



*United Methodist Church of the Dunes*  
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**United Methodist Church of the Dunes in Grand Haven To Present *The Seven Last Words of Christ* Oratorio During Palm Sunday Services on April 17**

**GRAND HAVEN, MICH., Feb. 23, 2011** – Four area soloists will join 40 members of the United Methodist Church of the Dunes' Chancel Choir to present *The Seven Last Words of Christ* oratorio during Palm Sunday services on April 17.

All singers and musicians will be led under the direction of Jean Schuitman, director of music with United Methodist Church of the Dunes (UMC-Dunes).

The church is located at 717 Sheldon Road in Grand Haven. Sunday worship services are held at 8:30 and 10:15 a.m. Community members are invited to attend.

Four soloists from the Tri-Cities region will be featured throughout the two programs. They include: Dave Epplert, baritone, from Spring Lake; Matthew Horist, tenor, from Grand Haven; Dawn Jeffery Yost, soprano, from Grand Haven; and Pam Mettler, soprano, from Spring Lake. Marna Jeffrey, organist, and Rebecca Beebe, pianist, will accompany the singers and choir.

*The Seven Last Words of Christ* oratorio, "*Les sept paroles du Christ*," was written in 1867 by French composer, organist and music teacher Theodore DuBois. Known for his ballets, oratorios and symphonies, DuBois' musical score for *The Seven Last Words of Christ* conveys the sense of sadness, despair and grace that Jesus Christ uttered through seven short phrases on Calvary's cross.

Following the Palm Sunday services, United Methodist Church of the Dunes is planning two Easter vigil services on April 24 at 8:30 and 10:15 a.m. Each service will feature the church's 40-member Chancel Choir, plus the 15-member Bells of Glory choir, along with a four-member brass quartet and tympani.

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Anyone interested in receiving further information about Palm Sunday and Easter music should contact Jean Schuitman at UMC-Dunes: 616/842-7980, or via e-mail: [morbaroque@aol.com](mailto:morbaroque@aol.com).

The mission of United Methodist Church of the Dunes is "to be a church with outstretched arms demonstrating the caring of Christ to each other, the community, and the world by encouraging growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, challenging and equipping all to be faithful disciples for the transformation of the world." Founded in 1873, UMC-Dunes moved to its present location at 717 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven in February 1962. The church provides a variety of community outreach ministries to women, children, men and families in the area, supports Family Promise and the annual CROP Walk, offers membership in its United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women groups, plus book and Bible studies, a weekly creative arts and crafts group, participation in Coast Guard Festival, plus Christian service projects to ministries in Panama and Haiti. Children's, youth and adult educational programs, book study groups, arts and crafts groups, plus weekly Wednesday evening dinners are provided throughout the year. For further information about UMC-Dunes or church membership, contact the church's administrative office at 616/842-7980.

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