

Music Box

JANUARY 22, 2017

Solmaaz Adeli, soprano
Melinda Coffey Armstead, piano & organ

CHAPEL CONCERTINO

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley
He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word
Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Deep River

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship Wm. Moore, 1825

Making predictions is hard, especially about the future. It will have been well said that the future isn't what it used to be, but demand for predictions about the past has gone slack, and a reversal is not anticipated.

As to the program of spirituals for today's service, many of our best-known and beautiful examples embrace the comfort of faith in the future, about the coming of the end of slavery and misery, and the promise that the "Sweet Chariot is coming for to carry me home." And this faith, expressed so poignantly in song, almost certainly helped the oppressed people to survive. (Similarly, it is true that those American prisoners in the Vietnam War with a strong religious faith were far more likely to survive imprisonment and torture than the rudderless men who had only their own psychological and physical resources.) So let us give thanks for these musical gems, for the multitude of enslaved souls who gave them life, and for the privilege of hearing Solmaaz perform them with artistry and passion.

Melinda Coffey Armstead



**Painless and
Economical**

If you use the internet, why don't you have the weekly newsletter sent to you via email? It is fast, easy and saves the church money—here's what to do: Send an email to the office at citf@mbay.net and ask Sherry to put you in the list. You will receive it early every week! Please visit: churchintheforest.org

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Monday morning, January 16, 2017

Dear Friends and Members of Church in the Forest,

Have you seen the Farmers' Insurance commercials? They are hilarious enactments of crazy things that can go wrong—a jumping dog turns on sink faucets that flood the kitchen floor; a gas stove flame that ignites cardboard pizza boxes, setting in motion a house fire; a teenage driver careens into a yard, destroying fence and landscaping.

Every commercial features the folksy J. K. Simmons, who says with confidence, “We cover everything, because we’ve seen everything.”

J. K. Simmons reminds me of our church members, as they talk about the future. Whether they are conversing about cruises or children or chemo, they’ve seen everything and are wise counselors.

But what happens when the future is uncertain, with no map and mentors to guide us?

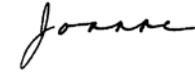
Psychologists, philosophers, scientists and creative artists know this territory well. And one of the things they all emphasize is that there is a similar process that we all must go through when facing an uncertain future.

The first step in the process is recognition that we’re in crisis—that old answers won’t work any more. The second step is a search for answers and resolution. But this search often works best when we’re not consciously focused on the problem—think of the solutions you’ve found when folding the laundry or walking the beach.

That second step takes faith—faith that God will provide. It takes faith to stay in the search, and not retreat to old, stale answers.

This Sunday our service and sermon will focus on the way God becomes especially real and alive when we face such times of uncertainty. This will be the third in a sermon series for Epiphany, “Finding Your Way to God. Sunday we’ll look at “The Way of the Future.”

See you in the future!



The Rev. Joanne M. Swenson, Th.D.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: For those who requested pledge envelopes, they may be picked up at the back of the Church. If you don’t find yours or if you would like envelopes, please email citf@mbay.net or call **Sherry** at the office at the 624-1374. New envelopes must be requested **EACH** year, as new numbers are assigned annually.

In 2017, resolve to become a deeper part of our community by joining one of our teams of Altar Care, Visitation and Bible Study groups. And we always need sponsors (or bakers) for coffee hour refreshments, and sponsors for altar flowers. Email or call our office and we’ll answer your questions!

Calendar

Sunday	January 22, 2017—Third Sunday after the Epiphany
	Reception of New Members
8:30 AM	Bible Study in the Multipurpose Room led by Ken Feske Topic: Matthew 4:12-23
9:15 AM	Chapel Concertino
9:30 AM	Morning Prayer
Passages	Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 121; Matthew 4:12-23
	Lector Evelyn Musavi
	Crucifer Rae Janzen
	Flowers Dennis & Marie Riley
	Cookies Leslie Buck and Annah & Bill Rolland
	Ushers Wim & Tonneke Van der Linden
	Altar Care Martha Jordan & Sandy Rice
Sermon	The Rev. Joanne M. Swenson, Th.D.
Title	“Finding Your Way to God: A Sermon Series for Epiphany” Sunday’s Sermon: “The Way of the Future”