



WHERE LIFE & PURPOSE CONNECT

SPRING 2019

Will Harold Hill's small-town band find the same fun and camaraderie during their rehearsals as the cast of *The Music Man*? Only the audience will know...so come see the show! But the cast has set a high bar for the amount of laughter and fellowship they enjoy while preparing to bring this beloved show to life.

"This show is going to be great!" says Joy Ann Harmon, *The Music Man* director and Messiah Church's Director of Worship. "I am absolutely amazed at how passionate everyone working on the show is...so many can-do attitudes and a willingness to make it the best it can be!"

Jesse Carlson, who plays Harold Hill, is returning to Messiah after playing "the French guy" in the Glory Players' *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in 2017. Jesse is an experienced actor who has performed for years and was

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WIT, WARMTH & A ROUSING CHORUS

the Glory Players
Theater Company
presents

THE MUSIC MAN



Kim Dahl Photography

The Music Man runs March 15-17 and 22-24 with Friday and Saturday evening performances at 7 pm and Sunday matinées at 2 pm at Messiah Church. Doors open 30 minutes prior to the start of each show. Tickets are \$15 for adults ages 15 and up, \$10 for ages 5 to 14, and kids 4 and under are free. All theatergoers, regardless of age, must have a ticket. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit MessiahChurch.org/the-music-man/.

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Messiah Staff

Pastors

Steve Richards, Senior Pastor
Tami Luckhardt, Executive Pastor
Dick Ellis, Pastor of Congregational Care

Worship

Joy Ann Harmon, Director of Worship
Katie Moss, Organist & Director of Handbells
Matthew Ferrell, Director of Chancel Choir

Ministries

Karen Klekner, Director of Children and Family Ministry
Kami Pohl, Director of Community Engagement
Sami Tierney, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Faith Community Nurse

Jill Mahoney, RN, BSN, FCN

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Jeff Martin, Interim Bookkeeper
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Tom Staehle, Security

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Siri Nanneman, Newsletter Editor

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Steve Richards, Pastor
Tami Luckhardt, Pastor
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Paul Hoekstra
John Madsen
Linda Munch
Chuck Stern
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Fred Thomas had a passion for people, a sense of humor, and a heart for the Bible. After serving as a pastor for 45 years throughout Wisconsin, Uruguay and Bolivia, Fred retired to Arkansas before moving to Plymouth in 2011 to live near his daughter, Sonya Worner. He was welcomed into the Messiah community, and began teaching Disciple Bible Study and attending services on Sundays.

“He felt so passionate about the Bible and wanting people to learn it and love it,” says Kami Pohl, Messiah’s Director of Community Engagement. “He was gentle and kind, caring and loving. He was a man who exuded Jesus.”

His Disciple Bible Study group enjoyed his teaching so much that they began meeting at Fred’s home when it became harder for him to get to Messiah. “He knew so much theology. He would teach people salvation and had such a depth of Christianity history,” Sonya says. “He was willing to teach at a basic level or as deep as someone had a desire to comprehend.”

In 1953, Fred served as a missionary in Uruguay. It was there that he met, Ilda. When they first met, they didn’t speak the same language so they would go to the beach and draw pictures in the sand to communicate — “they spoke sand language,” Sonya says.

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WIT, WARMTH & ROUSING CHORUS

THE MUSIC MAN

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first introduced to *The Music Man* as a kid. He performs alongside other veteran actors in the cast — as well as those who are making their theater debut. “Having people of all experience levels in the cast is my favorite part because everyone gets to learn something from it,” he says.

Alan Dewey, Messiah Church member, is one of those theater novices. *The Music Man*’s Conductor, Alan first found Messiah when he and his wife Marianne came to watch their friend, Andy Dahl, play the title role in *Joseph*. “We liked the play, looked around and liked what we saw on display about what the church was doing. Then we found ourselves looking for a church and came one Sunday. Everybody was so friendly that we just kept coming back.”

In November, Alan signed up to serve with the Living Nativity “on a whim,” and Joy Ann encouraged him to try out for *The Music Man*. “It’s just fun,” he says. “I’m so impressed by all the experienced actors and musicians. I’m having a lot of fun.”

Denise, Felicity and Julian Gallaty share a similar story. The Glory Players were rehearsing for *Joseph* when they first started attending Messiah, and wanted to include more kids in the production. They were looking for someone to help with the kids, and Denise, a vocal coach and former youth ministry leader, was

the perfect fit for that job. Two years later, all three are enjoying being in *The Music Man*.

“It’s awesome,” says Denise who is putting her vocal talents to use giving Mrs. Paroo a true Irish brogue. “I love how we’re able to have fun and do the theater thing in a church where you’re worshipping and where the values are solid.”

