



# the gardens of GOD

# The Fellowship

of Worship Artists

*celebrates*  
**70**  
*years*

On Sunday, June 22nd, at 7:30 p.m., we will be celebrating The Fellowship's 70th Anniversary in the Susanna Wesley Garden at Lake Junaluska.

This is an opportunity to come together in fellowship and friendship, celebrate the incredible legacy of this organization, and look forward to all that the future holds as we continue to cultivate and equip worship artists in transforming the world through worship. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Other opportunities will be available throughout the week to reminisce and help The Fellowship prepare for the future. Be on the lookout as you move about the lake, and in your Daily Downbeat communications.

Thank you for your support of The Fellowship of Worship Artists.

Cultivate – Equip – Worship

[www.thefellowshipowa.org](http://www.thefellowshipowa.org)



Dear Music & Worship Arts Week Participants,

Welcome back to Lake Junaluska! For more than forty years we have been honored to host Music & Worship Arts week at our idyllic mountain setting.

We sincerely appreciate your prayers and support following Hurricane Helene's destructive path through this region. Throughout the storm, we were able to continue living fully into our mission to be a place of Christian hospitality through renewal of soul, mind, and body by supporting the emergency and recovery workers. The York Dining Commons served as the regional incident command center, and immediately following the storm, we offered our facilities to over 400 emergency and relief workers. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to have supported them in their mission.

Unfortunately, we suffered more than \$1 million worth of damage to some of our most beloved structures. The entire downstairs of the Harrell Center, one of our most popular buildings, was flooded with over a foot of water. Our beloved Stuart Auditorium also sustained water damage, and the Rose Walk, one of our most iconic locations, experienced three significant landslides.

Most of the repairs to damaged areas have been completed, primarily funded by charitable donations. We are thrilled to be able to welcome you and others to these sacred grounds.

Thanks also for your prayers and support over the years. Your generous gifts strengthen this ministry and also help us maintain the grounds, historic buildings, and sacred spaces. Capital improvements since last year include a refresh to the Terrace Hotel dining room and the ground-level entrance. In addition, new TVs have been installed in all of the Terrace Hotel guest rooms.

Recently, Lake Junaluska enthusiastically announced a new \$14 million fundraising campaign called Sharing Our Gifts. This campaign – the most ambitious fundraising effort in many years – is mission-focused and highlights the following priorities:

- Sustaining the Annual Fund
- Building youth and family housing
- Strengthening recreation ministry
- Preserving the lake and dam
- Restoring sacred spaces

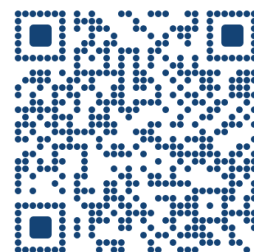
To learn more about the campaign or make a donation, please visit [www.lakejunaluska.com/give](http://www.lakejunaluska.com/give).

Our hope is that you will be able to experience the beauty of the grounds while you are here. For 112 years, we have hosted people like you – gathering the faithful in worship, prayer, and spiritual formation. Our prayer is that when you leave at the end of the week, your experience at Lake Junaluska will help you to go forth better prepared to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We value our long relationship and look forward to continuing to host you for years to come. On behalf of the entire staff and community, we thank you for choosing Lake Junaluska as the setting for your important work. We look forward to your visit.

Yours in Christ,

Ken Howle  
Executive Director







Welcome Fellowship Family!

Wow! It's that time again—time for you and me to gather at this beautiful lake we love so dearly, and to make beautiful music together. A special welcome to those attending MWAWeek for the first time—we're so glad you chose to share your time with us.

Once again, I welcome you to my home state of North Carolina, where we're embraced by the cool, fresh mountain air. As someone who loves gardening and being outdoors, this year's theme—Gardens of God—has truly captured my imagination. Green plants bring life, beauty, and color to every space, and so does the music and fellowship we share.

We begin our week with the Garden of Creation, and I am filled with anticipation as we enter into a time of meaningful worship. Each day, we will be reminded of God's miraculous wonders—from the glory of creation to the gift of sabbath, and the joy and responsibility of being the church.

My hope for you this week is simple yet heartfelt:

May you meet new friends, reconnect with beloved ones, and grow together as one big family—The Fellowship. I pray that your year has been fruitful, and that you can now relax, recharge, and do what we do best—make music.

God bless you this week!

**Marla Ham**  
MWAWeek Design Team Chair







## 2025 Design Team

**Marla Ham**  
Design Team Chair

**Dr. Michael Dougherty**  
Event Manager

**Melissa Emerson**  
Handbell Chair

**Blaine Russell**  
Adult / Youth Choral Co-Chair

**Dr. David Daniel**  
Adult / Youth Choral Co-Chair

**Cynthia Johnson**  
Worship Chair

**Elizabeth Loughran**  
Dance Chair

**Jodi Haskins**  
Elementary Area Co-Chair

Throughout the worship booklet are activities for the young at heart. These provide yet another opportunity to live into the creativity of God



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# 2025 Reading Session

Choral – Handbells – Organ

## Choral Music

Publisher	Day	Time	Place	Director	Accompanist
Beckenhorst Press	Monday	1:00 p.m.	Terrace Auditorium	Josh Voiles	David Donathan
Choristers Guild	Monday	2:00 p.m.	Terrace Auditorium	Victor Johnson	Diane Combs
Celebrating Grace	Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Terrace Auditorium	James Barnard	David Donathan
MorningStar	Tuesday	2:30 p.m.	Terrace Auditorium	Kenney Potter	Karen Strawhecker
Hope Publishing	Tuesday	3:30 p.m.	Terrace Auditorium	Joel Raney	Eddie Huss
Celebrating Grace (Children's Music Packet)	Tuesday	3:30 p.m.	Terrace #319	James Barnard	David Donathan
Choristers Guild (Children's Music Packet)	Tuesday	4:30 p.m.	Terrace Auditorium	Victor Johnson	Diane Combs
Hal Leonard	Wednesday	1:30 p.m.	Terrace Auditorium	Stacey Nordmeyer	Eddie Huss
Hal Leonard (Children's Music Packet)	Wednesday	2:30 p.m.	Terrace #316	Stacey Nordmeyer	Karen Strawhecker
Lorenz	Wednesday	2:30 p.m.	Terrace Auditorium	Victor Johnson	Diane Combs
Jubilate Music	Wednesday	3:30 p.m.	Terrace Auditorium	Kathryn Jurado	Will Byrd

## Handbell Music

Packet Name	Day	Time	Place	Director
Jubilate Music	Monday	2:00 p.m.	Wilson Complex #7	Kathryn Jurado
Hope Publishing	Tuesday	1:30 p.m.	Wilson Complex #7	Joel Raney
Choristers Guild	Tuesday	4:30 p.m.	Wilson Complex #7	Sandra Eithun
Beckenhorst Press	Wednesday	1:30 p.m.	Wilson Complex #7	Sandra Eithun

11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.    **Event Registration**    Harrell Welcome Center

Check in for lodging at Lake Junaluska properties will not be available until 5:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m.    **Beckenhorst Press Choral Reading Session**    Terrace Auditorium  
**Handbell Auditions**    Wilson #7

All bronze ringers meet at 1:30 p.m.

**Orchestra Rehearsal**    Harrell – Susan Todd Lounge

2:00 p.m.    **Orientation I\***    Terrace #316  
**Choristers Guild Choral Reading Session**    Terrace Auditorium  
**Jubilate Handbell Reading Session**    Wilson Complex #7

3:00 p.m.    **Rehearsals**  
Adult Choir (Johnson)    Harrell Auditorium  
Chamber Choir (Cash)    Terrace #319  
Senior High Choir (Voiles)    Terrace Auditorium  
Mid-High Choir (High)    Terrace #316  
Older Elementary Choir (Heron)    Wilson Complex Room #1  
Younger Elementary Choir (Evans)    Wilson Complex Room #3  
Dance (Watkins-Rios)    Stuart Rehearsal Room/Stage  
Bronze and Copper Handbells    Wilson Complex  
    Bronze = Advanced Choir (Eithun)    #5  
    Copper = Intermediate Choir (Park)    #7

5:00 p.m.    **Dinner**  
**Hotel Check-In**

7:30 p.m.    **Opening Worship Service**    Stuart Auditorium

8:30 p.m.    **Fellowship of Worship Artists Annual Meeting**    Terrace Auditorium

9:00 p.m.    **Evening Worship**    Memorial Chapel

*\*The wheres, whens, and hows of Music & Worship Arts Week for new and repeat visitors.*

*This session will be repeated in the same location at 9:00 p.m. for late arrivals.*

