

Fall Wednesday Ministry Opportunities

For the past couple of months, Pastor Beth has led a group in planning a Wednesday evening worship service and meal. She intentionally invited representatives from various committees to be involved in this planning: the worship & arts committee (Mary Johnson), family & youth committee (Kathy McMullen), meal prep (Kris Parsons), fellowship committee (Jane Ellis), and outreach committee (Joyce Vegge).

The Worship Service

1) *Why offer an 'alternative' service?*

The people in this congregation have been talking about it for a long time. Let's get to it! This service is for people who are looking for an 'alternative' to Sunday morning. If you love Sunday morning worship, keep coming on Sunday morning. If you are looking for a different kind of worship service, come to the Wednesday service. (You can certainly come to both, if you would like.)

2) *Why Wednesday at 6:30pm?*

Recognizing that many people annually attend and enjoy the Wednesday evening services during Lent, we want to build on this strength of this congregation. We also want to build on a day/time that appears to fit well into people's schedules.

Wednesday evening also works well as a true 'alternative' time to another time over the weekend (Saturday evening). If someone does not attend worship on Sunday morning because s/he is out of town for the weekend, they would not be able to attend a service on Saturday, either.

3) *What will the service look like?*

The worship service will be intentionally different than Sunday morning and will run about 30-40 minutes. It will include GATHERING: songs sung acapella (words and music projected on the screen), WORD: scripture reading, teaching of the scripture & discussion in small groups, MEAL: communion and prayers, SENDING: out to serve.

4) *Why acapella?*

We are a congregation who is 'known for good music' and we take music very seriously in worship. We want the music to be good in this service. We also recognize that it would not be fair to expect our Sunday morning music staff to plan and lead music in a weekly Wednesday evening service. Pastor Beth is intentionally choosing songs that can be led and taught acapella. She loves singing and is ready and able to lead songs acapella.

5) *Will this worship service be welcoming to young children?*

Jesus loves children and we do, too. There will be a small area in the corner of the worship space with quiet toys especially for children 4-6 years old. Children are welcome to move quietly between their parents seated at tables and the quiet toy area in the corner. There will also be nursery care available for children 4 and younger.

Meal

1) *Why a meal?*

One of our congregation's vision focus items is to 'reach out to young families.' Of course, we want young families (and old) to come to this worship service. Many families who come to other Wednesday evening programming are adults who are coming from work, students coming from athletic practices, and parents rushing to pick up children from various activities. If they need to go home and fix dinner before they come to church, they very well may not come. We want to reach out to them.

2) *Why 'free?'*

One area that we have struggled to find our 'niche' is with local ministry. We have continually named that as an important area of ministry, but we haven't been sure what that could look like. The group remembered that, in their planning, and for that reason, would like that meal to be available to all, regardless of their ability to pay. Of course, if people want to donate towards this meal, we will welcome their contributions, but in order to be sure that people who cannot contribute feel welcome, we will advertise this as a free meal with the goal of 'reaching out with Christ's love' through food.

If people contribute money, that's great, but the main goal of the meal is not for it to 'pay for itself.' The main goal is to reach out to the community through feeding people. Kris Parsons is organizing a meal planning/prep group. She has said she can prepare a meal for \$75 per week, without knowing how many people may come. (She has good experience with her experience in preparing 'Community Feeds' at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.) There is church budgeted money in the ministry areas of family/youth and fellowship that will be used for this meal. The Family & Youth committee has allocated money (\$75/week) toward this meal. \$75/week is the full anticipated expense for September-December. The Fellowship committee also has funds that they would like to contribute.

The group also discussed inviting people to contribute ingredients for meals (i.e. produce) from their garden that can be chopped and frozen by our 'meal prep group' and used in meals throughout the year. The group is interested in finding other inviting ways to involve the congregation in contributing toward this meal.

Fall Wednesday Evening Schedule (Beginning September 10)

5:30-6:30pm Meal

5:45-6:30pm 6-8th grade Confirmation

6:30-7:15pm WORSHIP

7:15-8pm High School Youth Group

7:15-8:15pm Adult Choir