

## AN AMERICANA MUSIC JAM AT MANTUA CENTER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Historically we had held a Musical Jam session for approximately two years at the Mantua Center Christian Church. It has been my personal desire to develop a cohesive group to play together and support each other. It had begun to come to fruition when the pandemic necessitated discontinuing it in August 2021. Hopefully, and by the grace of God we might now pick up where we left off. During that two-year period we attracted a consistent group of about a dozen members that regularly attended. Musical instruments included guitars, banjos, an occasional fiddle, stand up bass, mandolins, dobros and the like.

In the past we have labeled it the Old Time Music Jam Session modeled after a similar jam in Kent. However, it became apparent that, rather than just play old time music from the 1800s and early 1900s the attendees preferred to add in much newer music as well from the Folk Music, Folk Rock, and Protest musical eras of the 1960s, 70s, and 80s. If you think about it, many attendees, myself included, are now in their sixties, seventies, and eighties, and this era represents our heydays. Therefore, I think it more appropriate to be inclusive and call it The Americana Music Jam.

The songs we have played reflect a mix of old standards plus a smattering of new material characteristic of current offerings you might encounter at local wineries, coffee shops, craft shows, Porch Music and the like. This music is distinctly different than recent contemporary hip-hop and modern Rock and Roll as seen on multiple TV shows--music not appropriate to our group.

It had been bandied about that some in the Jam group might be interested in performing for social groups or other church groups like, for instance, children's groups. We had put together a list of five or six songs that catered to the young crowd, *Puff the Magic Dragon*, *Ballad of Jed Clampett*, *Wildwood Flower*, *Cindy, Cindy, etc.*, Of course, while some members would not care for such public exposure, there are others who would welcome the opportunity.

We have been a small but dedicated group who prefer the eclectic mix of Folk, Folk Rock, Americana and Contemporary Country music that we play. Our music and format is different than other old-time Jam groups in the area, some of which take the form of the old Ted Mack Amateur Hour. The feedback from the group is to please continue with this type of music. I have heard from past members that they are very interested in continuing. Of course I will continue to write articles for The Villager about our jam sessions and hopefully recruit new members.

Come on out, bring your acoustic instrument to the Americana Jam Session at Mantua Center Christian Church, 4118 Ohio 82 at Mantua Center Road, Thursday June 16, 2022, from 6-8 PM. We get together and play, sing, and jam.. Rusty from the COVID layoff? We'll work with you to get you going again. Need more info? Call Skip 330-562-9801