**NOTE: ALL CHAPERONES MUST ATTEND ONE ORIENTATION SESSION**



7:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>	
8:45 a.m.	<b>Morning Worship</b>	Stuart Auditorium
10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	<b>Rehearsals</b>	
	Adult Choir (Johnson)	Harrell Auditorium
	Chamber Choir (Cash)	Terrace #319
	Senior High Choir (Voiles)	Terrace Auditorium
	Mid-High Choir (High)	Terrace #316
	Older Elementary Choir (Heron)	Wilson Complex Room #1
	Younger Elementary Choir (Evans)	Wilson Complex Room #3
	Dance (Watkins-Rios)	Stuart Rehearsal Room/Stage
	Bronze and Copper Handbells (Eithun #5, Park #7)	Wilson Complex
12:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:30 p.m.	<b>Celebrating Grace Choral Reading Session</b>	Terrace Auditorium
	<b>Hope Publishing Handbell Reading Session</b>	Wilson #7
1:30 - 2:15 p.m.	<b>Rehearsals</b>	
	Youth Adult Choir (Miller)	Chapel
	Senior High Choir (Voiles)	Terrace #319
	Mid-High Choir (High)	Terrace #316
	Orchestra (Frye)	Harrell Center
	Older / Younger Elementary Choirs	Wilson Complex
2:30 - 3:15 p.m.	<b>MorningStar Choral Reading Session</b>	Terrace Auditorium
	<b>Theatre Prep for Worship (Marable)</b>	Stuart Rehearsal Room
	<b>Seminar I*</b>	
3:30 - 4:15 p.m.	<b>Hope Publishing Choral Reading Session</b>	Terrace Auditorium
	<b>Celebrating Grace Choral Reading Session**</b>	Terrace #319
	<b>Seminar II*</b>	
4:30 - 5:15 p.m.	<b>Choristers Guild Handbell Reading Session</b>	Wilson #7
	<b>Choristers Guild Choral Reading Session**</b>	
	<b>Seminar III*</b>	
5:00 p.m.	<b>Dinner</b>	
7:30 p.m.	<b>Youth Talent Show</b>	Stuart Auditorium
9:00 p.m.	<b>Evening Prayer***</b>	Memorial Chapel

\*Information for today's seminars is found on the following pages.

\*\* This session will take readers through a Children's Music Pack.

\*\*\*Evening Prayer will begin thirty minutes after the close of tonight's program



# Seminar 1

Tuesday, June 24 | 2:30 - 3:15 p.m.

## Choral

### **MorningStar Choral Reading Session** (Adults)

Terrace Auditorium

Kenney Potter

### **We Are Family** (Adults)

Terrace #316

Victor C. Johnson

Activities and strategies for building community in your choir.

### **Planting Seeds of Beauty** (Adults)

Terrace #319

Margaret Heron

This session will explore numerous songs, methods, and teaching approaches to instill beauty in the choral sound. From the very first rehearsal of beginning to advanced singers, this session will help you serve your singers and better ensure quality tone and technique.

### **Young Adult Evening Prayer Planning** (Young Adults)

Memorial Chapel

Mark Miller and Rev. Joe Lee

This choir is open to young adults between 18 and 25 years of age. They will prepare music for the Thursday evening concert. *Singers should participate in other choirs during morning rehearsals in addition to this group.*



## Handbell

### **More With Less: Resources for Small Groups** (Adults)

Wilson Complex #7

Sandra Eithun

Come read through several selections of music specifically chosen for when you are short-handed, want to participate in summer worship or possibly want to take the show on the road to venues where tables are not available or advised. These settings use 8, 10 or 12 bells, and some can be rung entirely on chimes. Several of the selections will have optional keyboard parts to fill in and enhance the bell parts.

continued on next page

## Organ

### **Practical, Beautiful, Useful, Tuneful: Keyboard Music for Worship Services** (Adults)

Dr. Patrick Pope

Stuart Auditorium Stage

Organists, pianists, and keyboardists have the responsibility of providing music for worship services each week, and sometimes "the well runs dry" in terms of finding pieces to play. This seminar will be a session where I offer a glimpse of a variety of keyboard pieces appropriate for worship -- some of my personal favorites, as well as recently published works.



## Worship

### **Preaching as Translation** (Adults)

Rev. Dr. Beth LaRocca-Pitts

Terrace #213

This seminar will focus on how to find the core meanings of a text and bridge the gap between their ancient and modern expressions. The nature of Hebrew and Greek language and modes of expression will be discussed as will pitfalls to avoid when seeking new meanings for particular texts.

## Thank you!

Many thanks to:

### **Beethoven & Company Music Store**

In conjunction with these publishers:

**Beckenhorst Press**

**Hal Leonard**

**Jubilate Music Group**

**Celebrating Grace**

**Hinshaw Music**

**The Lorenz Corporation**

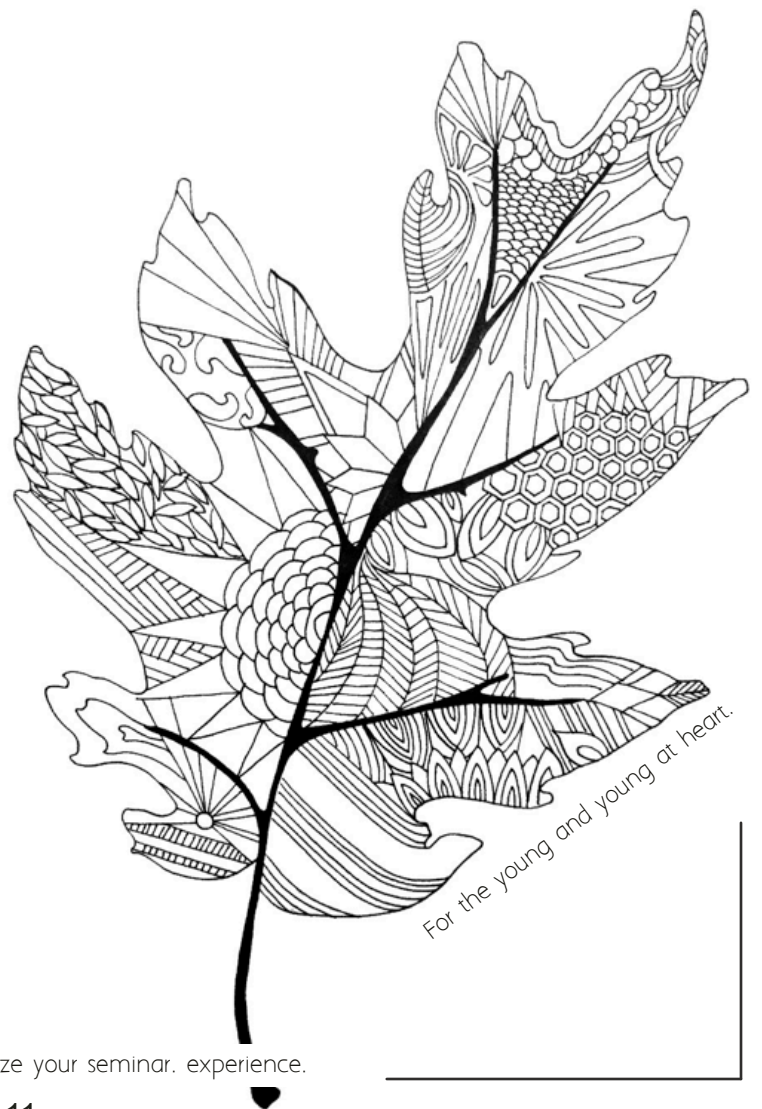
**Choristers Guild**

**Hope Publishing**

**MorningStar Music**

For providing music for our performing groups  
and each reading session throughout the week!





This page is for notes, lyrics, doodles, etc. that help you personalize your seminar. experience.



### Choral

**Hope Publishing Choral Reading Session** (Adults)  
Joel Raney

Terrace Auditorium

**Celebrating Grace Choral Reading Session** (Adults — reading through Children's Music Pack)  
James Barnard

Terrace #319

**The Aging Choir Member** (Adults)  
Sarah Elizabeth High

Terrace #316

Navigating members with dementia and other memory loss. How do we help our older choir members who don't remember things "like they used to" and help cope with those who are showing signs of dementia. Bishop Ken Carder (SC) will be a guest speaker.



### Handbell

**Got Two Hands... How Many Bells?** (Adults)  
Hyosang Park

Wilson Complex #7

Learn to weave! You can manage more than two bells with two hands.



### Visuals In Worship

**Sizing Up Your Space** (Youth and Adults)  
Carrie Chavarria

Harrell #105

Ideas will be offered for taking mountain top experiences of Worship Conferences (like Junaluska) and adapting them to your context/space. We will explore how to reimagine or scale up/down ideas gleaned from other artists to complement your faith community's space and needs.

## Worship

### **Worship Leader as Pilgrim Guide** (Youth and Adults)

Terrace #211

Rev. Todd Pick

What would change about the ways in which you lead worship, if you viewed every worshipper as a pilgrim? A pilgrim people are those who seek a whole-bodied experience of the living God. On most spiritual journeys there is a guide to point out places of re-orientation and times of significance. As we lead in worship, how might we be the pilgrim guides for those who have walked through our doors? How do we encourage our people to lighten their load for the journey so they can focus on every step? What trappings and traditions might we leave behind as we journey together to the heart of God in Christ Jesus?



