

## **Narrative Budget 2023: Worship**

Our Worship Ministry includes the preparation and execution of three services each Sunday plus numerous special services throughout the year. This ministry also provides live-streaming of worship services plus radio broadcast of one service each Sunday. The Worship Ministry is important to DCPC for the following reasons:

- While worship is first about a vertical relationship, i.e. our worship of God, it has also has an important horizontal relationship, i.e. connection between members. Worship post-pandemic retains that importance and our online presence deepens it. We have members who are able to worship more fully, and thus be more connected now that we are online and doing it in a more robust way. We have members and friends who can only worship online. At a time when loneliness is in epidemic proportions, helping people feel less isolated by connecting them in worship is more important than ever.
- Worship involves more people than anything else we do as a congregation. This includes not just attendance but also leadership. On any given Sunday, there are fifty to seventy-five lay people who help lead worship. This is an important way for our members to live out their commitment to serving God and one another. It invites them to bring their unique gifts and share them with fellow members.
- Worship is often the first point of entry for visitors. Where, when and how we worship matters as expressions of who we are as a community of faith and whether this is a place for them to belong.
- Worship has always been at the heart of the Christian faith. Jesus says to love God and neighbor and for two millennia, Christians have gathered weekly in worship to show their love for God. Love of neighbor is important, but worship is still at the heart of the Church.
- Worship involves the whole people of God. When we are siloed in so many places by age and other demographics, worship is one of the few intergenerational spaces left.