

Contemporary Worship Leader

This is a story about God's patience, a journey, and being given a heart of worship....

In September 1998, I attended a conference by Focus on the Family called Renewing the Heart. It was at that conference that I first had a taste for what it meant to truly worship God. I felt something stir deep within me but could not put it into words. I only knew I wanted to be in that place again. The focus verse for the conference was Jeremiah 29:11-14a. It reads, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your HEART.

Little did I realize at the time what His plan for me was, and what I would really find when I went seeking the Lord with ALL my heart.

In early November of that same year, Pastor Jack Hamilton called me asking if I would consider being chairperson for a contemporary worship service he wanted to get started. I declined at the time with valid reasons. I believe now that God knew I was not ready, and did not have the heart, knowledge, or skills, but God called Pastor Jack to plant this seed called worship. And so, with God's patience my journey began....

As the next year passed, I began to listen to more contemporary Christian music, every now and then experiencing another moment of awe and wonder like I had at the conference the year before, but still not having words to describe it. And every now and then I would think about Pastor Jack's question about Contemporary worship, and then pray, "Lord, what is worshiping You all about?" For six more months I would continue to ask this question until God instead gave me the words to describe these moments I kept experiencing. It happened while I was singing this lullaby to my youngest son, Samuel...

*I love You Lord, and I lift my voice to worship You
O my soul rejoice
Take joy my King in what You hear
May it be a sweet sweet sound in Your ear*

I had been brought to the throne of God... Worship. And so, a HEART of worship was born.

Over the following two years, through devotionals, prayer, and Bible study, God would transform me and give me an endless thirst for

worshiping Him in ways I would have never imagined. To have been given His grace and then been taken into His presence had left me awestruck.

Psalm 100:4-5 reads: *Enter [the Lord's] gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Worship is not about counting the stanzas left until the end of the song rather it is about entering - entering into grace, entering with thanksgiving, entering into fellowship with others, but most of all entering into the Lord's presence in a special way. But our entering is not the heart of worship. Instead, the heart of worship is about acknowledging the characteristics of God... The Lord's faithfulness, goodness, and enduring grace. We come to praise Him for all He has been, all He is, and all He will be. We come to enter and worship and through it all, we are transformed.

Now to fast forward over two decades to today, and God has placed me in a position to serve HIM and has given me an opportunity to worship HIM in a unique way. As the chair of Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), I have the privilege and blessing of introducing our new Contemporary Worship Leader, Aaron Adriano and his wife, Heather, to you.

Aaron Adriano has a desire to serve and worship God through music. He is a gifted composer, has extensive performance experience, and deep knowledge of music theory and history. Aaron Adriano and his wife, Heather, have a passion for leading the congregation in worship, and their excitement for sharing their love for God with others through music is uncontainable. Aaron also has experience in the technical side of music production, including mixing and editing of soundtracks. Aaron has a Bachelor of Music in Film Scoring Composition from Berklee College of Music, is a piano teacher at the Resonance School of Music, and most recently served as Worship Leader at Trinity UMC in Mullica Hill, NJ.

Through spending time with Aaron and Heather over the last two months, I have no doubt you too will be blessed as you come to know him as he serves God here. And so, it is with great joy and celebration that I ask you to join me and the SPRC in celebrating God's faithfulness by welcoming Aaron and Heather Adriano to our church. Aaron's first official day will be September 1, 2022, but don't be surprised if you see him around FUMC before that. -Linda Schoch, SPRC

A Letter from the Zooks

Dear FUMC Family -

How could we truly put words to all that these past 18 years have meant to us?!

For starters, we want to say a great big thank you for the celebration on June 12, and for the very generous gift you gave us, along with the beautiful cross and all the individual notes/gifts, too! It was so nice to spend time with you and see some people we haven't seen in a while. What a blessing!

