

8:30 Worship Survey Report June 2024

Thank you so much to the 34 individuals who took the time to complete our recent 8:30 worship service survey. Our worship committee reviewed the results at a recent meeting and are taking the results into consideration for future planning of that service. Your responses are important to us. Thank you again for your support.

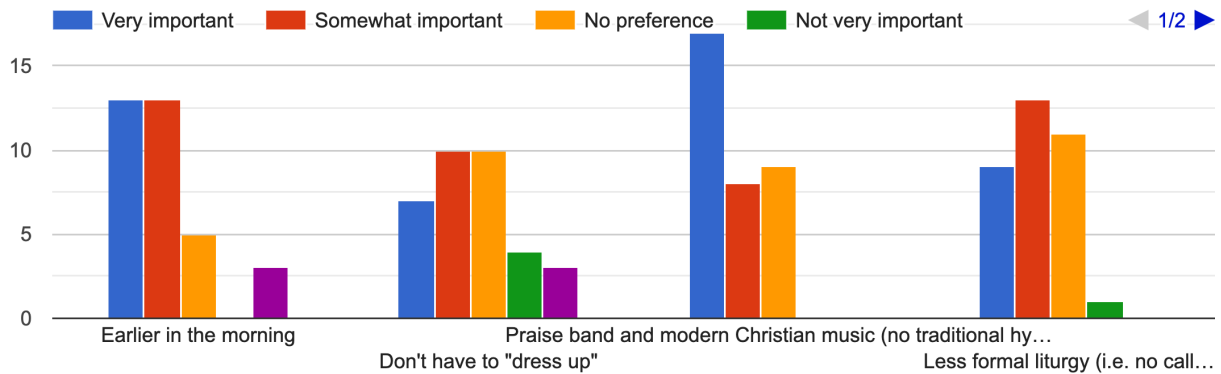
Overall initial takeaways from survey results:

- Modern worship is an important ministry at Smyrna FUMC.
- Service is adequate as is but there is definite room for improvement.
- Continue working to include more upbeat and newer songs.
- Use more vocalists in praise band in addition to Branson. (Need people in the congregation to step up and serve in this way to successfully implement.)
- Encourage greater congregational participation in worship.
- Introduce new (to the congregation) songs and modernized versions of traditional hymns occasionally. (Once/month?)
- Continue striving to create a comfortable and casual environment.
- Keep service at early time.
- Explore ways to create a more streamlined overall order of worship including how we do the offering time.
- Retain elements such as the Moment of Hospitality, Children's Message, and pre-service announcements.
- Occasionally offer Communion using a more informal approach.
- Continue offering service in sanctuary and implement low/no cost changes to improve before considering moving location of service.
- Research how much money it would take to implement more A/V elements such as video clips and include in 2024 budget request.
- Explore ways to reconfigure location of praise band, so they're more in the front.

Below are some more detailed reflections from the survey results:

First, the most common responses to the question of why you attend the 8:30 service were that 25/34 (73.5%) respondents said having a praise band and modern Christian music was a very important or somewhat important reason why they attend the 8:30 service. 26/34 (76%) respondents stated that having it earlier in the morning was either very important or somewhat important. 13/34 (38%) respondents stated that having less formal liturgy was important. 17/34 (50%) respondents indicated not having to dress up was a very important or somewhat important reason for attending the service. In written responses of why you like the modern service, the elements of informal dress, casual-style worship with a praise band and modern music, and earlier time were repeatedly mentioned.

Rate the following according to their importance for why you attend the 8:30 service.



The three most frequently cited vital elements for worship were the Moment of Hospitality (73.5%), verbal announcements (67.6%), and the Children's Message (50%). (Note: Elements like Scripture and a sermon were not listed as options as they are non-negotiable essential aspects of Christian worship.)

82.4% of you said it is important that we offer a modern service. You also indicated in written responses that what especially makes a service modern to you are modern Christian music and a relaxed casual atmosphere with casual dress.

