

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

OCTOBER 2024

At the Session's last meeting, a question was raised about the best time for the Church to worship. No direction was taken, it simply was an open discussion among the elders. Of course they realized the magnitude of making any change that is central to the life of the Church, thus no action was taken. But the question is, *'What hour of worship would be best for the Church as a whole'* which is a different question than 'what is my favorite time for worship?' The Session has decided to invite input while being in discussion on the topic. A suggestion made that was generally felt to be a good idea, was to have the congregation make suggestions on what it thinks is best for everyone.

So why has this discussion come up in the first place? Some of the seniors in the congregation have a more difficult time getting here at 9:00a.m., especially in the winter months. The praise team needs to be at the church at 8:00a.m. and the Choir shortly thereafter. Neither of those groups have raised the question but they do agree it would be easier for them if worship was a little later. On the flip side, those who prefer an earlier service like it because it leaves more of the day open for travel and other activities. The issue of the winter months comes up in the discussion. In the dead of winter when temperatures are low and the sun is not high, would a later service be easier to attend? Would a seasonal change (later for winter/spring; earlier for summer/fall) be the best for everyone.

The question of two services again arises. As your interim minister, I would not recommend two services during this transitional time. Simply put, the fuller the sanctuary, the greater the worship. At present, attendance is on the increase on Sunday morning, but the sanctuary is just over half full. Two services would make the sanctuary one third full at best. Two services inevitably would create two congregations with each picking the time best suited for them and 'never the twain shall meet'. At the present time when there is a resurgence of activity in the life of the congregation, it would be best that you stick together as one congregation in worship. Those are my thoughts on that issue, but the Session has the ultimate authority to make the final decision on this matter.

There will be a simple survey (as shown below) on the table in the Fireside Room for you to share your thoughts on what is best for the Church. It will cover the following questions. If you have thoughts on the matter, pick up one of these surveys and share your thinking for the good of the Church.

What time of worship would be best for the Church as a whole?

9:00a.m. 9:30a.m. 10:00a.m. Other _____

Would a seasonal change be best? Yes No

If yes, what months would be the best period for the seasonal change?

Other suggestions: _____

With love,

