

The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music & Worship Arts

QUARTER NOTES

Florida Chapter

Spring 2021

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President's Message

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:11-13

I don't know about you, but I am a very future-oriented person. I think most of us that are in worship ministry tend to be that way. We plan Christmas in the summer, and as soon as Christmas is over, we're planning Lent & Easter. We have to because we work many weeks ahead on our preparations. And when it comes to making decisions, we want to know exactly how things are going to happen, how it will happen, and how long it will take. We run every scenario over & over in our heads. And figure out how to tackle every situation that might come up. It can be very exhausting -- the root of anxiety and fear of the unknown.

God is gracious to us and patient. God knows our future. Yet, we still think God needs our help. Does this sound familiar? Maybe if He tells us His plans, we can help Him along the way — along the path that we want to go. But we all know that's not the way it works. God wants us to lean on Him. God wants us to run to Him before trying to figure it out on our own. God wants us to be at peace with the unknown plans that He has for our lives.

We're all probably feeling lost and anxious about what the future holds for our chapter — and specifically our Annual Church Music Workshop that is so important to us and what, for many, defines our chapter. God promises that if we bring our fears and concerns about what troubling to us, He will listen to us. The God of the entire universe, and the Maker of all things, bends His ear to earth just so that He can have fellowship with us. Even better: if we look for God, we'll find Him. The lie that we are lost and God doesn't care is straight from the devil and is meant to keep us hopeless and pulled away from our Maker.

We are never lost, even if we feel that way.

Joan FitzGerald, Chapter President

2021 ANNUAL CHURCH MUSIC WORKSHOP

From **GENERATION to GENERATION . . .**

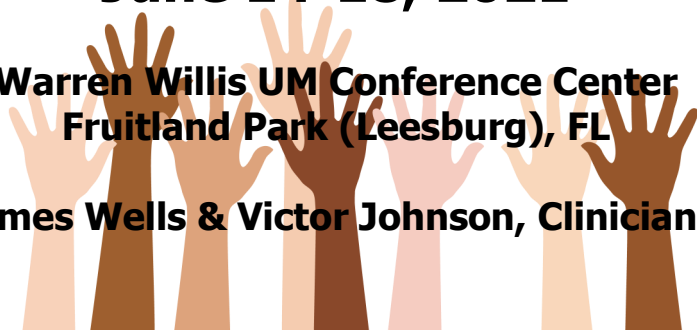
LUKE 1:50

intergenerational worship arts for all

June 14-18, 2021

**Warren Willis UM Conference Center
Fruitland Park (Leesburg), FL**

James Wells & Victor Johnson, Clinicians



Workshop Cost per Person

**Youth R&B
and Registration Fee = \$320**

**Adult Double R&B
and Registration Fee = \$410**

**Adult Single R&B
and Registration Fee = \$450**

Watch for a special edition of Quarter Notes in mid-March for details on registration information and Workshop plans!



An Interview with James Wells

By Joan FitzGerald

Our friend James Wells, Director of Choral Ministries at Brentwood UMC in Brentwood, TN, has had years of experience directing youth choirs. I recently had the honor of interviewing him and asking him for advice during this challenging time -- especially for churches with youth choirs. So youth choir directors -- this is for you!

Q: When it became evident this past spring that we were not going to be able to meet in person with our ensembles, especially our youth choirs, what were your first thoughts on what you could do to keep your youth choir members singing and stay connected with them?

A: That could be and is two different things, both uniquely important. The greatest of these is staying connected, which proceeds the importance of actually vocalizing together. If I had to choose between the two, connection would be the one. Staying connected has become more important because singing has made it harder to come together. Some of the ways we CAN sing together is virtually (Zooming), listening to anthems on Zoom, listening to a leader singing virtually, meeting outside, meeting in small groups, and virtual choirs. I encourage all choir directors to listen to Randy Edwards' "[YouthCue](#)." He states that the 4 pillars of our choirs are social, emotional, musical, and spiritual needs. At any point, we can't meet all of these needs. And right now, we're probably not meeting their musical needs.

Q: Have you relied on the other music ministry and ministry staff members of your church to be creative in the ways that you've engaged with your youth choirs? How can music ministry leaders foster the need for support from their ministry team.

A: We are called to shepherd -- to pour out of our own well. To be able to pour out of our own well, we have to have someone shepherding us and refilling our well. Use those around you who are shepherds to lean on to refill your well.

Q: What about the families of your youth choir members? How have you helped them encourage their teen to continue to be active in the church and, in particular, stay connected to the youth choir ministry members? What non-musical ways have you engaged your youth?

(Continued on page 3)

(Continuation of Interview with James Wells from Page 2)

A: Stress to your youth choir families the importance of keeping traditions alive. Remember tours, concerts, fall kick-offs, retreats, etc.. Once you go a certain amount of time, you can't recreate those traditions and chances are it won't be what it was. Remember Randy Edwards' list -- social, emotional, musical, and spiritual. Each activity, tradition, memory that we have should check off one of those items on that list. And if you have to, reinvent them and remember them. Don't be afraid to survey your youth about future plans. Meet with small groups to keep connected. Don't take it personal if your youth don't want to meet with you on Zoom. It may only mean that it's a sad reminder of what they're not being able to do.

