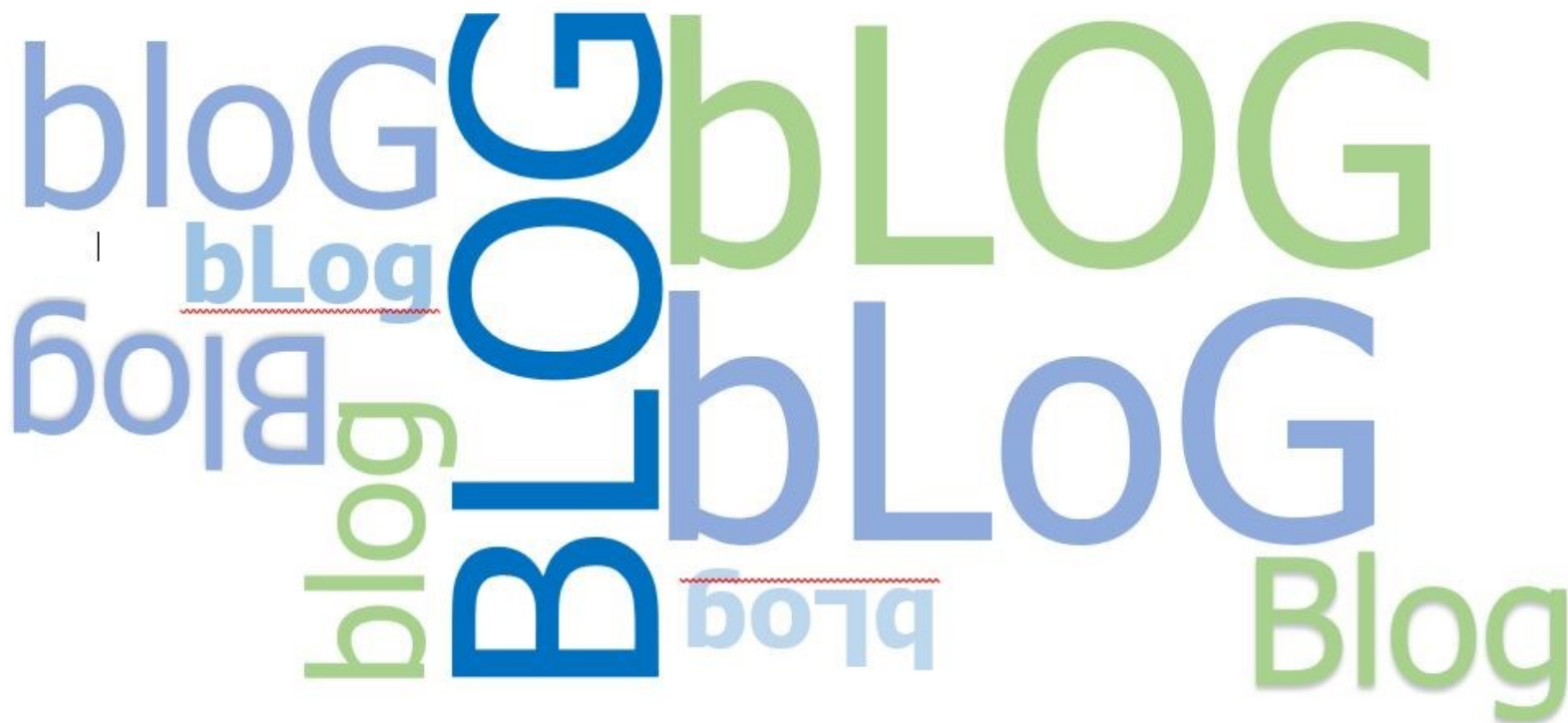
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Send Submissions to: floridafummwa@gmail.com

Blog Submission Guidelines

- Submission of Posts is open to ALL CURRENT MEMBERS of Florida FUMMWA.
- Please write posts in a more conversational (personal) tone than as in a regular newsletter “article”.
- Each post must address a RELEVANT TOPIC to our organization.
- A Word document containing a submission is sent to Communications at floridafummwa@gmail.com for review before publishing.
- Each post should be a minimum of 700 and a maximum of 2500 words. If your post exceeds 2500 words, it will be serialized over several posts.
- All authors are responsible for answering comments and engaging in “conversation” with commenters via the blog. To this end:
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- Please include a sentence about your present occupation and any other pertinent information you feel would help our readers to know you better. If you are willing to have your contact information published (email address), please include that in your information.
- Please send a picture of yourself—jpeg preferred. (However, don’t let the lack of a picture keep you from submitting a blog post! We can work it out.)

What is The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music & Worship Arts?

Our Mission...

We are CHRISTIANS, called to minister through our creative gifts, to foster worship, which makes disciples of Jesus Christ.

We Value...

WORSHIP ARTS that lead to spirituality and faith formation, and RELATIONSHIPS that lead to hospitality, fellowship, and nurture.

We Are...

Musicians, clergy, dancers, artists, lay ministers, and others—all involved in creating, supporting, and implementing worship in local congregations.

An affiliate of The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, serving as a resource for all worship artists.

We are an open fellowship that provides training on all aspects of worship through events, publications, webinars, and the countless connections that are made with other worship leaders.

The Fellowship
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QUARTER NOTES

Quarter Notes is the quarterly newsletter for the Florida Chapter of The Fellowship of United Methodists In Music and Worship Arts, Inc.

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Submission of articles is open to ALL current members of *Florida FUMMWA*. Articles should deal with some aspect of church music or Worship Arts. Reprints or copyrighted material must include written permission from the original owner, and proper attribution.

Calendar items may include concerts, workshops, special services, seminars, etc. which are directed or sponsored by a current member of *Florida FUMMWA*, or by an Official in the Florida United Methodist Church. Brochures should be sent to the editor by email for review and possible inclusion in *Quarter Notes*.

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July 1, 2020