

When will we sing?

Many of you might have read the article back in March about the choir that met in Washington state where the 60 member group met and rehearsed in a county where there were no cases of COVID-19. Forty of those singers ended having COVID-19 symptoms and two died. I have spent my entire adult life serving the United Methodist Church in music, which means the news from the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) to not sing indoors and for choirs to cease till there is a vaccine was heartbreaking. Now many other articles have surfaced since then, some better news for singers, but still not great. The consensus is that singing produces higher transmission of aerosols and is not safe for groups. (Think of a time where you saw particles from a singers mouth while producing clear diction) It's a very challenging time to be a musician. Many have lost their jobs with no future performances before 2021. Church musicians are trying to be creative with plexiglass barriers on their chancel area, pre-recording vocal ensembles, and even congregational humming to offer something to their congregation. But it's not the same...the church has had congregational hymn singing as we know it since Reformation (1517).

So the short answer is, not for a while. This is definitely a season of lament for singers and the church. We are in the wilderness and will get through it with God's help and patience.

So, although we aren't singing in church, you CAN sing at home or in the car! Pick a song and sing it as praise to the Lord. God wishes you to worship Him throughout your day, not only in the church building. You can find an opportunity to sing during our online worship; we rotate traditional and contemporary music each week and send out the bulletin with the words and lyrics. You and your family can sing together each Sunday watching your Aledo UMC staff via Facebook or Aledoumc.org, all worship is a joyful noise to Him. KLTy 94.9 FM still is playing contemporary Christian music; Spotify and other online music services have many options, from performances of beautiful hymn singing from across the globe, to just released modern worship; or pull out your old Christian CD's you haven't sung to in a while. There are many safe options for singing during the pandemic, so as AUMC continues to care for people's comfort and health, we ask you to still raise the roof and give your voice to the Lord!!

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