



“Why We Worship”

Rev. Maureen Frescott, Senior Pastor
September 2022

Rally Sunday is September 11th, and we’re kicking off our 2022-23 program year with a new church-wide theme – WHY WE WORSHIP! We’ll take a closer look at the parts that make up our Sunday service and explore how each element serves as a distinct expression of our communal worship - and our faith as it’s lived out in the world:

WELCOMING - Call to Worship
SINGING – Hymns and Music
NURTURING - Children's Time
LISTENING – Scripture
DISCERNING - Sermon
HEALING – Confessional Prayer
PRAYING - Joys and Concerns
GIVING - Offering
COMMUNING - Communion
SENDING - Benediction

We’ll explore these themes in our monthly Creative Worship, our adult Small Group Ministry program, our Youth Groups, and our children’s Church School. If you’ve ever wondered why particular elements of our service are included – the offering, the confessional prayer, a time for children – or if you’ve questioned why we’ve come to do the things we do during worship, we hope taking this closer look will answer some of your wonderings!

On the third Sunday of every month, during our Creative Worship service, we’ll invite our children to participate in the part of the service that we’re focusing on that month, so they’ll have a better understanding of what we adults do in worship while they’re off in Church School. And it’s hoped our adult participants will have a better understanding as well. One thing we learned from the congregational survey we participated in a few years ago is that we are a diverse worshipping group with each of us having particular parts of the service that resonate with us, and other parts that we can do without. The latter is usually the first thing we suggest eliminating when the discussion about shortening our worship arises. The problem is - the part we might suggest cutting may be the reason why the person sitting next to us is there. All are necessary parts of the whole.

September's theme is WELCOMING where we'll focus on our Call to Worship – the gathering of our community; and the Prayer of Invocation – welcoming God's presence in our gathering.

September and the new church year bring us multiple reasons to say WELCOME:

WELCOME – to all of you finding your way back to church after a summer away!

WELCOME – to all of you who've found us online and who continue to watch from afar!

WELCOME – to our visitors and new families, whether you're new to town or new to our church!

WELCOME – to our Chancel and Bell Choirs - we look forward to having you back singing and ringing this fall!

WELCOME – to our new Church School Coordinator, Larissa Riley, as she and our CE Team kick off our new Church School year!

WELCOME – to our Church School Children and Teachers – fresh from summer Vacation Bible School and ready for a fun school year!

WELCOME – to our Middle and Senior High Youth – who will kick off the year with our wonderful adult advisors and await Pastor Kate's return in October!

WELCOME – to our Adult Education and Small Group Ministry participants, as you gather to grow in your faith and your connections to one another!

WELCOME – to our Council, Deacons, World Service, Trustees, Communications, Fundraising and Fellowship Teams as you gather to continue your good work after a much-needed break!

WELCOME – to our Woman's Association members as you have all-hands-on-deck preparing for your September "Good Stuff Sale!"

WELCOME – to any of you not mentioned above. No matter how often you attend worship, or how you choose to participate in the life of our church – no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

WELCOME – to our new church year!

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Maureen