

First Congregational Church of Colorado Springs

Music and Arts Ministry

Vision Statement

Our musical and artistic offerings at First Congregational Church are robust and diverse, rooted in a history of quality programming. While we enjoy a tradition of classically-based congregational music, we also incorporate diverse musical styles on a frequent basis. Likewise we enjoy incorporating other arts – visual, dance, drama – to enhance our spiritual experience.

Our worship services are grounded in the music provided by our historic Hook and Hastings organ (renovated in 2013) – a beloved feature of our sanctuary – and our organist, a treasured participant in our worship. We value hymnody as indicated by The New Century Hymnal in our pews from which we regularly sing. We worship regularly with special music provided not only by our dedicated Chancel Choir, but also various ensembles which include our accomplished Bells of Saint Vrain Handbell Ensemble, Flute Choir, and twice yearly women's, men's, and multi-generational choirs. We feature special music-themed services each year (most notably Folk Sunday and Jazz Sunday), notable organ events and an annual presentation of a large choral work accompanied by orchestra. We are pleased to incorporate the musical talents of many members of our congregation who offer a broad array of musical styles and instruments but also welcome guest musicians on special occasions. Members and visitors alike often remark that our congregational singing and music programs are powerful, meaningful and beautiful.

We are also committed to exploring ways to merge our music program with other forms of spiritual artistic expression such as visual art, dance, and drama. We currently partner with artists at Cottonwood Center for the Arts to have a continuous display of artwork in the church's Atrium which reflects seasonal themes throughout the church's liturgical calendar. We occasionally invite dancers from the congregation to provide interpretative movement and/or dance to enhance our Sunday worship including the emotionally moving draping of the chancel at the end of Palm Sunday services. The use of drama in worship is not uncommon and the church also produces occasional shows and operas. A theatrical highlight is the biennial Madrigal Dinner which incorporates a script, costumes, decorations and music to reenact courtly Christmases from the Elizabethan era.