Joy Ann chose *The Music Man* because it’s engaging and appropriate for families, has amazing music, and involves kids and adults. There’s an opportunity for each member of the Messiah community to contribute — through vocal or performance music, sewing,

painting or other activities. “It’s all hands on-deck, and everyone gets to use their unique gifts,” says Denise.

It also means that there’s something for everyone in the audience. Denise says that the show meets a real need in the community — high-quality, family-friendly theater at a reasonable price. And if it helps Messiah connect someone with God who wouldn’t have otherwise, that’s truly what it’s all about. Says Joy Ann, “We can offer an experience to the community to engage an entire population that might not have any other reason to come to us, or those who have a hard time coming into a church.”



Kim Dahl Photography

Jesse Carlson, who plays Harold Hill, says, “Messiah is a fun place to do theater and creative work. It’s phenomenal!”

To purchase tickets for Messiah’s March musical, visit: MessiahChurch.org/the-music-man/

The Music Man is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. ●

This Easter Season, join Messiah Church to celebrate the life & resurrection of Jesus:

On **Palm Sunday**, April 14, celebrate Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem during regular Sunday services (8:45 and 10:30 am).

On **Maundy Thursday**, April 18, join us for a reflective worship in remembrance of Jesus’ Last Supper at 7 pm.

On **Good Friday**, April 19, we will remember Jesus’ crucifixion during a service at 7:30 pm.

On Sunday, April 21, we will celebrate **Easter** with services at regular worship times (8:45 and 10:30 am).



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Fred and Ilda were married on January 10, 1959, in Montevideo, Uruguay, before moving to Stockbridge, Wisconsin where they had three children: Ed, Andrés, and Sonya. In 1967, the family moved to Bolivia. The five years they lived in Bolivia was an incredibly traumatic time for the country, with 25 revolutions. Sonya vividly remembers the day her dad was taken from their home by gunpoint because the military thought he was using his CB radio to communicate with Castro.

“He was willing to put his life at risk in order to bring the message of the Gospel to the people,” says Steve Richards, Senior Pastor at Messiah.

The family moved back to Wisconsin, where Fred served as a pastor until retiring in 1993. He offered to work with churches that were struggling because “he figured that he could help them revive their gifts,” Sonya says. “His gift was to work with people and extract from them their gifts.”

He and Ilda were dedicated to using their gifts to help others — whether through fostering children or through Ilda’s work with the Latino/Latina culture. Ilda founded Centro Hispano, the first such social service program in Wisconsin. “People came to our door night and day, and my dad would go,” Sonya says. “If a need arose, they did what they could. Always.”

After 30 years of marriage and dedication to serving their communities, Ilda passed away in July 1994. Fred met and married Marie in 1996. They lived a happy life in Arkansas, until she passed away in 2007.

Fred continued to serve when he came to Messiah. “He always said something positive, and was about lifting up and affirming people,” Pastor Steve says.

Sonya cared for Fred, supported by Messiah’s Congregational Care Team, until he passed away in April 2017. “There were many people who touched his life at Messiah, and they meant a lot to him,” Sonya says.

The Gift of Mark Study Bibles

Sonya and her brothers, Ed and Andrés, decided to honor their dad by donating a portion of his estate to the 15 churches where Fred served — including Messiah. “We knew that he and my mom would have had the desire to do this,” she says.

At Messiah, half of Fred’s legacy gift will be used to support the Congregational Care Team, in recognition of the loving care they gave him. The other half was designated for education within the church. It was an unexpected gift that arrived at just the right time.

“We were considering studying the Gospel of Mark as part of Lent. Not everyone has experienced a study Bible and all of the resources it contains, and we wanted to share that,” Pastor Steve says. “Then Fred’s gift came, and we suddenly had a way to pay for it. We had the opportunity to use his gift as a way of giving everyone a book of the Bible.”



Mark Study Bibles will be available to the congregation starting Sunday, March 10 and will be distributed until they run out. Anyone who can't attend in person should watch the Thursday weekly email for information on how to request a copy.

Mark was the first of the four Gospels to be written, likely about 40 years after the death of Jesus. “My hope is that people learn about who Jesus is through the perspective of Mark,” Pastor Steve says. “I want us to learn something about Jesus’ life and see how his life story still connects to our lives.”

It’s a gift that Sonya thinks would make her dad happy. “He was so wanting education to be part of what he helped others with.”

Legacy gifts are used by Messiah in different ways. Some are directed donations for a specific improvement, like Joyce Pultz’s gift for the new kitchen. Others, like a recent gift from the estate of Carl Sundeen, will be invested in the church’s endowment and a portion of the gift will be used to support mission work each year. These gifts are used in a way that honors the passions each individual had in life.

