

Musically Speaking

Holidays 2018

"It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year"

Let me be the first to say, "Happy Holidays and Merry CHRISTmas". One of my favorite CD's is a Christmas Collection of music sung by Andy Williams. The opening song is: *"It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year"*. Disregarding the commercial world's approach with all their marketing strategies, this song reminds me of the many special observances we have as Christians from Reformation Sunday running all the way to Pentecost. Each of them is packed with meaning and ways of being observed and celebrated. Hopefully, wherever you are in your life journey you will find reasons to say, *"It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year"*.

What about the bells? This question has come up several times lately, with regard to "when does our new Carillon play?" Well, here is the basic schedule during a normal week at St. Andrew's. At these times, it plays about twelve minutes of a variety of music using four different bell sets (tones/timbres), assigned both manually and automatically by me, using many different Genre for various applications. A wonderful feature is that it has a Shuffle Mode – just like your CD player – which eliminates a predictability of what song will play next, if you're a frequent listener. This "autoplay" feature happens on:

Sundays: 9:30, Noon, 3:00 & 6:00

Monday thru Saturday: Noon & 6:00

It plays a bell sequence on the hour, from 9am to 8pm; currently that is the well know Westminster theme. It also strikes one very low Cast Bell tone on the half-hour. These two events always happen, except during a Service in the Sanctuary; or an occasional "programming anomaly" by yours truly!

As we progress through the coming Liturgical Seasons, I am drawing from a huge library of digitized bell music, and hope to even add some of my own. It's a challenge to move forward, yet keep it under control. Thank you for inquiring and please enjoy, as you attend various functions at the Church; especially with our fast approaching special events and services.

With the approach of Thanksgiving, I want to be sure you are aware that "St. Andrew's Presbyterian" and "The Catholic Community of St. John and Blessed Sacrament" have joined Leadership staffs to present an **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service** for the Community. It will be on Sunday, November 18th, 7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary of St. John here in Davison. The St. John Church building is barrier-free, the Sanctuary seats about 900, the facility has ample well lit parking with a covered drop off area, a very large Gathering Space to welcome you – especially should the weather be an issue, with cloak rooms and sufficient restrooms – all of which make this an ideal venue for once again offering this **Davison Area Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service** to you. Pastor Dave will be delivering a brief Thanksgiving Meditation and I will be the lead Organist for the Service. I pray we will be well represented at this event, especially since the idea came from within our leadership earlier this year.

Thank You for continuing to be so kind on Pastor Appreciation Sunday. The cards, gifts, and chatting while enjoying great pies is always tons of fun and tasty. I truly "appreciate" being part of the St. Andrew's traditions, celebrations, worship, and family.

As we enter the Liturgical Holiday season and share in wonderful traditions, invest extra effort to keep Christ at your side and as your special guest. As my Mom used to say, "If you can't invite Him to go along where you go, don't go!" I wish you a "... *Most Wonderful Time of the Year*".

Merle