

Rev. Aimee Eyer-Delevett

Parish Hall Worship Plans

As you know, soon we will embark on our “Sojourn Years” – our time together in the Parish Hall while our 118-year-old Sanctuary is prepared for its next century of worship. As our Parish Hall accommodates far fewer people than our sanctuary, we will hold four worship services each weekend. The table below reflects our Sojourn Worship schedule commencing Saturday, Feb. 2

Schedule:

Saturday	Sunday	Coffee	Sunday	ACE and Sunday School/ Coffee Hour	Sunday
5 p.m.	7:45-8:30 (45 min)	30 minutes	9-10 (1 hr)	10:15-11 (45 minutes)	11:15-12:15 (1 hr)

For the first six months, our style of worship will be consistent across the services. This will be a time of change for our community. We will worship in a new space and at new times as we witness the reconstruction of our sanctuary. Furthermore, we are subject to further evacuations in the coming rainy season. The continuity of our liturgy will provide a grounding stability in the midst of change.

In addition to the change in our worship schedule and location, we will also experience a change in our Christian Formation. Our Sojourn Years will offer the opportunity for a dedicated Christian Formation Hour from 10:15-11 a.m. During this time, people preschool aged through adulthood will have opportunities to reflect upon the faith we proclaim in worship in age appropriate classes. We already have an Adult Christian Education Committee guiding, and sometimes teaching, our brand-new Sunday morning Adult Christian Education (ACE) ministry. During our Sojourn in the Parish Hall, ACE, Godly Play and Living the Good News will all meet during the 10:15 Christian Education Hour.

We have already done significant work to prepare for our Sojourn. We have begun slight aesthetic upgrades to the Parish Hall. We have met with the leaders of our liturgical (worship) ministry teams to make sure the vital lay ministries that make worship happen are sustainable. We have recruited new Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors/Readers, Ushers, Greeters, Acolytes, Choir members, Coffee Hour hosts, and Sunday School teachers.

We have over 200 people currently enrolled in these, and other, Sunday morning ministries. Thank you all. Our Sojourn Years will be an exciting time of organizing, equipping and empowering more lay ministers to carry out the work of the church. This is our call and privilege as ministers of Christ. It takes an entire church to make worship happen!

There are still more preparations we need to undertake prior to our move. We will need to retrain every Sunday morning minister as to how we will conduct worship in the Parish Hall. The architecture of the space will require us to do some things differently. So, if you are involved in

a Sunday morning ministry, please plan to attend an upcoming training to learn the mechanics of your ministry in our new space.

We also have need of one new ministry: wheelchair ministers. Our accessible parking will be located in the Parish School parking lot. The accessible route to the Parish Hall will be through the playground. Some of our parishioners who struggle with ambulation may have difficulty walking from the parking lot to the Parish Hall. However, we have 2 wheelchairs available to transport people who need such assistance. We will need some parishioners able and willing to assist with this ministry at each service. We have sign up sheets available on the Information Table starting today.

Because we will now have a dedicated Christian Education Hour between services, parishioners of all ages will (potentially) be worshipping together at each service. This means we will have new and renewed opportunities for children and youth involvement in worship. One key to assisting children and youth in this transition is to involve them in meaningful ways in ministry. Baptized people of (almost) any age can be part of all lay ministries, so children and youth are encouraged to sign up to be a liturgical minister as an usher, greeter, lector (reader), Lay Eucharistic Minister, wheelchair assistant, altar guild member, acolyte. Once signed up, they will be trained and, if they are young, they can be assigned to serve with an adult minister who can partner with them. Better yet, their parent or grandparent could sign up for the ministry, too, and serve together! We will be sending a communication out soon to our Sunday School parents to inform and encourage such ministry.

Finally, we have a set of FAQs about Sojourn Worship available for parishioners. These are questions we have gathered from people throughout the months, and we hope they will be helpful in answering questions you may still have. Please feel free to add your question today or in the near future so that we can clarify as much as possible as we approach this change.