“It’s a beautiful legacy, and Fred’s love for the Bible is going to go on after he passed,” says Kami. “He was so faithful in using the gifts and talents he was given.” ●

scouts

FLOURISH AT MESSIAH

Being involved in service projects throughout the community often involves Messiah Church servants heading *out*. In the case of Messiah's involvement with Scouts BSA and Girl Scouts, however, it means welcoming them *in to* our church.

"Messiah has a mission of working with youth. Messiah is a home base for kids," says Phil Zietlow, Scoutmaster Emeritus and Messiah Church member. "Many of the kids (who attend scouting) don't have a church, so being at Messiah is eye-opening for them."

Scouting BSA Grows, Adding a Troop for Girls

Troop 3570 has been sponsored by Messiah Church for almost 50 years. Sponsorship is required for any Scouts BSA Troop and involves more than providing a space for meetings. Phil says that being at Messiah also lays a foundation for encouraging children to be involved with a church. One of the points of the Scout Law is "A Scout is Reverent: be faithful in your religious duties; respect the beliefs of others."

"Messiah has been fabulous, always," says Lynn Abe, long-time adult volunteer for Troop 3570 and now 5570. "As the troop grew, they accommodated our need for more space. The Pastors are always great and take

time to be present, pray for the troop and give their good counsel."

Lynn became involved with Scouts BSA when her son was in fifth grade, and has remained involved for more than 15 years. Today, Troop 3570 is made up of about 50 boys. The troop is known for their many camping trips and their focus on gaining the Zero Hero badge each year, given to those who camp outside for a night when the temperature is below zero.

Troop 3570 is also unique in that they've added an additional point to the Scout Law, "A Scout is Forgiving." Phil says, "A lot of adults will say forgiveness is impossible, but when you talk to kids and work on the concept, it's easier to learn — and you can use it for the rest of your life."

Lynn says that Troop 3570, and Phil as their long-time Scoutmaster, have always been progressive and inclusive. When the Boy Scouts of America announced that they were welcoming troops of girls and changing their name, it "was an interesting thing for us to consider." The group was focused on filling a gap and making the experience easier for families, not detracting from current opportunities for girls provided

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BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA®



Boy and Girl Scouts had an opportunity to thank Messiah for their sponsorship and support on Scout Sunday, February 10.

Kim Dahl Photography



Scouts BSA emphasize teamwork and outdoor experiences, including camping, swimming, climbing, zip lining and horseback riding.

Scouts FLOURISH AT MESSIAH

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by organizations like Girl Scouts or Campfire Girls.

The tightly-knit parent committee worked with Messiah leadership to determine how to best welcome girls into their programming. “In my opinion, it’s just perfect,” says Phil. “Scouting has more emphasis on the outdoor experience, camping and teamwork. It’s important that we provide equal opportunity for girls in Scouting.”

They decided to charter Troop 5570 for girls and will meet at the same time as Troop 3570, which remains for boys. Each troop will be driven independently, but will also share some activities, like guest speakers or flag ceremonies.

“Chartering a troop for girls provides an opportunity for this to become a family activity. Now girls can participate rather than just watch,” says Messiah Senior Pastor Steve Richards.

Sally Jensen will be Troop 5570’s Scoutmaster, having been involved with the boys’ troop for the last two years. “We believe in the program and think it offers amazing opportunities. It teaches true life skills — I’m so glad we’ll now offer girls that opportunity,” she says.

Sally’s daughter, Ella, watched her brothers’ activities from the sidelines before joining Cub Scouts Pack 477. Soon, she’ll be one of the first girls to cross over from Cub Scouts and is looking forward to the activities she’ll do as part of Troop 5570 — swimming, climbing, zip

lining, camping, and, especially, horseback riding.

From Girl Scout to One of Messiah’s Kids

Scouts River Valleys Girl Scout Troop #18359 also meets at Messiah. While Girl Scouts don’t need an official sponsor like Scouting BSA Troops do, they still need a welcoming community, like Messiah Church.

When Denise Gallaty and her family moved to Plymouth, she remained active in leading the children’s ministry at her church in Bloomington. The drive back there, especially for weekday programming, became a hardship. While Denise and her kids visited churches in the Plymouth area, they didn’t know Messiah was here — until they came into the building for a meeting of 8-year-old Felicity’s Girl Scout Troop. Since then, Denise, Felicity and her older brother, Julian, have been attending Messiah, serving in the music ministry and participating in Youth and Children’s Ministry activities.

“It just happens — you walk into a church and just know. God’s saying, ‘This is the place for you,’” Denise said.

The Girl Scout Troop met in the Fireside Room, where they occasionally still meet today — although now, the troop often meets at someone’s house or on-site at a volunteer activity. Denise says Messiah’s openness to hosting troop meetings meets a need in the community.