But then our minds start thinking of the countless faces and names from these 18 years - people who have prayed for us, spent time in our living room or invited us into theirs, or served right alongside us. We think of the challenging words that pushed us, the encouragements that kept us going, and the deep, heart-felt conversations. We think of the ways you've loved, provided for, and cared for each of us in innumerable ways. We think of the ways God has worked in so many of you, through us, to deepen your faith, confidence, boldness, or skills...and the ways he has worked through you to do the same in us. And how could we even begin to recount the memories - the goofy experiences, gut-laughes, tears, and life-changing encounters with God we've shared?

Nicole and Shawn are definitely not the same people we were 18 years ago, and we have all of you to thank for that! And our kids, for the most part, have only known a life here in Collingswood, so it's you who have helped them become the amazing people they are, too.

As we head out from here, we feel so blessed for our experiences in, at, and through FUMC. We feel doubly blessed for the opportunity to be sent out by you now into this new adventure. We're so grateful for the prayers and financial support, both from the collective church and from many individuals. Know that we are praying for you, too, and we're so excited for all that God still has in store for this church here in this community and beyond, and for the unforeseen ways our future ministries may continue to overlap and intersect. God is not finished here - may His Kingdom come!

If you would like to keep in touch, or receive our prayer email updates, you can reach out at shawnzook641@gmail.com or his6kids@gmail.com. If you'd like to give financial support on a one-time or ongoing basis, visit <https://amoveogroup.org/donate/Staff> (choose "Shawn and Nicole Zook" for your designation). And of course we won't be far away! So mark down our new address - 130 E. Beechwood Ave. Oaklyn, NJ 08107.

What an awesome ride it's been! Nothing can adequately express our deep, deep gratitude, but know that we love you and we are so thankful for you and for our time here with you all!

-Shawn, Nicole, Aryana, Ethan, Sisay, & Josiah

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries bolded

July

- 5 - Jonathan Schwehm
- 6 - Judy Boswell
Bob Brown
Jean Robb
Alden Walker
- 10 - Andrew Boswell
- 11 - Eric Van Pelt
- 13 - **Jason & Nicole Meyers**
- 14 - Mackenzie Hemphill
- 17 - **Gary & Kathy McGaurn**
- 19 - Margie Underwood
- 23 - Doug Schmitt
- 24 - Elijah Rambo
- 25 - Connie Farling
- 27 - Aria Walker

August

- 10 - Bill Brown
- 11 - Joanna Alexander
Dana & Debbie Cherry
Michelle Croxton
- 12 - Alyssa Adams
- 17 - **Bill & Carol Doron**
- 19 - Brent MacLaughlin
- 20 - Dana Cherry
Nancy Masarek
- 22 - Cindy Abraham
Barbara Brown
Sebastian Chamberlain
Shawn Zook
- 29 - Julie Schmitt
Rachel Migliaccio
- 30 - Matthew Molloy

*If your birthday or anniversary isn't listed here, the church doesn't have it. Email it to office@fumccollingswood.org to be included.

www.fumccollingswood.org
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First United Methodist Church
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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1125
Bellmawr, NJ

Vacation Bible School
"Summer Camp Days"
"Heroes of the Bible"

Calling all kids! We want you to join us for VBS! Come each day for stories, games, crafts, prizes, and a snack.

For any questions, please call Pat Gunning at 856-858-1186

Our VBS Summer Camp Days will be held at 9:30-11:30am on the following dates:

- Thursday, June 30th
- Wednesday, July 13th
- Wednesday, July 27th
- Thursday, August 4th
- Thursday, August 25th

Sunday Schedule for Summer

This summer, July 3rd - September 4th, we will shift our Sunday morning to a combined schedule. This will allow our congregation to learn, grow, and worship together in a different way than we do throughout the school year. It will also give our regular Sunday School teachers a break and our pastors a chance to rotate through and teach in our different classes.

If you are interested in teaching one of the Adult Sunday School lessons, please reach out to Pastor Scott.

