



Hello, friends of Concerts at Clarendon! We hope this email finds each and every one of you well.

We would like to share an important update about the annual Washington Summer Sings series.

In the spring of 2016, Tom Beveridge approached our beloved organist/choirmaster, the late Dr. J. Reilly Lewis, about Clarendon United Methodist Church taking over the Washington Summer Sings (WSS) event. The New Dominion Chorale had been hosting WSS for twenty years and discerned that it was time to pass it on. The church enthusiastically embraced the opportunity and has been delighted to host the series ever since.

Just a few years later, we all found ourselves in the midst of a global pandemic. The church, like every person and organization, had to change overnight to meet the challenges presented by a worldwide shutdown. An enormous amount of effort went into finding new, creative, and innovative approaches to how we do the work of the church. We were also faced with tough decisions about what we needed to let go.

This work is ongoing, and in the process it has become clear that the Washington Summer Sings series has not risen out of the pandemic to be self-sustaining. It is costing us a significant amount of money and time to put it on, and resources are at a premium. Much like the New Dominion Chorale before us, we are at a crossroads. After serious conversation and prayer, we have discerned that we cannot continue to host the Washington Summer Sings. There may be others who are ready to take up the mantle, and if so, we will be more than happy to help in a transition.

While this may be disappointing news, the church is thriving and our much-loved Concerts at Clarendon series continues with strength and vibrancy! **The next event is the second annual Pride Concert (Handbells) on Saturday, June 1 at 7:00pm.** And be sure to mark your calendars for the annual Messiah Sing-Along, which will be held on Sunday, December 1st. Hosting the Washington Summer Sings has been a labor of love and joy for us. We have cherished the chance to get to know all of you at the receptions, and we hope to build on those relationships through the continuing concert series. You're still on the mailing list for events that come up and we look forward to seeing you again and again in the future!