A couple of written responses also indicated things like more use of technology and video clips used with sermons as elements that make a service modern. Currently the main obstacle for use of more frequent use of this kind of technology is money. Access to videos and other modern audio/video worship elements requires monthly subscriptions or hefty ala carte purchases of content that our current worship budget cannot support. We also have continued needs in our technology budget for improved lighting and sound in the sanctuary to improve the quality of worship. More money would go a long way in helping us offer greater use of technology in improving our modern service.

As far as overall satisfaction with the current 8:30 service, 22/34 (64.8%) of you indicated a four or five on a scale of five with five being extremely satisfied. 6/34 (17.6%) of you indicated a one or two with one being extremely dissatisfied with the current service. For those who are dissatisfied, the written responses largely indicated things like more upbeat/faster and more current music selections, hearing more vocalists singing, and greater congregational involvement in singing as things that would improve the service. Other data regarding song selection indicated modern adaptations of hymns and introduction of new/unfamiliar songs occasionally as somewhat important.

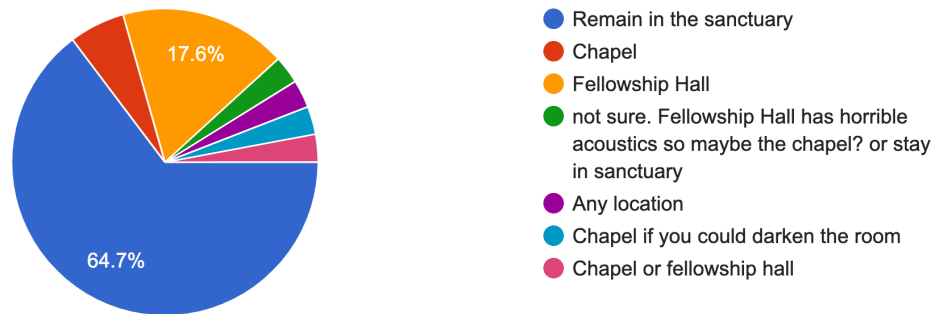
Regarding dimming the light for worship, 82.4% said dimming the lights did not enhance the worship experience, while 17.6% said it did enhance worship for them. We also have substantial

technology needs to improve the quality of current lighting for worship, especially in the praise band/choir area.

Regarding changing the location of the modern service, 64.7% of you wanted to keep it in the sanctuary, followed by 17.6% in favor of the fellowship hall. Other responses were varied.

If feasible to have a modern service in other locations, which location would provide the best environment for a modern worship experience?

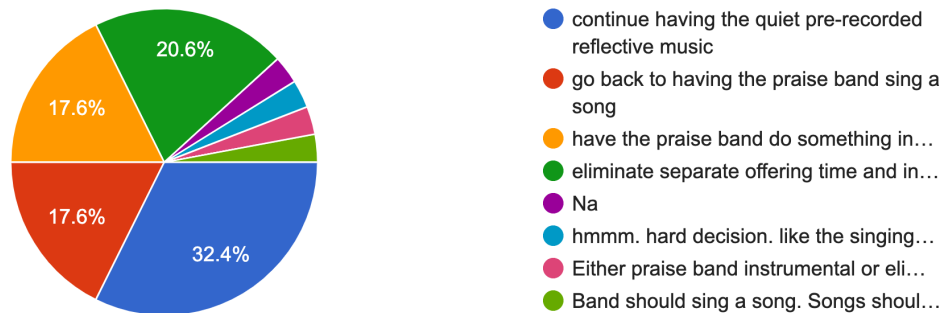
34 responses



Preferences for how we provide music during the offertory time were also varied. However, most respondents favored going back to some form of the praise band providing music versus the pre-recorded music. Some of the data also indicated openness to finding a way to more smoothly blending in the offering time in the overall worship service.

For the offertory music, would you prefer to

34 responses



Thank you again for your support as we continue prayerful reflection on how to make our modern service even better.