## Dance in Worship

### **Embodied Worship** (Youth and Adults)

Stuart Rehearsal Room

Karen L. Watkins-Rios

What does it mean to be a visual representation of worship so that it appears as if music, scripture, and liturgy are being expressed as a living example of worship? The goal of this seminar will be to unpack how worship is embodied through the examination of simple and complex patterns of movement that convey emotion, intention, and soulful expression for both the artist and congregation.





For the young and young at heart.



## Seminar 3

Tuesday, June 24 | 4:30 - 5:15 p.m.

### Choral

**Choristers Guild Choral Reading Session** (Adults — reading through Children's Music Pack)  
Victor Johnson

Terrace Auditorium

**Lift Every Voice** (Adults)  
Brandon T. Cash

Terrace #316

The Idiomatic Sound of African American Choral and Church Music

**Youth Choir: Let's Start at the Beginning** (Adults)  
Josh Voiles

Terrace #319

Thy why behind the what in music ministry for students.



### Handbell

**Choristers Guild Handbell Reading Session** (Adults)  
Sandra Eithun

Wilson Complex #7



### Organ

**Helpful Hints to Refresh Your Service Playing** (Adults)  
Dr. Patrick Pope

Stuart Auditorium

The most important work that keyboard musicians do in a worship service is to effectively and sensitively lead and support congregational singing. How do you keep hymns and other pieces of sung congregational music fresh and new? This seminar will offer some insight and some practical tips on how to keep your hymn playing clean, clear, and energized. Participants will be encouraged to hop on the organ bench and give some things a try (if they wish!). My goal for this seminar is for it to be a combination of demonstrating techniques, and then allowing attendees to participate as they are comfortable.

continued on next page

## Worship

### **Series vs. Lectionary: You Don't Have to Choose** (Adults)

Terrace #213

Rev. Dr. Beth LaRocca-Pitts

This seminar will discuss worship planning for solo pastors as well as pastors who work on staffs. Methods for including multidisciplinary viewpoints and media will be discussed as will special seasons and the services they call for.



## Visuals In Worship

### **Starting a Worship Arts Ministry** (Youth and Adults)

Harrell #105

Carrie Chavarria

If you're curious about where to start and want to know more, join us as we tackle the question of "how do I get started?" We will discuss how to frame your work as a worship artist, where to find inspiration, where to find materials, and how to help recruit other volunteers.



## Youth Talent Show

### **Youth Talent Show Auditions** (Youth)

Josh Voiles

#### Youth Talent Show Guidelines

Completed Grade 6 /7 through completed Grade 12

Auditions: 2:30 - 3:30 Tuesday in Terrace Auditorium

Show Time: 7:30 Tuesday evening, Stuart Auditorium

The Youth Talent Show for Middle and High School youth is a Music & Worship Arts Week tradition, open to students participating in either the Middle High or Senior High program. All groups or individuals must sign up for an audition time during check-in, immediately after worship on Tuesday, or via the QR code made available during the week. Only those groups or individuals will be admitted to Terrace Auditorium at the time of their audition. Check-in for auditions will be in the Elevator Lobby on the second floor of The Terrace, next to the Auditorium. Auditions will be held from 2:30 to 3:30 on Tuesday. In an effort to be fair to all and manage the length of the show, the following guidelines will apply:

Time limit for all acts: 3.5 minutes. Time limit will be strictly enforced.

Each youth may appear on the stage only once as a featured performer. They may appear as a soloist or as part of an ensemble, but not both. Exception: Youth who accompany another act.

No more than three (3) acts per church may audition.

Songs are to be accompanied (live or recorded) unless they are designed to be sung a cappella.

This page is for notes, lyrics, doodles, etc. that help you personalize your seminar.



7:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>	
8:45 a.m.	<b>Morning Worship</b>	Stuart Auditorium
10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	<b>Rehearsals</b>	
	Adult Choir (Johnson)	Harrell Auditorium
	Chamber Choir (Cash)	Waynesville First UMC
	Senior High Choir (Voiles)	Terrace Auditorium
	Mid-High Choir (High)	Terrace #316
	Older Elementary Choir (Heron)	Wilson Complex Room #1
	Younger Elementary Choir (Evans)	Wilson Complex Room #3
	Dance (Watkins-Rios)	Stuart Rehearsal Room/Stage
	Bronze and Copper Handbells (Eithun #5, Park #7)	Wilson Complex
12:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:30 p.m.	<b>Hal Leonard Choral Reading Session</b>	Terrace Auditorium
	<b>Beckenhorst Press Handbell Reading Session</b>	Wilson #7
1:30 - 2:15 p.m.	<b>Rehearsals</b>	
	Youth Adult Choir (Miller)	Chapel
	Senior High Choir (Voiles)	Terrace #319
	Mid-High Choir (High)	Terrace #316
	Orchestra (Frye)	Harrell Center
	Older / Younger Elementary Choirs	Wilson Complex
2:30 - 3:15 p.m.	<b>Lorenz Choral Reading Session</b>	Terrace Auditorium
	<b>Hal Leonard Choral Reading Session**</b>	Terrace #316
	<b>Theatre Prep for Worship (Marable)</b>	Stuart Rehearsal Room
	<b>Seminar I*</b>	
3:30 - 4:15 p.m.	<b>Jubilate Music Choral Reading Session</b>	Terrace Auditorium
	<b>Seminar II*</b>	
4:30 - 5:15 p.m.	<b>Seminar III*</b>	
5:00 p.m.	<b>Dinner</b>	
7:30 p.m.	<b>Organ Recital and Chamber Choir Concert</b>	Waynesville First UMC
9:00 p.m.	<b>Evening Prayer***</b>	Memorial Chapel

\*Information for today's seminars is found on the following pages.

\*\* This session will take readers through a Children's Music Pack

\*\*\*Evening Prayer will begin thirty minutes after the close of tonight's program



# Seminar 1

Wednesday, June 25 | 2:30 - 3:15 p.m.

## Choral

### **Lorenz Choral Reading Session** (Adults)

Victor Johnson

Terrace Auditorium

### **Hal Leonard Choral Reading Session** (Adults— reading through Children's Music Pack)

Stacey Nordmeyer

Terrace #316

### **Let the Children Come** (Adults)

Josh Voiles

Terrace #319

James Wells, Jodi Haskins, and Josh Voiles will present our findings from the recent Fellowship Cohort on Worship and Arts programming for Children in the church.

### **Young Adult Evening Prayer Planning** (Young Adults)

Mark Miller and Rev. Joe Lee

Memorial Chapel

This choir is open to young adults between 18 and 25 years of age. They will prepare music for the Thursday evening concert. *Singers should participate in other choirs during morning rehearsals in addition to this group.*



## Handbell

### **Ring It Right and Make It Beautiful** (Adults)

Hyosang Park

Wilson Complex #7

Learn techniques that are unique to handbells.

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[www.thefellowshipowa.org](http://www.thefellowshipowa.org)



continued on next page

## Worship

### **Sacred Placemaking** (Adults)

Terrace #211

Rev. Todd Pick

Have you had a vision of making your worshipping place, your church building, your services more radically hospitable? Are you looking for ideas to open a pray-ground, a family comfort room, a sensory space for your neurodivergent kiddos? This workshop will give you some practical ways to let visitors know from the moment they walk through your doors that you have thought and prayed about them joining your church on a journey of faith.



This page is for notes, lyrics, doodles, etc. that help you personalize your seminar.

For the young and young at heart.





### Choral

#### **Jubilate Choral Reading Session** (Adults)

Terrace Auditorium

Kathryn Jurado

#### **Maintaining a Bountiful Harvest of Praise** (Adults)

Terrace #316

Margaret Heron

In this session, we will discuss ways to grow your program, keeping the spiritual aspect as the center. Attendees will have the opportunity to share ideas on how to grow and maintain a healthy church music program.

#### **Assessment in the Choral Rehearsal** (Adults)

Terrace #319

Sarah Elizabeth High

From low-stakes to high stakes assessment for school choral programs, church choirs and community singers. These strategies will help you assess your choir members as groups and individuals.



### Handbell

#### **Five Minutes or Less** (Adults)

Wilson Complex #7

Sandra Eithun

If you'd like to incorporate handbells into your worship service outside of full ensemble works, this class will offer some ideas to make that happen with both experienced musicians and those who are ultra beginners and do not yet read music. Several of the enhancements can be done right before a service with limited instruction or the commitment of a full rehearsal. We will explore ideas for:

- enhancing hymns, Bible verses or dramatic readings
- incorporating singing bell, random ringing and open intervals through pentatonic hymns
- hymn accompaniments
- processional and peals
- accompanying an instrumentalist, a scripture or Bible story



## Worship

### **Worshipful Words** (Youth and Adults)

Terrace #211

Rev. Todd Pick

In a world full of words that confuse, destroy, and divide, how do we find words of healing and wholeness, of goodness and grace? All our words matter, but the words we choose to use in worship are especially important. In this workshop, we'll explore ways we can bless the world with words that speak life as we craft liturgies for use in corporate worship.