- 9:00am - Sunday School*
*Kids, Youth, Young Adults, GSC (*July only), Adult Study, & Adult Discussion*
- 10:00am - Combined Worship & Kids Church*
Hymns, Worship Songs, Creeds, Prayers, a Sermon. Communion will continue to be served on the first Sunday of each month. Nursery will be available and kids in grades 1-5 will be dismissed to Kids Church before the sermon.

The Songs of Summer

I don't know about you, but music is a big part of my life. And I don't mean just playing music or singing, I am talking about the music that we listen to and which becomes the soundtrack to our lives. The music that marks times and seasons of our lives. Somehow, maybe because our rhythm of life changes, or because we take more road trips or day trips, but somehow it seems to me that summer in particular seem to be marked by certain songs. Maybe that's true for you too.

This summer, from July 1st through September 4th, our sermon series will be *"The Songs of Summer: A study in the Psalms."* In this series we will look at a selection from the book of Psalms; which were the songs and poetry of the people of Israel, not unlike our hymnbooks. We're going to look at how these Psalms arose from the things the people of God were experiencing in their personal or corporate lives, how God shaped their faith through the Psalms, and how those songs express things that are common to all of us.

Since we can only preach on so many Psalms in our Sunday worship through the summer, we will also be incorporating some of the Psalms into other aspects of our worship service. I also want to invite you to read through the entire book of Psalms along with me this summer. We have included the below schedule for you to follow along with me or you can follow your own schedule. Either way, I think it will be a meaningful time for us to walk through the Psalms together and get to know God better through them.

Also this summer, from July 3 through September 4, we will shift into a summer schedule for our Sunday mornings. All Sunday school classes will take place at 9am (*Adult teaching, Adult discussion, GSC [only in July], Young Adults, Youth, and Kids*) and a combined worship service will be at 10am. We will have nursery available during worship for kids up to Kindergarten and kids from 1st-5th grades will be dismissed from the worship service prior to the sermon to participate in Kids' Church.

-Pastor Scott

Psalms Reading Plan

7-3 Psalms 1-4	7-19 Psalms 43-44	8-3 Psalms 79-80	8-19 Psalms 115-116
7-4 Psalms 5-7	7-20 Psalms 45-47	8-4 Psalms 81-83	8-20 Psalms 117-118
7-5 Psalms 8-10	7-21 Psalms 48-49	8-5 Psalms 84-86	8-21 Psalm 119:1-56
7-6 Psalms 11-15	7-22 Psalms 50-51	8-6 Psalms 87-88	8-22 Psalm 119:57-120
7-7 Psalms 16-17	7-23 Psalms 52-55	8-7 Psalm 89	8-23 Psalm 119:121-176
7-8 Psalm 18	7-24 Psalms 56-58	8-8 Psalms 90-92	8-24 Psalms 120-124
7-9 Psalms 19-21	7-25 Psalms 59-61	8-9 Psalms 93-95	8-25 Psalms 125-129
7-10 Psalms 22-23	7-26 Psalms 62-64	8-10 Psalms 96-98	8-26 Psalms 130-132
7-11 Psalms 24-25	7-27 Psalms 65-67	8-11 Psalms 99-101	8-27 Psalms 133-135
7-12 Psalms 26-29	7-28 Psalm 68	8-12 Psalms 102-103	8-28 Psalms 136-137
7-13 Psalms 30-31	7-29 Psalms 69-70	8-13 Psalm 104	8-29 Psalms 138-139
7-14 Psalms 32-33	7-30 Psalms 71-72	8-14 Psalm 105	8-30 Psalms 140-142
7-15 Psalms 34-35	7-31 Psalms 73-74	8-15 Psalm 106	8-31 Psalms 143-144
7-16 Psalms 36-37	8-1 Psalms 75-77	8-16 Psalm 107	9-1 Psalms 145-146
7-17 Psalms 38-39	8-2 Psalm 78	8-17 Psalms 108-109	9-2 Psalms 147-148
7-18 Psalms 40-42		8-18 Psalms 110-114	9-3 Psalms 149-150

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."
Colossians 3:16

"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
Ephesians 5:19-20