

GATHERING OF MINISTRY IDEAS IN MAY AND JULY

Over the summer Good Shepherd hosted two meetings with the hope of gathering ideas from families on ways that we could more fully utilize our new space and any ideas on changes that might better enhance Good Shepherd's ministries and worship services to reach families in our community. Both meetings brought about great discussion! Here we will highlight some ideas that attendees brought forward.

The May meeting was specific to young families and with this group there was a strong desire to enhance Good Shepherd's focus on youth. Some ideas included: Installing a playground, installing screens (noted the difficulty of juggling the bulletin & hymnal while holding a baby), hiring a youth director, shortening the length of the worship service &/or Sunday School, altering the start time of second service so it doesn't end so late. The importance of making young families feel welcomed and comfortable especially when young children act up or are loud during worship was expressed.

Other options brought up in discussion included music: the desire for familiar songs during worship & less verses especially if the song is unfamiliar. Some desire for more contemporary music.

Additional suggestions included an outdoor service in the summer, Saturday night service & more fellowship opportunities which could involve the community such as Valley Fair and ski trips. The idea of taking steps to allow alcohol at gatherings was discussed, i.e. allowing people to bring wine or beer to a meal or social activity at church (the example of Berne Pizza nights was brought up) . Also mentioned was the idea of sharing a meal with anyone in need in the community.

The July meeting was open to anyone and again we had wonderful discussion. Some highlights of the discussion included: Being visible as a church at our local town festivals, reaching out to area youth in need of tutoring or mentorship, using our space for hosting community events and groups, hosting/providing meals for homeless families, providing meals for seniors, reaching out to families who have baptisms or weddings at Good Shepherd (but aren't necessarily very involved), providing a child-friendly space in our fellowship area, possibly a small bin of toys.

On the topic of worship discussion included: a more contemporary service without a band, possibly one contemporary service per month, a choir (maybe only at certain times of year), Sunday School kids singing once a month & that Sunday have a shorter more casual service, giving all kids an instrument to play during the last song, inviting kids forward at end of service and have them lead the "Go in Peace," helping kids act as ushers & collect the noisy offering, a children's book about being a kid in church, or something to make young families feel welcomed.