

Dear Remembrance Family,

In a continuing effort to improve our Sunday Morning Worship, beginning Sunday, March 22nd, Remembrance Church will begin offering two new worship experiences. They will be somewhat similar, yet distinct, primarily relating to the style of music. Our hope for all members and visitors is to enhance your Sunday morning worship time, giving praise and glory to God. Please read the following for a better understanding of the exciting direction to which we feel God is calling us.

Your Remembrance Church Consistory and Staff



Remembrance Church Elements

Discovering the core of who we are



The History

At the last Consistory Retreat the Consistory and Staff affirmed that the win for Remembrance Church was developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. We as a church have set out to accomplish this by adopting the Four Elements. Pastor Steve has already preached a series on these elements, describing the impact these practices should have on our lives. Not only can we as individuals evaluate our lives on how we are living these values out, but as an organization Remembrance Church can also look at our various ministries and programs and evaluate where they fall within the element structure.

What is being done now

The leadership and staff are charged with constantly evaluating how effective the ministry is at Remembrance Church as it relates to the four elements. They not only are looking at individual programs and what element it primarily fits under, but also the balance of all programs in the church so that all four elements are being served with various programs.

Sunday Worship Experience

One of the areas of recent evaluation has been worship on Sunday morning. The element it primarily serves is Experience and with that in mind the leadership asked a simple question: With so many different people that attend worship on Sunday, how do we allow for everyone to Experience God in a new and meaningful way, regardless of preferred music style? Through prayer and discussion the Elders have made a decision to improve the worship experience for all by providing variations between each service primarily relating to music style. See the following pages for more details on the changes that will likely take place.



What does God say about Worship

In the Psalms it says we can give praise to our Lord in many ways. Psalm 150 says, *“Praise Him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise Him with the harp and lyre, praise Him with tambourine and dancing, praise Him with the strings and flute, praise Him with the clash of cymbals, praise Him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.”*

The “Balance” of Worship at Remembrance Church

Truth: There is a very wide variety of people worshipping with us on Sunday:
 (young and old, new and mature Christians, visitors and those that have attended for years)

Truth: We are all at different stages in our walk with the Lord

Truth: The Lord asks us to praise Him musically in many different ways (Eph. 5:19-21)

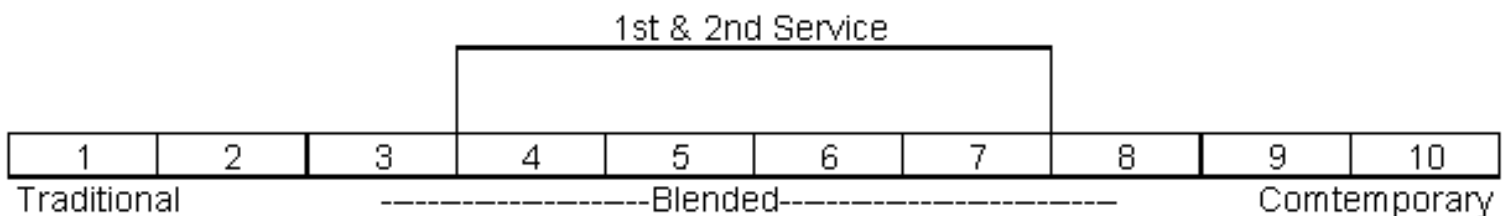
Truth: Naturally, we all have our preferred style of music during worship

Question: Given all of these truths, how can Remembrance Church provide a positive worship experience for current members, regular attendees, and those we seek to invite?

Question: How can we allow a worship experience that speaks to the heart of those who have a passion for a more traditional blend of music, as well as allowing those that would enjoy adding a few more “clanging cymbals” in the service? Can we have a little organ as well as a current top ten Popular Christian song, a little more choir, maybe a little less, maybe a few more videos, maybe a little less, without going too far in either direction?

Our Current Worship Model - What we are doing now

Currently at Remembrance we have two services. The services typically include the prelude, musical praise time, offertory, teaching, closing song, and many other portions of the service. They are virtually identical regardless of the service time. Week to week our musical selections and those who lead us in worship change in arrangement and style. From the choir, praise singers, instrumentalist, and vocalist, we seek to praise our Lord in a blended style of worship. This blended style of worship is neither overly traditional nor ultra contemporary. If we were to show this graphically it may look like the following:

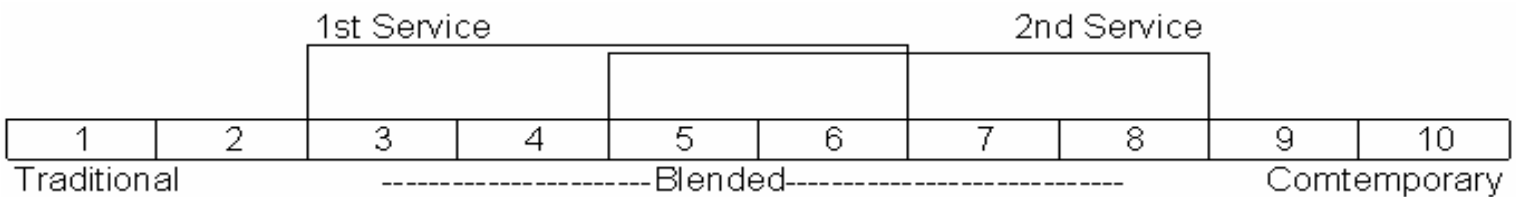




Expanding our Experience

The New Model - What will be the differences between the 2 services

The change will not be a radical one, such as changing to a traditional and a contemporary service, but instead to two modified blended services. This will allow members and newcomers the ability to choose the right blended mix for them. Those that can effectively worship without the concern of the service style being a little more contemporary or a little more traditional will not be effected by the change. They will be comfortable in either service. Those, however, that do have a preference toward a certain style of worship will now have an option. Both services will still generally remain grounded in the general blended formula, but will now have a subtle and gradual shift in one direction or the other. If we were to show this graphically, it may look like the following:



We will continue to have similar orders of worship in each service. The following is a very general example of our two-service format. This will show some of the things that could possibly differ between the 2 services.

	<u>Service 1</u>	<u>Service 2</u>
Prelude:	Organ/or blended CD	Blended or contemporary CD/band
Music #1	Blended praise	Blended praise
Music #2	Traditional Hymn	Guitar led contemporary Christian music song
Music #3	Blended praise/Hymn	Blended praise/piano or guitar
Prayer	Same	Same
Offertory	Choir/organ/piano/band /orch.	Guitar led/piano/band /orch.
Message	Similar	Similar
Closing	Blended praise	Blended praise

The Goal

The church leadership and staff's goal would be for all who currently attend Remembrance and those that we seek to introduce to our Lord would be able to worship more closely with the passion of their heart. The two services also give those of us an opportunity to invite those in our community to worship and allow them a choice based on their background and musical preferences. We will continue to evaluate our two different services and make adjustments when necessary as we strive to follow God's will for Remembrance Church.

When will the change be made

Sunday, March 22, 2009

Questions

If you have questions regarding the worship service changes, feel free to contact Chuck Snoap (Vice President of Consistory) at 616-531-1610 or cwsnoap@comcast.net.