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**For Immediate Release**

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**Acclaimed Singers Bringing Beautiful Voices to Watertown Urban Mission Benefit**

Marywood University Chamber Singers to sing at First Presbyterian Church in Support of the Mission

WATERTOWN (April 25, 2013) – The acclaimed and well traveled Marywood University Chamber Singers will perform Monday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Watertown to benefit the Watertown Urban Mission.

“We are thrilled to be bringing in such a talented group of singers to perform right here at our church,” said Sara Gleason, First Presbyterian Church Music Director. “These students travel the country with their a cappella program in much bigger venues and it is a treat to have them here. What makes it even more special is that their performance will benefit our community by supporting the Watertown Urban Mission.”

The concert is free of charge and open to all. A free will offering will be taken up during the concert in support of the Mission’s programs.

“We are so thankful that this wonderful concert will help support the work done every day to help our neighbors in need from throughout Jefferson County,” said Erika Flint, executive director. “We hope that you will be able to come out in support of the Mission and hear these talented students sing.”

The Marywood University Chamber Singers is a select vocal ensemble comprised of about 18 students. The group is featured on an annual PBS broadcast in Pennsylvania and has performed on music series throughout the northeastern United States. Recent concert venues have included St. Michael's Episcopal Church in New York City, St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in New Jersey, First Church in Boston, Yale University's Marquand Chapel, and several locales in California, Florida, Georgia, and Germany. The Marywood University Chamber Singers were one of eight finalists across the United States for the 2012 American Prize in Choral Performance.

Their tour program, entitled "Lamentations and Exultations," is entirely a cappella. It will include music by Lasso, Weelkes, Monteverdi, Ginastera, Whitacre, and others.

The Watertown Urban Mission brings together about 40 member churches with local community-minded organizations, businesses and individuals to help people through difficult times with programs that feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome everyone, give shelter to the homeless, visit the imprisoned, give aid to the sick, and more. With generous donor and volunteer support, the Mission helps people rise above their circumstances and in turn, this strengthens our community as a whole. Last year, neighbors in need were helped more than 35,000 times.

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