

COME SING A SONG WITH ME

SAT., NOV. 5, 2 – 5 P.M.

A WORKSHOP WITH STEVE FENNER

at

**The First Unitarian Society of Rockland County
Exit 12 on Palisades Parkway**

You can sing, even if you feel you can not hit note, and even if your mother sang off key.

Your congregation can sing, even if they must proof the words, and even if the last loudly sung hymn scared off the ravens.

You can begin a congregational choir even if you have only three people, even if you've tried many times before and failed, even if you don't practice.

One minister says:

“Steve Fenner brings his charm and his musical skills and ability into (small) churches with no visible or presently viable choirs and has the congregation singing like angels.” Rev. Carole York, Odessa FL.

Steve explains:

“I have been doing this for over ten years and have done workshops and services in the U.S., Canada, New Zealand, England, Scotland and Australia. In the first half we sing, sing and then sing some more. We learn this music by ear and within fifteen minutes are singing in multi-art harmony. . . .During the second hour we take a closer look at our ‘common’ text, Singing the Living Tradition, and the just published Singing The Journey, and/pr other congregational hymnals We will sing some familiar hymns in new ways as well as learning new ones and exploring some of the ‘tricks of the church musician’s trade.’ Finally, we explore new musical resources, songbooks, and compositions that are being written by UU composers, and we prepare music for the forthcoming worship service.

Steve Fenner is the music director of a small congregation in Vermont, with approximately 40-45 members, up from around 25 a year after Steve arrived. He has an active choir of 6-8 in addition to a high school accompanist. Steve concludes:

“I have found the major impediment to developing solid congregational singing and a good small choir is ‘expectations.’ Somehow folks think that if you can’t sing 3-5 minute anthems, which of course, take a lot of rehearsal time, that you can’t have a choir. Nothing could be further from the truth. We started with responses, chalice lighting, benedictions, and the like and still do a lot of those, along with simple unison, two part and three part anthems that come from a variety of sources, mostly UU composers.”

Come join us for the pure fun of playing with music. Remember what the ancient rabbi said, "Singing is praying twice."

A free will offering will be taken to support the work of the UU Musicians Network.

For more information call: Mary Holdamph, Administrator at The First Unitarian Society: 845-429-5480.