### **Preaching and Storytelling** (Youth and Adults)

Terrace #213

Rev. Dr. Beth LaRocca-Pitts

This seminar will discuss the use of storytelling in preaching— both one's own stories as well as those of others. Do's and don'ts of attribution as well the proper use of story sources will be covered.



## Dance In Worship

### **Mindful Movement and Physical Fitness as a Liturgical Dancer** (Youth and Adults)

Karen L. Watkins-Rios

Stuart Rehearsal Room

How do dancers maintain physical strength, flexibility, and mindfulness as worshipers so that their bodies can continue to be a conduit for worship? This seminar will use modalities of yoga and also discuss the importance of maintaining baselines of fitness and nutrition, utilizing technique, and making time to keep our physical instruments tuned in order to stay free from injury.

This page is for notes, lyrics, doodles, etc. that help you personalize your seminar.





## Seminar 3

Wednesday, June 25 | 4:30 - 5:15 p.m.

### Choral

#### **A Mixed Bag of Choral Quick Fixes** (Adults)

Terrace #319

Victor C. Johnson

Innovative and “fun” techniques for use in the children's choir rehearsal.



### Visuals in Worship

#### **Worship Arts as Poetry** (Adults)

Harrell #105

Carrie Chavarria

Hands-on experiences will spark fresh ideas for your faith community. We will share ideas and create visuals together based on a variety of worship series.



### Directions to Wednesday Night Programming

**Waynesville First United Methodist Church: 566 South Haywood St. Waynesville, NC**

#### **Directions:**

**From Lake Junaluska, take a right onto US 19**

**At the 1st stoplight, turn left onto US 276.**

**At the 9th stoplight, turn right onto Brammer, which becomes Haywood.**

**After the 2nd stoplight, go 2 blocks to FUMC. Parking is on Academy St.**



7:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>	
8:45 a.m.	<b>Morning Worship</b>	Stuart Auditorium
10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	<b>Rehearsals (Please note – many groups are in new rehearsal spaces)</b>	
	Adult Choir (Johnson)	Harrell Auditorium
	Senior High Choir (Voiles)	Terrace #319
	Mid-High Choir (High)	Terrace #316
	Older Elementary Choir (Heron)	Terrace Auditorium
	Younger Elementary Choir (Evans)	Terrace Auditorium
	Dance (Watkins-Rios)	Stuart Rehearsal Room/Stage
	Bronze and Copper Handbells (Eithun #5, Park #7)	Wilson Complex
12:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>	
12:30	<b>Dance Rehearsal</b>	Stuart Auditorium
1:00 p.m.	<b>Children's Program</b>	Terrace Auditorium
2:30 p.m.	<b>Orchestra Concert</b> (Rehearsal at 1:45 p.m.)	Stuart Auditorium
3:00 p.m.	<b>Dance Program</b> (Rehearsal at 2:30 p.m.)	Stuart Auditorium
4:15 p.m.	<b>Handbell Concert</b> (Rehearsal at 3:30 p.m.)	Harrell Auditorium
5:00 p.m.	<b>Dinner</b>	
5:15 - 7:15 p.m.	<b>Choir Warm-ups</b>	
	Young Adult Choir (Miller – 5:15-5:45)	Stuart Auditorium
	Senior High Choir (Voiles – 5:45-6:15)	Stuart Auditorium
	Mid-High Choir (High – 6:15-6:45)	Stuart Auditorium
	Adult Choir (Johnson – 6:45-7:15)	Stuart Auditorium
7:30 p.m.	<b>Choral Program</b>	Stuart Auditorium
9:00 p.m.	<b>Evening Prayer*</b>	Memorial Chapel

\*Evening Prayer will begin thirty minutes after the close of tonight's program

7:30 a.m.

**Breakfast**

8:45 a.m.

**Closing Worship**

Stuart Auditorium

**Save the Date**

**MWAW 2026 | June 22 - 26, 2026**



thank you!

### **Age-Level Choir Accompanists**

Adult Choir – Diane Combs  
Senior High – Karen Strawhecker  
Mid-High Choir – Will Byrd  
Elementary Choir – Anita Norman



### **Reading Session Accompanists**

David Donathan  
Diane Combs  
Kenney Potter  
Eddie Huss  
Will Byrd  
Karen Strawhecker



### **Children's Building**

Becky Rowe – Building Manager  
Angela McHenry – Assistant Building Manager  
Melissa McIntyre – Music Movement and Games  
Jacken Stubblefield – Children's Chimes  
Rhonda Tucker – ORFF Instruments



### **Event and Office Staff**

Michael Dougherty – Event Manager  
Daniel Craig – Event Photographer  
Leo Dougherty – Stuart Auditorium and Worship Coordinator



# Children's Information

# the gardens of GOD

## Schedules and Procedurals

The Children's Music & Arts Program will operate in the Wilson Children's Building this week.

Parents / Chaperones: Please read this information carefully. It applies to ALL children in ALL programs. Chaperones are strongly encouraged to volunteer in the Children's Building/

- Name Tags
  - An official Music & Worship Arts Week name tag is required for entry into all activities in the Wilson Children's Building. Name tags should be worn at all times, except at the pool.
- Sign In / Sign Out
  - Each child must be signed in or out by a **parent or chaperone** each time that child enters or leaves the Wilson Children's Center.
- Snack Time
  - All children will have a child-friendly, mid-morning snack (lemonade or other juice, goldfish crackers, animal crackers, etc.) Monday – Thursday.
- Allergies
  - The back of each child's name tag should have a list of any allergies. Please be certain that the information is correct. *If not, please see registration staff immediately.*

# Elementary Children's Schedule

Full Week Schedule

Music & Worship Arts Week

## Monday

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	<b>Event Registration</b>	Harrell Welcome Center
2:00 p.m.	<b>Orientation I*</b>	Terrace #316
3:00 p.m.	<b>Children's Choir Rehearsals</b> Older Elementary Choir (Heron) Younger Elementary Choir (Evans)	Wilson Complex Room #1 Wilson Complex Room #3
5:00 p.m.	<b>Dinner</b>	
7:30 p.m.	<b>Opening Worship Service</b>	Stuart Auditorium

## Tuesday - Wednesday

7:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>	
8:45 a.m.	<b>Morning Worship</b>	Stuart Auditorium
10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	<b>Children's Choir Rehearsals</b> Older Elementary Choir (Heron) Younger Elementary Choir (Evans)	Wilson Complex Room #1 Wilson Complex Room #3
12:15 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:30 p.m.	<b>Children's Choir Rehearsals</b> Older Elementary Choir (Heron) Younger Elementary Choir (Evans)	Wilson Complex Room #1 Wilson Complex Room #3
2:30 p.m.	<b>Children's Rotation Activities</b>	See schedule in children's building
4:30 p.m.	<b>Pick-up Time for Children</b>	
5:00 p.m.	<b>Dinner</b>	
7:30 p.m.	<b>Evening Activities with Adults</b>	See adult schedule pages

## Thursday

7:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>	
8:45 a.m.	<b>Morning Worship</b>	Stuart Auditorium
10:15 a.m.	<b>Children's Choir Rehearsals</b>	Terrace Auditorium and Wilson #7
12:00 p.m.	<b>Pick-up Time for Children</b>	Pick-up from Wilson Complex
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	<b>Children's Program</b>	Terrace Auditorium

## Friday

7:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>	
8:45 a.m.	<b>Closing Worship</b>	Stuart Auditorium





# Leadership Teams



## Worship Team

### **Rev. Todd Pick**

Worship Planner and Leader

Rev. Todd Pick is an Elder in The United Methodist Church currently serving Revive UMC, a vibrant new church start in the Fort Worth area. He is a pastor, painter, and poet. He has crafted meaningful liturgies for regional and national worship gatherings across the United Methodist connection. His work has been featured in The Abingdon Preaching Annual, Magnet Magazine, Worship Arts Magazine, as well as on [umdiscipleship.org](http://umdiscipleship.org). Todd is also known for designing worship and visuals for various Fellowship events and conferences.



Todd believes that the words we say in worship both shape and transform us as we embody the Word. He holds a Master of Divinity from Drew Theological School where he was artist-in-residence, adjunct faculty, and was twice awarded the Hoyt L. Hickman Award for Liturgical Studies. His work can be found on [wordmadeimage.com](http://wordmadeimage.com).