“It’s a really great outreach,” she says. “As service-oriented as we are at Messiah, the scouts are, too. It seems like a great fit.”

For more information on these BSA Scout Troops or River Valley Girl Scouts, visit www.troopwebhost.org/Troop3570Plymouth, www.scouts388.com or www.girlscoutsvr.org. ●

IT ALL STARTED with a chance encounter at the James J. Hill parade in 2013. From his window, then 7th Grader Matthew Mwangi was drawn to the music of Messiah's band practicing on a parade float. After spotting a friend from school, Kohl Kraft, and convincing his mom, Olive Jones, he joined the parade. Afterwards, Matthew shared his gift of music for the first time with Messiah. Joy Ann Harmon, Messiah's Director of Worship was there. She says, "As we were unloading, he jumped on the drum set and started playing...he was amazing!"

By 7th grade, Matthew had been loving the drums for years. As a toddler, he would gather plates and bottles, making a different sound as he banged on them with a spoon. "He got so much joy out of that," Olive says.

Matthew's grandmother, Mumbi Mwangi, bought him a CD of African music, and Matthew remembers laying on the floor, listening to it, and mimicking the sounds. "I think Africa is where I get all my rhythm — even though I wasn't born there, it's in my genes," Matthew says.

After that parade in 2013, Joy Ann and others encouraged Matthew to play with the band at Messiah. He took them up on the offer — and quickly found a community that welcomed him, appreciated his musical gifts and is dedicated to him and his family's success.

"He found a place here," says Messiah's Senior Pastor Steve Richards. "He came into this church — not because his family brought him, but because he wanted to. He shares his musical ability as a way to worship."

With all that passion for and dedication to music, Messiah members have come alongside Matthew to make sure he can succeed in other aspects of his life. His mentor and Messiah Church member, Fred Hegele says, "Matthew has a radar, largely centered around music — and also being the older brother in a single-parent household with a working mother, he's had a lot of responsibilities for raising his two younger sisters."

Fred began mentoring Matthew after meeting Olive, Matthew, and Matthew's sister Vanessa at Interfaith Outreach's Rising Stars Gala, where Olive was speaking. Matthew and Fred began meeting over breakfast, talking about the importance of education and school. Eventually, they began working on school work together and setting goals. Matthew says, "I've gained a lot of wisdom from Fred. He's taught me about being on time, being organized...lots of life lessons."

JOY

in music



Kim Dahl Photography

Matthew's passion for music drove him to teach himself how to create different music on the drums — and then to want to learn to play the guitar, bass and piano too.

Matthew and his family spent a year in Alexandria, MN, so his mom could finish her RN degree. However, Matthew had set a goal that he wanted to walk across the stage with his class at Wayzata High School this spring, and it's a goal he and Fred have been working towards ever since.

Every day after his summer school program, Matthew would come to Messiah, to focus on his school work with the help of Fred, Pastor Steve, and other mentors (like Ruth Wellman, the Tuckers, the Weilers, the Sullivans and the Harmon's). "I was motivated because everyone was there for me," he says. "It was great to have their help and hold me accountable. I know most people don't have this."

Matthew has so many people in his corner because, Fred says, "of his ability to develop relationships with people of all ages. He's clearly gifted."

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JOY

in music

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"I'm just very outgoing," Matthew says. "I don't even try to be... people just say that they like my smile."

As he nears graduation, Matthew is working hard, surrounded by Fred and his Messiah family. He knows music is in his future. Olive says, "There's nothing better than doing what you love. It's my hope that he can continue to inspire with his music."

And for Matthew and Fred, graduation is about more than school or music. "He's becoming a Godly gentleman," Fred says. The two are grateful that God caused their paths to cross. Olive is grateful as well. "I'm thankful for the church for what they've done for Matthew. Thank you for loving my child."

At least until graduation, Matthew will be sharing his musical gifts and smile with Messiah whenever he can. As Joy Ann says, "Not only is he an amazing musician, but there is joy that comes out of him as he is playing. It shines right through." ●

Spring Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship Service Times:
8:45 am Traditions Service*
10:30 am Journey Contemporary Service*

Streaming Live!

Unable to attend in person? Join the 8:45 or 10:30 am service delivered live to your mobile device or home computer. Worship with us, register your attendance, give an offering, send a prayer request, and receive the weekly study guide, all in real time. (And if you missed it on Sunday, tune in anytime to see the service On Demand.) See it for yourself at www.MessiahChurch.org/live.

Available Online

You are one click away from being connected at Messiah. Recorded sermons from Messiah's Sunday Worship Services, the ATM (All Things Messiah) and an up-to-date events calendar are all available online at www.MessiahChurch.org.

* Live Streamed