MOVING FORWARD IN WORSHIP

On Sunday, September 13 at WPC, we "Welcome Home" friends to church after a summer of travel. And we welcome one another into the Sanctuary again.

As we do so, the Session and I ask you to join in an experiment in change. To make a commitment for the good of the faith community by **gathering near the front of the sanctuary and sitting closer together.**

What exactly are we asking? Please move forward to sit in the first 10 rows. Sit near one another to renew a sense of community.

Two advantages I discovered during summer worship in the CLC were being near one another and hearing our voices raised together. We don't need to lose that sense of energy and closeness. WPC can choose together to sit near the front of the sanctuary, closer together.

Why would Session and I ask WPC to take this action? During transition, churches who choose new seats in the front of the sanctuary to be near one another report 5 pluses:

- an increased sense of vitality and warmth
- an ability to hear one another sing and to join in more robustly
- a sense of refreshed, vibrant community.
- an easier step to greet nearby visitors and one another warmly.
- a greater sense of anticipation as we gather close to hear the word.

Q & A

Why rope off the back 5 pews?

To help us visually remember to continue with this experiment in change. We have short memories from week to week.

Can I still sit in my "regular" seat if I wish?
Yes. There will be no sanctuary-seating police.

But what if someone else moves into "my regular seat?"
Please graciously pick a new spot to join in the experiment together.

If I have an emotional reason to stay where I "always/usually sit", should I? (*ie* "I always sat in that space with my late spouse.")
You get to decide if and when you are ready to move forward with the gathered congregation.

If I try a new spot and don't like it, can I change spots again or change back?
Move anytime you wish.

What if I want to duck under the rope to sit in my favorite spot?
We will rope off the back 5 pews. Your choice if you duck under.

Then Why bother with this change?
It is a quick, visual representation of a new commitment, a new hope for vibrancy in the church.

- *Just like inviting new people to join you in worship or at church events.*
- *Just like sharing your hopes, dreams, and longings for WPC's future at upcoming PWP Table Talks.*
- *Just like making a stewardship pledge to the church to support its mission and ministry and prepare for the new pastor.*
- *Just like prayerfully considering serving as an elder, deacon, or pnc member to represent the congregation and choose the next minister.*

Rev. Dr. Tassie Green
Say Yes to God's Yes! 2 Cor 1:20, The Message