### **Rev. Dr. Beth LaRocca-Pitts**

Preacher

Rev. Dr. Beth LaRocca-Pitts is the senior pastor at Oak Grove United Methodist Church. She has served the North Georgia Conference since 1983, when she was appointed to serve the Bishop Circuit in Oconee County. Her next appointment was to graduate school at the Harvard University Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from which she received a PhD in Hebrew Bible. While in graduate school, Beth met and married fellow grad student, Mark Pitts. Beth and Mark returned to the North Georgia Conference in 1993 where she served Athens First as an associate pastor before being appointed to teach Old Testament at Duke Divinity School. While at Duke their twins Ellie and Joe were born. In 2002, the family returned to Georgia where Beth became the associate pastor at Snellville United Methodist Church.



Beth also taught Old Testament at UGA during this time. In 2004, she was appointed to serve as pastor in charge at Watkinsville UMC; in 2010, she was appointed to serve as senior pastor at Saint Mark UMC in Atlanta; and in 2020, as senior pastor at Oak Grove UMC where she currently serves. Mark currently serves as pastor of Harmony Grove UMC in Lilburn Ga. Joe and Ellie are now 25, having graduated from Georgia State and Georgia Tech respectively. Both now live and work in Atlanta. In addition to serving the local church, Beth continues to teach as an instructor at Candler School of Theology's Contextual Education Department. She also serves on various conference committees and agency boards. She was elected as a delegate to the last General Conference but now looks forward to handing that job off to a younger generation of church leaders.



## Dr. Patrick Pope

Organist

Dr. Patrick Pope has played keyboard instruments since age seven. Piano lessons in grade school led to organ lessons and an interest in church music; he played his first church service at age 14, and has spent most Sunday mornings since on the organ bench. His academic training includes a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of South Carolina, and a Master of Music and Doctor of Music from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, where he had the good fortune to be guided by mentors: William Bates, Marilyn Keiser, Todd Wilson, and Christopher Young.



Thanks to music, Patrick has been able to travel to fifteen foreign countries as a choral conductor or singer, organ accompanist, or organ soloist. Personal highlights include: attending Ash Wednesday Mass at Notre Dame Cathedral in 2000; accompanying services at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, in 2006; playing organ recitals at St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey in 2018; and conducting at the Basilica of St. Peter, Vatican City, in 2019. Since 2011, Patrick has served as Organist and Director of Music at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter, Charlotte, North Carolina. He has led the Holy Comforter Choir of Adults on tours of England (2015) and Italy (2019), and Ireland-Scotland (2024). He lives in Pineville, NC, with his wife, Robin Moeller.

## Rev. Eyesha K Marable

Theatre in Worship

Rev. Eyesha K. Marable holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism and Spanish from New York University, a Master of Science Degree in Non-Profit Management and a Post-Graduate Certification in Organizational Development from New School University, and a Master of Divinity from Drew Theological Seminary.



She started working at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in 2004 and is now the Assistant Vice President of Community Engagement, where her team produces and supports 250 free arts programs annually, in and for the community; more than 140 engaged partners and 80 advisory council members call her a friend and advocate for the arts. As an ordained itinerant elder, she serves as Pastor at Mt. Zion AME Church, in Millburn, NJ, and leader for the NJ Interfaith Action Movement (IAM), the Millburn Clergy Association, the Newark Clergy Alliance, and the Upper Room Ministries. Rev. Eyesha founded the National Liturgical Dance Network in 1998, which supports and unifies thousands of dance ministers worldwide.

This year, she celebrates 34 years of commitment to liturgical dance and continues to partner with churches to train and promote worship arts and well-being. For 10 years, she served at the Greater Allen Cathedral of New York as an associate minister, assistant dance director for Allen Liturgical Dance Ministry, and founding co-chair of their bi-annual GAC worship conference. In 2011, Rev. Eyesha collaborated with then Dean Heather Elkins at Drew Theological Seminary to establish the Masters of Arts in Ministry Program.. She is the wife of the Honorable Edward Marable, Jr., Esq., and mother of Judah and Honor. The entire family worships in dance.



## Carrie Chavarria

### Visuals in Worship

Carrie Chavarria grew up in Mooresville, NC, and graduated from UNC Greensboro with a degree in music. She then attended Perkins School of Theology and earned her Master of Sacred Music degree. Carrie finds meaning in worship planning, creating visuals for worship, and leading worship. Photography, art, music and liturgy are her passions. She believes that visuals in worship are an important aspect of meaningful worship and can be transformative.



Carrie has served numerous Presbyterian and United Methodist churches over the years, and currently serves as Director of Worship at First UMC Dallas, Texas. She has created visuals for New World UMC, Highland Park UMC, First Methodist Church Grapevine, and First UMC Dallas. In addition to creating worship experiences at these churches, Carrie has also coordinated worship for the Dallas Chapter of Choristers Guild and the Council of Bishops.

Having attended this event at Lake Junaluska many times, she is honored and excited to be a part of the Worship Team. Carrie is married to Jason Chavarria and enjoys picking out fabric, traveling, hosting friends for dinner, and spending time with family.



## Choral Music

### **Victor C. Johnson**

Adult Choir

Victor C. Johnson, a native of Dallas, TX, is currently the School Choral Editor for Sing!, the educational publishing division of Choristers Guild. A prolific composer and arranger, he has over 450 choral works, vocal solo books, and keyboard collections currently in print.

Since August 2007, Victor has served as the Minister of Worship and Arts at Shiloh Baptist Church, Plano, TX, where he oversees the vibrant SMBC Music Ministry, in addition to the flourishing dance and mime ministries. In August 2022, he was appointed as the conductor of the Dallas Symphony Children's Chorus Mixed Ensemble, which is comprised of students in grades 9-12, and is the resident children's choir for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

Victor has served as a guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician for music educators and students throughout the United States. He has conducted numerous All-State and Honor choirs in the US and Canada. His own choirs have performed at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention as well as the American Choral Directors Association- Southwest Division conference.

His professional affiliations include: American Choral Directors Association, American Guild of Organists, Texas Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education, Texas Choral Directors Association, ASCAP, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Inc.



### **Dr. Brandon T. Cash**

Chamber Choir

A native of Ashland, VA, Dr. Brandon T. Cash is an accomplished conductor, music educator, singer, and choral clinician. Since 2010, he has served as Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at Mississippi Valley State University, where he conducts the University Choir, Men's Glee Club, Women's Chorale, and Valley Singers. Dr. Cash also teaches undergraduate course in Secondary Choral Methods, Choral Conducting, and Applied Voice, fostering a culture of excellence and student success.

He received his Doctor of Education Degree in Choral Music Education from The University of Georgia, a M.A. in Counseling with an emphasis in Student Affairs in, a M.M. in Choral Conducting from the University of Nebraska at



Dr. Brandon T. Cash – continued from page

Omaha and his B.A. Music Education K-12 (Voice) from Hampton University. He holds several advanced certificates in Educational Leadership and Educational Law and Policy from UGA and Music Education Certification from Piedmont College.

Dr. Cash is a tenor soloist, researcher, and music educator whose work focuses on principals' perspectives on music programs, culturally responsive pedagogy, and music in rural and urban schools. He has presented research at GMEA, VMEA, and the Desert Skies Symposium and serves as the Mississippi ACDA R&R Chair and a board member for the National Collegiate Choral Organization. Before joining higher education, Dr. Cash spent nine years directing award-winning middle and high school choirs in Clayton and Atlanta Public Schools, earning consistent superior ratings. A sought-after clinician, consultant, and adjudicator, he founded Cash Music Consulting, LLC, in 2023. His professional affiliations include ACDA, NCCO, NASPAAM, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America, Inc. and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

## Mark Miller

Young Adult Choir

MARK A. MILLER has a passion for building community through music and believes that everyone is a child of God. He adheres to Cornel West's belief that "Justice is what love looks like in public."

A graduate of Yale and Juilliard, Mark is Professor of Church Music, Director of Chapel, and Composer-in-Residence at Drew University. He is also a Lecturer in Sacred Music at Yale University's Institute of Sacred Music and Divinity School, and Minister of Music of Christ Church in Summit, New Jersey. Previously, he provided musical leadership for Marble Collegiate Church and The Riverside Church (both in New York City).



His sacred music is widely published and sung by communities of faith around the world. Mark's music has been called the soundtrack for a new generation to express and celebrate hospitality, equity, and justice. His newest album, *Revolution of the Heart*, is available on iTunes.

Mark's *Let Justice Roll* (for chorus and orchestra) was performed for "Juneteenth Celebration: All American Freedom Day" in 2019 at Carnegie Hall. Mark has led choirs and performed in Sweden, South Africa, Austria, Russia, and the Baltic states. He spends part of the year traveling around the United States (often with his band, *Subject to Change*) lecturing, preaching, and presenting concerts focused on creating community and advocating for social justice for all people, especially the LGBTQIA+ community.

Since 1994 Mark has resided in Plainfield, New Jersey, with his husband, Michael Murden. They have two adult children, Alyse and Keith, and a cat named Harriett.