Q: You have been able to bring many of your ensembles together as virtual choirs. For music directors that don't have the ability to put together virtual choirs, what advice do you have for them?

A: People over performance/polish. Remember that even though it's music and our faith that have brought us together, our focus is the people and serving them emotionally & spiritually. It's something we can still do even if the music falls short. Meet them where they are -- soloists, small ensembles, etc. And it may not be musical. Remember we're not in this alone. Seek out others in your church that have the skills that you're looking for to help you out.

Q: What's been the hardest part of this challenging time? What's been the best part?

A: The hardest part for me has been not being able to be energized by being around people and not being able to sing which is the root of what we do. The best part has been having family time back, being able to be more physically active, getting to recharge and re-center, and learning how to say "no" to the non-essential. Don't be afraid to let go of traditions, specifically the way you've always done it. I'm looking forward to the re-start and what new re-creations will happen. I've learned to listen more and talk less.

Q: Do you have any final words of encouragement?

A. Start where you are with what you have. Listen to uplifting podcasts like the ones that Randy Edwards offers on YouthCue.

Thank you, James for your wisdom. We look forward to seeing you this summer as our Choral Clinician.

Scholarships

The Florida Chapter of the Fellowship is proud to sponsor annual scholarships for college students majoring in music, and for first-time Adult and Youth attendees to our Annual Church Music Workshop and Youth Music Camp.

[Grant K. Pulen Music Scholarship](#)

Named for a founding member of the *Florida Chapter of the Fellowship*, it provides an annual award of \$2,000 to a full-time student majoring in music at an accredited college or university. The 2021 deadline for the submission of an application and the supporting materials is May 15, 2021.

[Rosie-Jean Scholarship](#)

Named in honor of Roselyn Langdale and Jean Bennett, two well-known members and mentors of the Florida Chapter, the scholarship provides the Registration Fee for a first-time attendee at the Adult Church Music Workshop. The 2021 deadline for the submission of your application and the supporting recommendation is May 15, 2021.

[Memorial Scholarship](#)

Established in memory of illustrious Florida Chapter members who lived their lives in distinguished service to God in worship, and to others in fellowship, the scholarship provides Registration and Room & Board fees for a first-time attendee at the Summer Youth Music Camp. The 2021 deadline for the submission of your application and the supporting recommendation is May 15, 2021.

How Can We Help You?

We're in unprecedented times right now! We're being asked to use skills that we've never used before. And we're not sure if we have the resources to take on these challenges. This past summer we found a way to help each other out. We used those skills to host our first ever virtual workshop. And it was a great success! We had over 200 people register for our Workshop from all over the country. We made new friends. And we connected with friends that don't live in Florida anymore. We learned how to take care of ourselves during this challenging time. And we worshipped together. We shared the regular resources we always have at our in-person workshops — new music reading sessions, favorite anthems, and favorite service music. And we also learned new things — what copyright licenses we need for live streaming, what equipment we need for live streaming, how to safely meet with our choirs & instrumental ensembles, and how to continue to be creative worship leaders. We hoped that our challenges would lessen, but we've learned that they are continuing and we have to continue to find creative ways to engage our congregations in worship. By the time that you receive this publication of Quarter Notes, we will have had a Zoom Lenten/Easter Round Table Discussion. These are the kinds of things that we will need to continue to plan in the future to help our members through these challenges.

One of the ways that we're going to meet this challenge is to streamline our Chapter's social media — Quarter Notes Newsletter, Website, and Facebook page. Here's our plan:

- **Quarter Notes Newsletter:** The primary purpose of Quarter Notes is to update our membership on our Summer Church Music Workshop plans. We also include leadership information, information about our scholarships, and links to our National office, including membership information.
- **Website:** Our [chapter website](#) has been streamlined and is your “go to” place for updated Workshop information, registration links, scholarship applications, and general information about our chapter.
- **Facebook:** We currently have three different areas where you can interact with the Florida Fellowship on Facebook — two groups and one page. The Florida Fellowship Prayer Group is a private group that you must ask to join. The Florida Fellowship Community group (previously named Florida FUMMWA) is a public group that anyone can post on. Our Facebook page, Florida Chapter of The Fellowship, is our official chapter page where you will be able to find updates on our Workshop plans and important information from your chapter leadership.



We're all in this together. Let's continue to #BeTheFellowship.

Florida Fellowship Chapter Council

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National Fellowship Website:
<https://www.umfellowship.org>



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

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

The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts exists to assist worship leaders in creating meaningful worship experiences that bring people into deeper relationships with God and each other. Founded in 1955 as the National Fellowship of Methodist Musicians, The Fellowship has grown to include worship artists, clergy, and laity involved in all aspects of worship from a variety of denominations and experiences.

Our Calling

We are Christians embracing God's artistic gifts to create world-transforming worship.

Our Values

- Worship Arts that lead to spiritual growth and faith formation.
- Relationships that lead to hospitality, fellowship and nurture.

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[JOIN THE FELLOWSHIP](#)

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

QUARTER  NOTES

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