



*The songs for this year have been chosen to enhance and support each monthly lesson theme, to experience a variety of music, and to strengthen appreciation for our pioneer history and values.*

### **September - The Strength of a Pioneer**

Janice Yeates Wuckert and Mary Ann Hemphill Erdmann, professional teachers and former Utah educators, each have a love for their pioneer history. Both of these remarkable women were inspired by their own mothers and grandmothers. The song was composed to honor the 150 Year Celebration of the Pioneers entering the Salt Lake Valley. While Janice was working in her garden, the words to this song came to her, and she immediately went to her kitchen and wrote them down. She contacted her friend Mary Ann, who composed the music and developed the melody. This beautiful song was published in the Friend Magazine in January 1997.

The theme of the song describes the fortitude of pioneers, in spite of hardships in settling the Utah Territory. Some settlements did not survive the harsh conditions as we will learn in this month's lesson. (Janice Y. Wuckert and Mary Ann H. Erdmann, Personal Interview, 2025)

### **October - All Things Bright and Beautiful**

Cecil Frances Alexander, Irish hymn writer and poet, was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1818. Known by family and friends as "Fanny," she began writing verse as a child, later publishing a number of Christian books. She married William Alexander who became Archbishop of Armagh. Her hymns are familiar today all over the world including "All Things Bright and Beautiful," "Once in Royal David's City," and "There is a Green Hill Far Away."

Frederick Piercy, LDS artist, is known for landscape art detailing the Mormon pioneer trek in his drawings as he traveled to the west. His beautiful artwork served as an invaluable record of the pioneer journey across the plains at a time when photography was not common or available.

([Cecil Frances Alexander - Wikipedia](#))

### **November - It Is Well With My Soul**

Horatio Gates Spafford was an American lawyer and a prominent leader in the Presbyterian Church. He is best known for writing the Christian hymn "It Is Well with My Soul." In his life, he experienced severe hardships. He suffered financial ruin following the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. He faced family sorrow in dealing with the tragic deaths of his four daughters on a transatlantic voyage in November 1873. His grief and sorrow were replaced with a renewed attitude of faith and hope as he wrote the words to this beautiful song.

This song expresses the feelings that were also in the hearts of the handcart pioneers as they sacrificed and suffered hardship on their journey to the Salt Lake Valley. Their example of faith and their courage as pioneers is honored today. ([Horatio Spafford - Wikipedia](#))

## **December - Still, Still, Still**

This lovely song first appeared in 1865 as a folksong in the collection of Maria Von Suss (1802-1868) founder of the Salzburg Museum. The modern version is attributed to Georg Gotsch. The words describe the peace of the infant Jesus as his mother sings him to sleep. Another version describes the serenely beautiful snowfall of the season and of hopes and dreams of all to come.

The beautiful winter season in the Rocky Mountains holds a rich history of pioneering and the adventures and challenges of travel through the mountain snow, as we will learn in this month's lesson. ([Still, Still, Still - Wikipedia](#))

## **January - The Quilting Party**

An original folk song written by Patrick S. Gilmore, was first published in the 1850's entitled "When I Saw Sweet Nellie Home" and was also known as "The Quilting Party." Gilmore was an American composer born in Galway, Ireland in 1829. He was famous for his band music and performed in several music festivals.

Reminiscent of the quilting legacy of the Mormon pioneer women, beautiful pioneer quilts are an important part of our pioneer history and culture. The pioneers Iron County recount a famous story of the "Quilt Walk of 1864" where the residents of Parowan and Panguitch used quilts to steady the path through the deep snow delivering needed supplies. ([Seeing Nellie Home - Wikipedia](#))

## **February - The Happy Wanderer**

Daniel Webster Jones is highlighted in our lesson this month. Born in Booneslick, Missouri, and orphaned at age 12, his life was full of adventure and pioneering. He learned of the Mormon Church while he was on the way to California. Converted to the LDS Church, he lived the remainder of his life wandering the intermountain west area, serving others, building settlements, and devoting his life to missionary work. He died in Mesa, Arizona, in 1915 at the age of 84.

The song, "The Happy Wanderer" was composed by Fredrich Wilhelm Moller. He was recognized as a gifted musician at a young age. Later on, he worked as a band leader in diverse light-music orchestras. During World War II, he was sent to the front in Holland and France to entertain the troops. Later on, he had a successful career leading choirs and entertaining several audiences in Europe with his delightful music. ([Daniel Webster Jones \(Mormon\) - Wikipedia](#))

## **March - I Have a Little Dreidel**

Not all pioneers who came to the Utah territory were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This month's lesson will highlight our Jewish pioneers who came to the valley and made it their home. The song "I Have a Little Dreidel" is a delightful children's song that could have been sung at Hanukkah describing a favorite toy of Jewish children.

The composer of this song is known as the "father of Jewish music" in America. Samuel E. Goldfarb was born in Poland in 1891 and later moved to New York City, where he was a cantor and merchant. He worked as an accompanist with local songwriters Irving Berlin and George Gershwin. As a musical director he led multiple choirs, played the organ, coached singers, composed music, published songbooks, and taught Hebrew classes until his retirement. He died in Mercer Island, Washington, in 1978 ([Samuel E. Goldfarb - Wikipedia](#))

## **April - Ode to the Pioneers**

Annie Pinnock Malin was born in London, England, in 1863. Her family converted to the LDS Church and set sail to America when she was 6 years old. The journey to the Utah Territory was by wagons and oxen. She had literary talent and many of her works were published in the Latter-day Saint magazines. She composed the beloved songs, "God, Our Father, Hear Us Pray" and "Mother of Mine."

Her song "Ode to the Pioneers" expresses the wonder and admiration of those who settled in the territories of the West. This month we will learn of the Salmon River Valley area where the fortitude and determination of the early pioneers has a rich history. These early communities endured the harsh climate, rugged territory and enjoyed the beauty of their surroundings.

([Annie Pinnock Malin MormonWiki](#))

## **May – They, the Builders of the Nation**

Ida R. Alldredge, 1892-1943, was born in Colonia Juarez, Mexico. Her family moved to Arizona due to the disruptions of the Mexican Revolution. She was a writer of several poems published in the Relief Society Magazine and Juvenile Instructor. Along with being a gifted writer, she is also known for Latter-day Saint musical texts. A favorite among her music is the hymn "They the Builders of the Nation," which pays tribute to our valiant pioneer ancestors.

The International Society of Daughters of Utah Pioneers was founded in 1901 to remember and celebrate the faith and courage of our pioneer ancestors. Our lesson this month highlights the great work of our organization to preserve our Utah pioneer heritage. Today the Daughters of Utah Pioneers organization, numbering several thousand members worldwide, continues to pass along our pioneer heritage to future generations. ([Ida Romney Alldredge - Wikipedia](#))