## Josh Voiles

Senior High Choir

JOSH VOILES serves as Director of Music Ministries at Trinity United Methodist Church in Birmingham, AL, where he oversees a music ministry of 400+ participants and directs the Music Academy. Josh has attended Music and Worship Arts Week since 2012. He received his education from Tennessee Tech University (B.M.E, M.A.). Josh is passionate about fostering vibrant, creative worship and creating a space of belonging where all are welcome



## Sarah Elizabeth High

Mid-High Choir

Sarah Elizabeth High is the Director of Choirs at White Knoll High School. Prior to coming to WKHS Mrs. High taught at Swansea High School, Mid-Carolina High School and at Sandy Run K-8. In her tenure at Swansea and Mid-Carolina, Mrs. High's ensembles received numerous awards at choral festivals and consistently received Excellent and Superior ratings at Concert Festivals and had numerous students who attend Honor clinics, Region Choirs, and All-State Choirs.



Mrs. High is also the Director of Music at Salem United Methodist Church, where she conducts the Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, Youth Choir and facilitates handbells and assists in weekly and special worship planning. Mrs. High is also highly involved in the Fellowship of Worship Artists, serves on the National Board as the Vice President of Content, and is on the Worship Design Team for the 2023 and 2024 Music and Worship Arts Week Conference at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

Sarah Elizabeth is a native of Marietta, Georgia and received her Bachelor of Music Education in 2012 from Columbus State University's Schwob School of Music (Columbus, GA) and graduated with her Master's Degree in Music Education from the University of South Carolina in 2014. As a music educator Mrs. High is actively involved in multiple disciplines and has experience leading both children's and adult choirs, instrumental ensembles, and teaching private flute and voice lessons. Mrs. High is currently an active member of ACDA and NAFME, FWA.

## **Margaret Heron**

Older Elementary Choir

Margaret Heron recently retired from a 25-year career as Choral Director and AP Music Theory Instructor at Mortimer Jordan High School and Choral Director at North Jefferson Middle School in the Jefferson County School System. For her first nine years, Mrs. Heron also taught Junior and Senior High Band. She earned a BA in Instrumental Music Education from The University of Alabama and a Masters in Choral Music Education from The University of Alabama at Birmingham, summa cum laude. Mrs. Heron received National Board Certification in Choral Music in 2008.



Under her direction, her choirs consistently received Superior ratings at District, State, national, and international festivals and were invited to perform all over the Southeast. She has been the Choral Clinician and adjudicator for numerous honor choirs, festivals, and camps throughout the south. Mrs. Heron served on the state board of the Alabama Choral Directors Association and the Alabama Vocal Association Executive Board. She has worked for the College Board, training teachers to score AP Theory exams. Mrs. Heron developed It Works in Theory, a sequential and comprehensive curriculum for teaching music theory in the classroom. She has been on the teaching staff of Birmingham Girls Choir since 2013 and took over as Executive Director in 2021.

In the three seasons post the pandemic shutdown, BGC has grown from 4 to 120 choristers. Mrs. Heron has worked as music director at Northport Church of God, Kimberly Church of God, and Gardendale Church of God, and spent 3 years as a youth director at Kimberly Church of God. She is passionate about teaching young people the value of commitment to excellence and unity through the beauty of choral singing. She believes in the power of singing together to bring renewed faith and worth in the community of believers. Mrs. Heron and her husband reside in Kimberly and she loves reading, gardening, canning, flyfishing, and tennis.

## **Kathy Evans**

Younger Elementary Choir

Kathy Evans most recently served as Director of Music Ministries at First United Methodist Church, Cookeville, TN. She is partially retired and now serves as the Director of Worship Arts at Cookeville First and teaches Early Childhood Music Classes as a part of the Music Ministry. Mrs. Evans has fifty plus years of experience as a church musician and educator having served churches in Tennessee, Georgia and Florida. She began her teaching career in the Chattanooga public schools and has taught at the collegiate, secondary and elementary level; maintained a private studio in piano and taught early childhood music. She has been a member of The Fellowship of United Methodist Musicians in Worship Arts for 40 years and has served in leadership roles in the Florida Chapter, served as a clinician with children, youth, and organ at the state and national level, served as Chair of the Design Team for Music Week at Lake Junaluska, and has served on the National Council of The Fellowship of United Methodist Musicians in Worship Arts. She is a





Kathy Evans – continued from page 41...

graduate of Middle Tennessee State University with a BS in Music Education with a double major in piano and organ and holds a Masters of Education from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She is the mother of three adult children and has three grandchildren.

## Handbells

### **Sandra Eithun**

Bronze Handbells

SANDRA EITHUN, M.M.Ed is a graduate of Silver Lake College in Manitowoc, WI, with an emphasis in the Kodály teaching method, keyboard, and flute. She is currently on the faculty of Valley Troubadours of Appleton and at Holy Family Conservatory of Music in Manitowoc, WI, leading the handbell program for both schools. She served as Director of Music Ministry, handbell director, children's choir director, organist and choral accompanist at First Congregational United Church of Christ in New London, WI, from 1992-2021. She directed the Silver Lake College Handbell

Ensemble from 2009-2020, is an active member of the Handbell Musicians of America, and has served on their Area VII Board of Directors. She has been commissioned to write music for many events and for numerous individual handbell ensembles. Most recently, she received the honor of being given the esteemed Donald E. Allured Original Composition Award for the 2020 Week of Handbells in Bay View, MI.



Sandra has over 650 pieces for handbells in publication as well as several sacred keyboard books and teaching collections for the incorporation of handbells in the music classroom. In 2013, Sandra had the honor of working alongside Doc Severinsen and the Fox Valley Symphony to include handbells in his holiday show, Jingle Bell Doc, at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center in Appleton, WI. Sandra's compositions have recently been featured on the PBS Christmas special, Holiday Handbells, as well as concerts by noted groups across the country, including The Raleigh Ringers and The Bells on Temple Square in Salt Lake City. She continues to work as a handbell clinician and conductor at numerous festivals and workshops throughout the United States. She is married to Scott, has four grown children, four grandchildren, and currently resides in Appleton, WI.

## Hyosang Park

### Copper Handbells

Hyosang Park received a Bachelor of Arts in Sacred Music from Sungkyul Christian University, Korea, and a Double Master's Degree in Sacred Music and Piano Performance from Westminster. At Westminster, she joined the Westminster Concert Bell Choir and performed numerous concerts under the direction of Kathy Ebling Shaw, a world-leading handbell choir director and clinician. Ms. Park is currently the music director at Princeton United Methodist Church, the artistic music director of Philadelphia Bronze, an auditioned community handbell ensemble, and works at Malmark Bellcraftsmen in Plumsteadville, PA. She is a doctoral candidate of the Robert E. Webber Institute of Worship Studies in Jacksonville, FL



After playing together for a couple of years, solo handbell ringer Hyosang Park and collaborative pianist Dr. Akiko Hosaki decided to form Duo Grazioso in 2012. With Hyosang's four-octave Malmark handbells (C4 through C8), the duo has performed at numerous venues in the NJ area. They also often appear at the Community Thanksgiving Service at the Princeton University Chapel. In the summer of 2014, Handbell Musicians of America invited them to the Handbell National Seminar in Atlanta, GA.

Ms. Park is also a member of Quadrants, a handbell quartet ensemble that has performed at numerous churches and schools since 2018. The ensemble was invited to the Handbell National Symposium in St Louis, MI, in 2019. Philadelphia Bronze, which performs in PA and NJ, was invited to the Handbell National Symposium in Hartford, CT, in 2024.

## Dance

## Karen L. Watkins-Rios

### Dance in Worship

Karen L. Watkins-Rios began her dance training at age three at the School of the Richmond Ballet in Richmond, Virginia, under the direction of Ms. Barbara Rassel, formerly of the Ballet Russe in New York City. While at the school, Mrs. Watkins-Rios was given opportunities to study under dance masters such as Mr. Arnott Mader The Royal Ballet and American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet's VioletteVerdy and Leslie Peck, and American Ballet Theatre's Christine Busch.



At age 18, after completing one year as a National Competitive Scholar at Howard University in Washington, D.C., Mrs. Watkins-Rios was invited by Arthur Mitchell to complete her training in classical ballet at the prestigious Dance Theatre of Harlem Professional School in New York City, where she was also exposed to modern and ethnic genres as well as



Karen L. Watkins-Rios— continued from page 43...

being offered opportunities to participate with the company in performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Upon her return to Howard University, Mrs. Watkins-Rios studied jazz under Mr. Pepsi Bethel, one of the founders of American jazz, Mrs. Sandra Fortune, Varna Silver Medal Winner, and Steve Rooks, former principal dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company. Mrs. Watkins-Rios received high honors graduating cum laude with a B.A. in Communications and Dance Minor.

