

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montgomery United Methodist Church Presents a Farewell Concert, “DR. BELL & FRIENDS: A Musical Showcase & Reception” Celebrating 25 Years of Dr. Laura Bell’s Service

Belle Mead, NJ — Montgomery United Methodist Church will host *DR. BELL & FRIENDS: A Musical Showcase and Reception* on **Sunday, August 30, 2026 at 3:00 PM**, a special concert honoring **Dr. Laura Bell’s 25 years** as the church’s beloved principal organist, pianist, and music director.

The celebration also recognizes Dr. Bell’s distinguished career as a **treasured music teacher in Montgomery Township**, where she inspired thousands of students before her retirement in 2025.

The showcase will feature performances by:

- **Dr. Laura Bell, Piano**
- **Alexa Farah, Voice**
- **Cheryl Houston, Flute**
- **Jing Yang, Violin**

The event will be held at **Montgomery United Methodist Church, 117 Sunset Road, Belle Mead, NJ**. A **Reception** will be held after the concert.

Tickets are **\$20 for adults** and **\$15 for students and seniors**. Tickets may be purchased at www.montgomeryumc.org. Further information is available by emailing events@montgomeryumc.org or calling **908-359-5900**.

Honoring a Quarter-Century of Musical Leadership

Since joining Montgomery UMC in 2001, Dr. Bell has shaped the musical life of the congregation with her artistry, warmth, and unwavering dedication. “Laura’s contributions extend far beyond Sunday worship—she has accompanied choirs, supported community ensembles, and brought world-class musicianship to countless services, concerts, and special events,” said Montgomery UMC’s pastor, Jessica Robertson.

Her professional career includes performances across Boston, Los Angeles, France, New York, and New Jersey, as well as collaborations with orchestras, choirs, and chamber ensembles including the Princeton Girl Choir, the Starlite Chorale, and Montgomery school’s annual *Music from the Heart* scholarship fundraiser. She has also recorded two solo piano CDs.

A Legacy in the Classroom

In addition to her church leadership, Dr. Bell spent 20 years as a music teacher and choir director in Montgomery Township, where she became a cherished figure among students, families, and colleagues. She was known for her joyful spirit and deep commitment to nurturing young

musicians and mentoring new teachers. She retired from the district in 2025, leaving behind a legacy of creativity, excellence, and encouragement.

Her earlier career included founding Dr. Bell's School of Music, teaching at Raritan Valley Community College, organizing the New Jersey Piano Festival, and serving as a featured instructor at the Calgary Arts Summer School Association.

A Community Celebration

“DR. BELL & FRIENDS” is both a concert and a heartfelt tribute—an opportunity for the community to honor a musician, educator, and leader who has given so much of herself over the past 25 years.

Sponsorship opportunities are available.

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