



SARAH CORSON CHILD CARE & LEARNING CENTER

April 2021 Newsletter

Easter Egg Hunts

We will celebrate Easter on Friday, April 2 with Easter Egg Hunts. Each class will have its own separate Egg Hunt (please see your child's teacher and/or class newsletter for more information on times). We are going to GO BIG for Easter this year, just as we have with all other major holidays during the Pandemic. Donations of plastic eggs, peanut-free candy, and small toys are being accepted. Please give donations to any staff member. Thanks.



Downtown Medford parking more limited

Our entire Church parking lot is now limited to parking for Church employees, SCC staff and OPFA staff from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.. *We must ask that parents park on the street when dropping off or picking up children.*

Impressive Facts

At a recent staff meeting, I asked all staff to voice how long they have been working professionally with young children. In the room, we had more than 100 years of combined experience! WOW! Another fun fact: *our Center has not had a single COVID positive case in either staff or children during the ENTIRETY of the Pandemic!* (Knock on wood, prayers up!) Our staff and our families continue to work hard to keep COVID at bay.

Resilience, not Panic

Most young kids will remember **how their family home felt during the coronavirus panic** more than anything specific about the virus.

Our kids are watching us and learning about how to respond to stress and uncertainty.

Let's wire our kids for resilience, not panic.

This graphic was first published a year ago in our April 2020 newsletter. It bears repeating because young children are watching us now more than ever before. They are still looking to us to show them how to respond to the events and challenges around us. Let us respond to the Pandemic with resiliency, not panic. Let us respond to one another with love and patience, not with hate or a quick-to-anger attitude.

—Jaime Snider, director



Singing safely— it takes a lot of time

By PAULETTE AVERY

Among the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, including choral music in our virtual services is one of the most complicated and difficult. Our Minister of Music and Media, Tony Chunn puts in hours at the computer in addition to coaching the singers.

Here is what goes into producing a choir video.

Once Tony has chosen music for the choir to sing, carefully observing copyright laws since the music will be broadcast, he schedules hybrid rehearsals with choir members distanced around the sanctuary and wearing masks, and others joining via Zoom to practice from home.

Along with these rehearsals, Tony (sometimes with the help of our talented organist Bob Adams) creates and sends to the choir digital audio files so that we can practice the music at home. This involves creating a different digital file for each voice part.

After a few weeks of practice, Tony begins recording sessions. Each choir member records individually, first the audio recording which is done using headphones, and then a video recording of the singer performing the song without audio. Getting everyone recorded this way usually takes at least two weeks. From there, Tony edits each singer's recording which can take at least another week or two depending on the difficulty of the anthem. After edits, Tony syncs each singer's audio with their video and then syncs each individual into voice parts and finally mixes it all together into the choir. He may add additional video material to the final product.

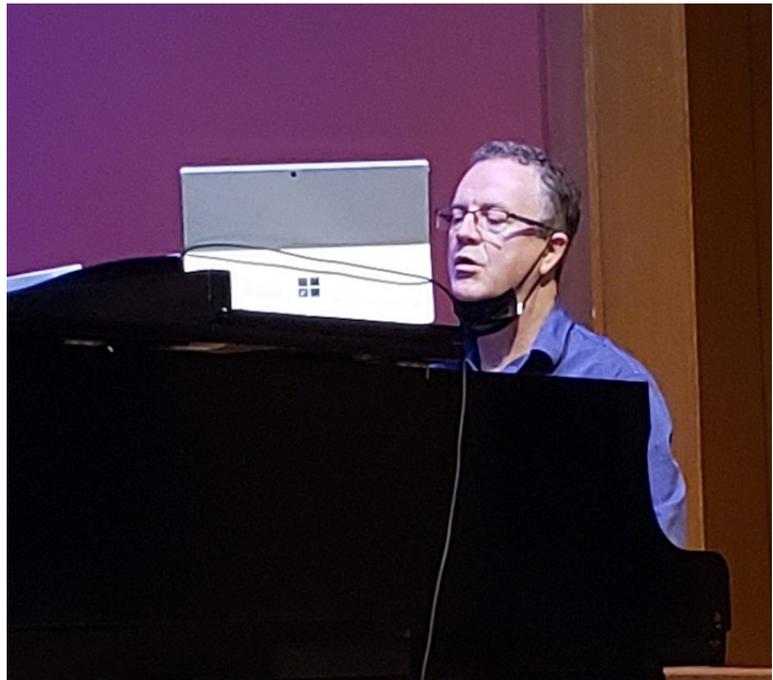
Videos of soloists or ensembles usually take about a week to produce.

Preparing each week's service involves the use of six different software programs which Tony has learned to use through a combination of continuing education courses and YouTube channels. And he "makes a point of learning new techniques weekly to make improvements in audio engineering, film editing, and syncing." Add all that to his other responsibilities, and he is an extremely busy guy.

We are so fortunate to have Tony's dedication and talent in service to our congregation!



Singers can spread virus-transporting aerosols perhaps 13 to 15 feet in front of them. To be safe, each singer records individually. Then with music software and video editing software the choir is brought together. This is what it looked like on Palm Sunday when our virtual choir performed *Hosanna In The Highest*.



Rehearsing the choir, dispersed in the Sanctuary and at home on Zoom