After graduation, Mrs. Watkins-Rios became a senior company member of the Asaph Dance Ensemble, under the auspices of the Christian Performing Arts Fellowship in Washington, D.C. where she danced as a soloist for five years. Her credits over the years have included favorites such as *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and *Sleeping Beauty* as well as classical and choral pieces such as Handel's *Messiah*, the Mozart *Requiem*, the Brahms's *Requiem*, and the Bach *Magnificat*. One of her personal highlights was being invited to dance with the Christian Performing Arts Fellowship in the 1996 Christmas Celebrations in Israel for Prime Minister Yassir Arafat. In 1998, Mrs. Watkins-Rios left Northern Virginia to take over as owner and artistic director of Bright Lights Performing Arts Studio in Chesapeake. In September of 2004, Ms. Watkins-Rios joined the faculty of Regent University as an adjunct professor for the MA and MFA Music Theatre program in the School of Communications and in 2006, Ms. Watkins-Rios founded the Suffolk Ballet Performing Company and School of Suffolk Ballet training academy. Her credits include the original choreography, story and performance in *Clara's Christmas Gift*, *Three Women At the Cross*, and opening for international historian and commentator Clay Jenkinson as Thomas Jefferson to benefit the Suffolk Center for Hope and New Beginnings.

Ms. Watkins-Rios returned to Richmond in the summer of 2007, where she began to offer dance classes and work with churches to assist in developing liturgical and worship dance programs. In March of 2009, she began to work both nationally and internationally to build programs to enhance and build into the lives of children. Within that capacity, Mrs. Watkins-Rios developed the All-Saints Dance Academy at All-Saints Catholic School in Richmond, Virginia and began to work with the Highland Support Project Mayan Arts Program to develop a comprehensive dance program in Quetzalcantenango, Guatemala where children in the pueblos of Cantale and the township of "Chi-Chi" are taught classical techniques to enrich their native dance offerings.

In 2012, Ms. Watkins-Rios founded The Dance Candle Academy of Sacred and Performing Arts. Its mission is to combine the elegance, excellence, grace and artistry of technique with the heart, passion, conviction and soul of worship. In 2014, Ms. Watkins-Rios completed her 200-hour Karuna Yoga Teacher Training to assist her students and their families in working with a more holistic approach to movement and continue to integrate mindfulness and physicality. She continues to perform as a freelance artist, specializing in classical ballet, liturgical and worship, and yoga instruction.

## Orchestra & Evening Prayer

### **Dr. Danny Frye**

#### Orchestra

Dr. Danny Frye is a highly accomplished music educator, conductor, and percussionist with over 25 years of experience teaching at both the high school and university levels. He served as the founding Director of University Bands at High Point University, where he built the institution's instrumental music division from the ground up, launched its first marching band in 2020, and led the program to regional acclaim. A dynamic ensemble leader and dedicated mentor, Dr. Frye has directed jazz ensembles, concert bands, pep bands, and percussion studios, consistently growing enrollment and performance quality.



In addition to his academic work, Dr. Frye has served in a variety of church music leadership roles for more than three decades. His past appointments include roles as Director of Music at Memorial United Methodist Church, Director of Music at Grace United Methodist Church, Assistant Director of Music at Starmount Presbyterian Church, Director of Youth Music at West Market Street United Methodist Church, and Choir Director at Emmanuel United Methodist Church. He has overseen youth choirs, handbell ensembles, orchestral ensembles, brass ensembles, contemporary worship programs, and musical theater camps, and has served as staff percussionist for the Montreat Worship and Music Conference. Dr. Frye's deep commitment to sacred music and spiritual community is reflected in his thoughtful leadership and creative program development. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

## Evening Prayer

### **Rev. Joe Lee**

#### Evening Prayer

REV. JOE LEE is the Minister of Music at East End United Methodist Church in Nashville. He is also the Resident Conductor of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of the Huntsville Youth Orchestra, Music Director of the Tennessee Valley Music Festival, Music Director of the Festival Internacional de Música Cóbano (Costa Rica), the Principal Conductor of Nashville's professional modern music ensemble, "chatterbird," and the Artistic Director of Nashville in Harmony's chorus, Major Minors, a chorus for LGBTQIAP+ and allied youth ages 12-18. Recently, he served as the Interim Director of Orchestral Studies at the University of Alabama. On stage, he has led a diverse group of performers including Grammy award winning artists Eileen Ivers and Immigrant Soul, the world-famous Canadian Brass, the performers of Cirque de la Symphonie, Act of Congress, Riders in the Sky, Tony Award nominee Jodi Benson, and other Broadway stars including Gary Mauer, Julia Murney, Virginia Woodruff, Burke Moses, and many others. Mr. Lee has also led the Huntsville Ballet Company in over 100 performances of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker."



Mr. Lee served on the conducting staff of the Sewanee Summer Music Festival from 2007-2011 and served as the conductor of the University Orchestra at Sewanee from 2011-2014. In the Spring of 2011, Mr. Lee returned to his alma mater to serve a one- semester appointment at Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Orchestra and Conducting. In 2018, Mr. Lee founded the University Orchestra at the University of Alabama, Huntsville, and led that ensemble until December 2021. In addition to his regular conducting activities, Mr. Lee frequently travels the Southeast US and Central America leading clinics, adjudicating band and orchestra festivals, and guest conducting. Mr. Lee is the Past President of the Alabama Orchestra Association, and recently received a Master of Divinity from Claremont School of Theology.



## Music & Worship Arts Week Design Team

### **Marla Ham**

Design Team Chair

Marla is currently teaching K-5 general music in Kinston, North Carolina. She has been in full-time church music the last 30 years where she directed graded choral programs, handbell choirs, instrumental and dance ensembles. She has taught private piano and guitar in the middle and high school setting and was also certified in Kindermusik having taught classes to children for many years. Marla has served several denominations in addition to United Methodist as music director. Beyond the local church she has held most offices in the North Carolina Chapter of the Fellowship and been an active Fellowship member for 30 years. Outside of music, Marla worked with Dr. Nancy Mackowsky in The Mackowsky Visual Learning & Rehabilitation Clinic in Raleigh, NC as a vision therapist and testing coordinator. Marla's hobbies are musical theatre, gardening, having fun with flowers and green plants and playing the piano. Marla holds a Master of Music in Music Education from East Carolina University.



### **Dr. Michael Dougherty**

Music & Worship Arts Week Event Manager

Michael Dougherty currently serves as Director of Traditional Music and Worship Team Leader at Hyde Park UMC in Tampa, Florida, where he directs the Adult Choral and handbell programs, oversees the children's choral program, and administers planning of the church's six weekly services on two campuses. A Diaconal Minister in The United Methodist Church, he has served churches in Ohio, North Carolina, and Florida. For three years he served as Organ Scholar at Westminster College, Oxford, England, where he oversaw the musical and liturgical offerings of twenty services each week. Michael holds degrees from Kalamazoo College (BA, Music), Emory University (MSM, Choral Conducting), and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (DMA, Choral Conducting).



### **Melissa Emerson**

Handbell Area Chair

Melissa Emerson is Director of Music Ministries at Calvary United Methodist Church in Nashville, where she oversees a vibrant multi-faceted ministry which includes vocal choirs, handbells, and brass. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Horn Performance and K-12 Teaching Certificate from The University of Iowa, and a Master of Sacred Music with an emphasis in Choral Conducting from Boston University School of Theology. She is an accomplished French horn player, and in her spare time competes in triathlons.



## **Blaine Russell**

Adult and Youth Choral Chair / Incoming Design Team Chair

Blaine Russell has served as the Director of Music at Fletcher United Methodist Church in Fletcher, NC since 2013. He has also previously served as the Choral Area Chair for Music and Worship Arts Week. Blaine received his B.A. in Voice from High Point University and a M.M. in Church Music from Shenandoah Conservatory. An avid handbell musician, Blaine directs the Blue Ridge Ringers, an advanced community handbell ensemble based in Hendersonville, NC, and he currently serves as the North Carolina State Chair of Handbell Musicians of America Area 3. He has been married to his wife Christina, also a church musician, since 2011.



## **Dr. David Daniel**

Adult and Youth Choral Co-Chair

Dr. David B. Daniel was appointed as director of chapel music and assistant professor in the practice of music ministry in 2016. Prior to this appointment, he served Candler as an adjunct instructor and as choral assistant for the Candler Singers since 2011. As director of chapel music, he oversees the musical life of Candler related to weekly worship—directing choirs, coordinating staff and student musicians, and guiding student worship planning teams in their choice of congregational song. He also prepares and directs the Candler Singers in leading worship outside of Candler, including the 2016 installation service for Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson to the North Georgia Conference, and worship services and concerts throughout the southeast.



His research interests include congregational song, worship, and choral music.

## **Cynthia Johnson**

Worship Area Chair

Cynthia Johnson is the Director of Music and Worship Arts at Broad Street UMC in Cleveland, Tennessee. She holds an M.M. in Vocal Performance from Lee University and is a part-time vocal instructor there. In addition to designing creative worship for her church, Cynthia enjoys coaching young singers for classical music performances, auditions, and music theatre. She directs singers of all ages in her church community, from ages 3 - 93, as well as two handbell choirs.





