



(219) 879-4501

First Presbyterian Church of Michigan City

| 121 W. Ninth Street

www.MCMessiah.com

| Michigan City, IN 46360

November 7, 2019

Dear Patron of the Arts,

For 54 years the Michigan City community has been blessed with an annual performance of MESSIAH. I'm writing to you in this season to ask your assistance in preserving this grand and glorious tradition.

For four years I have had the honor of leading one of the most magnificent choral works known to mankind. This annual tradition is sponsored by the Presbyterian Church of Michigan City and presented free of charge. In a spirit of outreach, mission and community engagement, this undertaking brings healing, beauty, joy, tears and compassion to all who seek it. It has become a treasured GIFT to the community.

This treasure had a humble beginning. Through the loving care of the greater arts community and patrons like you, it has grown into a magnificent celebration. The Michigan City *Messiah* has a rich tradition of bringing the community together, breaking down boundaries and providing a peaceful refuge from everyday life. That growth has allowed us to blossom into an independent 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The formation of **Michigan City Messiah, Inc.** is now complete. We are a tax-exempt not-for-profit corporation with a board of directors led by Donna Mitchell.

Will you help keep this tradition alive and vibrant?

We will soon be in a season of traditions, family gatherings and a sense of anticipation for what lies ahead. I am excited to keep the tradition alive! We have scheduled **two performances** this year to accommodate our ever-growing audience numbers. Handel's *Messiah* was written to celebrate the risen Lord and the Easter season. We have received our first Indiana Arts Commission grant and will be applying for more local, state and federal funding. We are excited about our future and invite you to give generously to this musical mission.

The Presbyterian church has a long-standing tradition of being a cultural arts leader in Michigan City. Assisted by internationally acclaimed musicians, singers and visual artists, there have been great artistic celebrations within their walls. Their vision and leadership ensured 50 years of *Messiah* performances. I ask for your help in ensuring the next 50 years. It takes months of planning and preparation to present *Messiah*. We have begun and we ask for your assistance, prayers and support. We look forward to once again singing "Hallelujah."

Musically yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Philip Bauman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Philip Bauman
Music Director, Michigan City Messiah

"for unto us a Child is Born"