## **Elizabeth Loughran**

Dance Area Chair

Elizabeth Loughran is the Director of Children's Ministry for Oak Grove UMC in Decatur, GA, a certified candidate for Elder in the South Carolina Annual Conference, and a seminary student at Candler School of Theology, concentrating on Leadership in the Church and Community. Elizabeth has been dancing and attending MWAW since she was a very young child. She has also choreographed and led liturgical dance groups for over twenty years. She is honored and thrilled to be the Dance Chair for the 2024 MWAW Design Team.



## **Jodi Haskins**

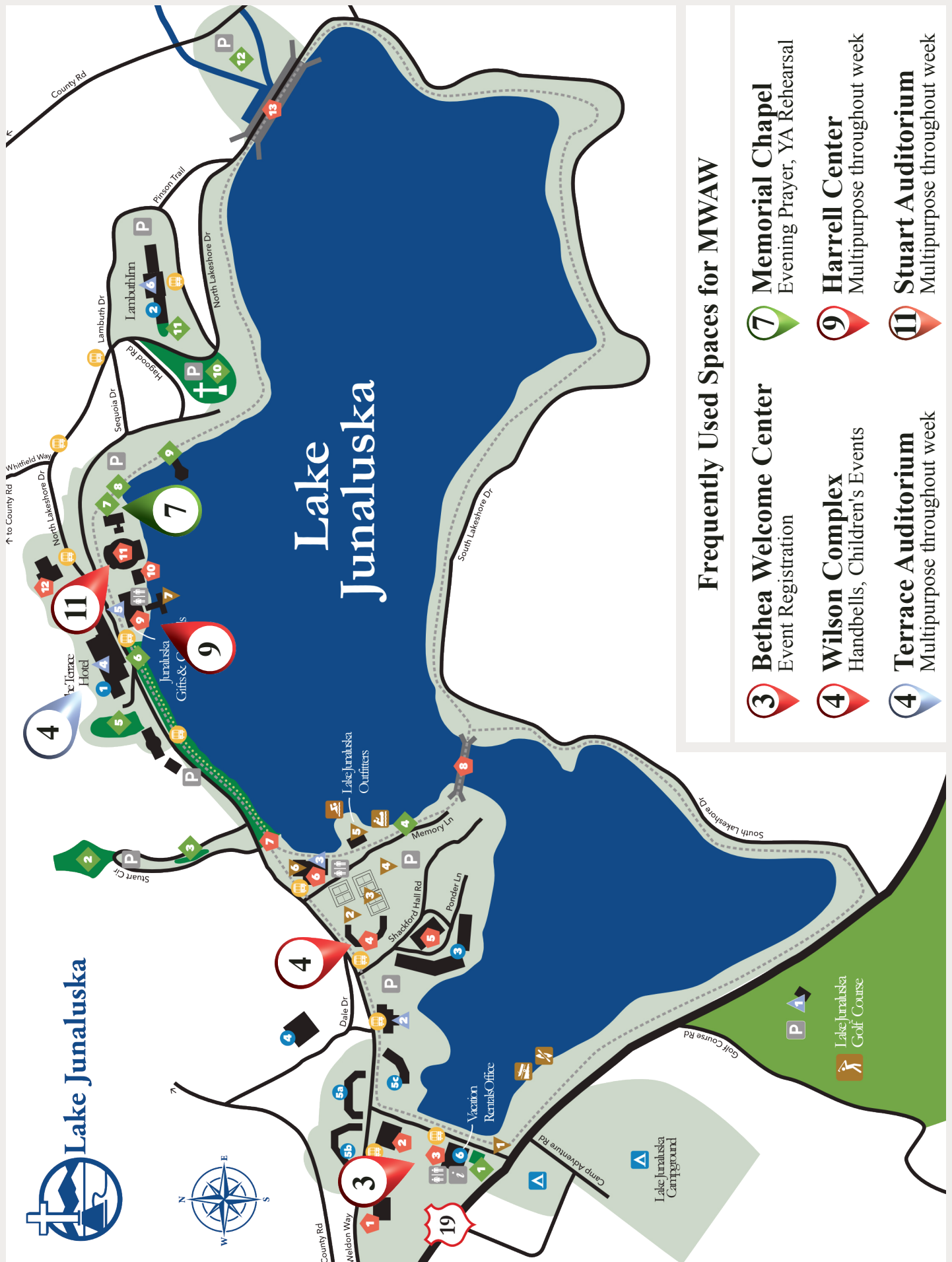
Children's Choral Chair

Jodi Haskins currently serves as the Associate Director at Trinity United Methodist Church in Birmingham, AL. Prior to her role at Trinity, Jodi served as Adjunct Music Teacher at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.





Lake Junaluska





### Frequently Used Spaces for MWA


















- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>3</b> <b>Betha Welcome Center</b><br>Event Registration         | <b>7</b> <b>Memorial Chapel</b><br>Evening Prayer, YA Rehearsal    |
| <b>4</b> <b>Wilson Complex</b><br>Handbells, Children's Events     | <b>9</b> <b>Harrell Center</b><br>Multipurpose throughout week     |
| <b>4</b> <b>Terrace Auditorium</b><br>Multipurpose throughout week | <b>11</b> <b>Stuart Auditorium</b><br>Multipurpose throughout week |











## VISIT LAKE JUNALUSKA

 **Bethea Welcome Center**  
at Lake Junaluska  
91 N. Lakeshore Dr.  
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745  
**800-222-4930**  
 [lakejunaluska.com](http://lakejunaluska.com)  
for information and events







## KEY

-  Public Area
-  Lake
-  Gardens and Sacred Spaces
-  Golf Course (*Public*)
-  Road
-  Walking Trail
-  Rose Walk
-  Trolley Stop
-  Public Parking
-  Public Restrooms
-  Visitor Information
-  RV/Tent Camping
-  Golf Course
-  Swimming Pool
-  Boat Rentals
-  Boat Launch
-  Kayak/Canoe Launch








## LODGING

-  The Terrace Hotel
-  Lambuth Inn
-  Mountainview Lodge
-  Hillside Lodge
-  Apartments 1-20
-  Apartments 21-40
-  Apartments 41-50
-  Vacation Rentals Office













## SHOPPING & DINING

-  Golf Course Pro Shop
-  York Dining Commons/  
Lakeside Deck *Private events*
-  Crepe & Custard
-  Terrace Hotel *Hot Breakfast*
-  Junaluska Gifts & Grounds  
*Harrell Center*
-  Christmas Memories

## RECREATION

-  Walking Trail
-  J.B. Ivey Playground
-  Shuffleboard/Tennis/  
Pickleball Courts
-  Mini-Golf
-  Lake Junaluska  
*Outfitters Pool, kayak/canoe  
rentals, snacks, recreation equipment*
-  Fitness Center
-  Cherokee IV Boat Tours Dock

## POINTS OF INTEREST

-  Nanci Weldon  
Memorial Gym
-  SEJ Heritage Center
-  Bethea Welcome Center
-  Wilson Complex
-  Shackford Hall & Firepit
-  Kern Center
-  Colonnade
-  Turbeville Footbridge
-  Harrell Center
-  Lakeside Tent
-  Stuart Auditorium
-  Branscombe-Allen  
Administration Building
-  Lake Junaluska Dam

## GARDENS AND SACRED SPACES

-  Biblical Garden
-  Cornelle Bryan Native Garden
-  Stuart Spring
-  Gattis Meditation Garden
-  Susanna Wesley Garden
-  Rose Walk
-  Memorial Chapel and  
Room of Memory
-  Prayer Labyrinth
-  Meditation & Fishing Pier
-  Lake Junaluska Cross  
and Amphitheater
-  Inspiration Point
-  Park at Lake Junaluska Dam



## Join The Fellowship today!

The Fellowship of Worship Artists exists to assist worship leaders in creating transformative worship experiences which bring people into deeper relationships with God and each other. We offer tools and resources for each worship arts area, including choral, dance, art, drama, visual design, preaching, handbells, instrumentals, technical / audio visual, spiritual direction, and liturgy creation. Founded in 1955 as the National Fellowship of Methodist Musicians, The Fellowship provides opportunities to experience meaningful worship, weekly devotionals, print and digital communication resources, and regional and national events. We are an ecumenical organization and all are welcome.

We acknowledge that we have been blessed by the gifts and presence of a variety of people. We covenant to uphold the sacred worth and dignity of all persons, without exception. We welcome all into membership and leadership in The Fellowship, including:

- persons with divergent theological and political convictions, even as we seek to emphasize our connectedness and unity in Christ;
- persons of all races, cultures, ethnicities, and socioeconomic conditions;
- persons at all places on the spectrum of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression;
- persons of various ages and life experiences, and persons who are differently abled.

Christ made no mistake in opening the table of grace to everyone. Therefore, our membership and its leaders commit to embrace one another with boundless compassion and affirmation so that the reign of God might be made known "on earth as it is in heaven."



Cultivate – Equip – Worship  
[www.thefellowshipowa.org](http://www.thefellowshipowa.org)

