



## Share the Dream- IV

In the fall of 2018, Lenape Valley Church will launch a New Worship Service. This opportunity is long awaited by some, while others wonder how this addition will impact our church family here at LVC. You are invited to take a few minutes to learn about this exciting missional enterprise. Watch the Dream- God's Dream- unfold over the summer months.

### How will we “market” this New Service?

There was a time when the church could open her doors and people came. Church membership was not just culturally acceptable, it was culturally expected. Back in “the day”, good parents knew they should raise their children in a church community. Today is so different. Today the church competes against so many other demands and attractions. Often the church comes in last behind work, soccer, yardwork, and relaxation. In planning this New Worship service, we realize that we can't expect the people to come just because we put a sign on our lawn. The growth of this New Worship Service will come the same way our Traditional Worship has grown- by word of mouth. The people of Lenape Valley have been bringing their neighbors to share in our traditional worship! We trust that once our people taste the vibrant worship in the contemporary service, they will invite their neighbors to share in that worship experience.

### How will we pay for this New Worship Service?

Great question! A new worship service will take time to grow and become established. Often it takes 1-2 years for a new worship service to become financially self-sustaining. In the early stages of birthing this New Worship Service, the Elders have identified this work as a *mission* of the church. We will support this endeavor as we do all our missions, sacrificing so that others will know the grace of Jesus Christ. The draft budget for this service totals \$50,000 for a year to support worship staff, Christian Education and tech support. Some would say we can't afford this service, but the truth is we can't afford not to start this service. Some would call this investing in the future of LVC, but this investment will also bless our present. We invite you to get in on the ground floor of this mission- dig a little deeper, go above and beyond your pledge to help birth a new faith witness at Lenape Valley. (Look for a *Seed Money* envelope to earmark your contribution for this work.)



## Share the Dream- III

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### What style of worship will the New Service have?

We call the style of this New Service “contemporary” because it will bring the good news of Jesus Christ using the language of the modern culture. During the Reformation, Christians sought to offer worship in a “contemporary style”. They changed the language of the liturgy from Latin to the language of the people. They used tunes the people knew from their culture, giving the songs Christian lyrics. One such tune is the wonderful Thanksgiving hymn *We Gather Together*. Back in the day that tune was a bar shanty with the lyrics: “*I once knew a girl and her name was Matilda.*” Our new contemporary worship service will feature Christian music from the modern era. Traditional hymns will be a part of this New Service, set in a contemporary style. The pattern of worship will be more relaxed and experiential. Each Sunday, the Lord's Supper will be celebrated, along with opportunities for prayer and artistic expression. The goal is to speak the Good News in a style and language that our neighbors, our youth and our young adults will understand.

### Will this service be like the contemporary churches near LVC?

Not all worship services are alike. The traditional worship service of a church like Doylestown Presbyterian Church is very different from the traditional worship we enjoy at Lenape Valley. Each experience is beautiful and honors God, but they are distinctly different in music, liturgy and preaching style. In the same way, not all contemporary worship services are alike. Our neighbors enjoy a “rock concert” style of worship complete with lights and volume. Our plan is for a softer version of contemporary, with opportunities for interaction in worship.

We not only want to offer a different worship experience from our traditional service, but also to offer a different experience than the neighboring contemporary churches. Our hope is to meet a need in our community that is not being met at this time.

### Didn't we try a contemporary service and fail?

Many of us have been around Lenape Valley long enough to remember the attempt at a contemporary worship service just a few years ago, and the messy end that followed. The Session has spent time learning from that past, both the successes and failures, so that this time will be different. The truth is, Lenape Valley is different than we were just a few years ago. We are stronger in number and in vitality. God has brought into place people and resources that were missing last time. We are poised to take this next step. The one thing that has not changed is the desperate need in our community for the Good News of Jesus Christ. Jesus reminds us, “*The fields are ripe for the harvest. Send out workers into the fields.*” (Luke 10:2)



## Share the Dream- II

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### Who will lead this New Service?

The New Worship Team is actively interviewing candidates for the Worship Leader position for this service. The Worship Leader will form a band to share in the leadership of this service. A Worship Leader and band are as essential to a contemporary worship experience as a good organist, choir director and choir are to a traditional worship experience. At Lenape Valley, we know the blessing of having strong, creative leadership in our traditional worship. We are seeking that same strong, creative leadership for our contemporary worship.

### Who will preach in this New Service?

The message and the preacher will be the same for both the traditional and contemporary services. The goal is to allow our faith community two different expressions of worship, while keeping the same message and mission. In this way, we will continue to be a united faith community. We will also create times when we will serve together (The Church Has Left the Building,

20,000 meals, Mission Trips), and fellowship together (a shared Fellowship hour from 10:30-11am, Pasta Dinners, Pancake Breakfasts, special women's and men's events) to allow us to know each other even as we worship at different hours.

### How will this New Service impact our current Traditional Worship?

At Lenape Valley we are blessed to enjoy vibrant, creative traditional worship. Our traditional worship has inspired numerical growth in our faith community and deepened our faith journey. We are blessed by the gifts and talents of our community that make each Sunday a new experience. The Elders of our church recognize the strength that our traditional worship brings to the whole of our faith community. They have made a commitment to support the 9:30am traditional worship with resources, staff and prayerful encouragement. This support will allow the 9:30am service to continue as a strong, vibrant, creative worship experience at Lenape Valley even as we reach out to others with a new contemporary worship service.



## Share the Dream- I

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### Why a New Worship Service?

Every Sunday, when Lenape Valley gathers, the sanctuary fills to capacity. Over the last 2 years we have welcomed 64 new members and their families. Every Sunday visitors come to share in worship with us. Thus our 9:30am worship service is beautifully full of members and visitors. What a wonderful reality to have! The time has come to offer a new opportunity for worship to address the influx of people into our worship.

When the Session considered the need for a second service, they did not want to just meet our needs. They are painfully aware that the majority of our neighbors do not have a church home where they are actively being nurtured and cared for. The Elders began to ask what kind of worship experience would speak the good news to our neighbors who are not here yet. Since we already have a strong traditional service to offer, the Elders decided to add a worship experience with a different style. This new worship service will broaden our witness to the community by giving us a second "worship language."

### Who is the target audience for this New Worship Service?

The hope is to create a worship experience where all feel welcome. If you have ever attended a contemporary worship service, you probably noticed that the congregation ranged in age from child to senior. Contemporary worship is a style that reaches across the generational divides, just as our current traditional worship does. We know that there are people within our current congregation who have been waiting for this service because it will be more their "style." We are hopeful that our youth will engage more fully in worship through this New Worship experience. We are excited to offer our Sunday School and Nursery staff an opportunity on Sunday to worship as well as serve. We look forward to inviting our young adults into a worship experience that speaks the good news of Jesus Christ in their cultural style. And we yearn to reach those who are not here yet, that they might find a home in our grace-full faith community.

### When will this New Service happen?

For the past year, we have been studying the worship habits of people in our area. We have explored many possible options as to when to offer this service. Should it be on Sunday morning, or perhaps Saturday or Sunday evening? We looked at successful churches in the Philadelphia suburbs, and consulted with pastors and church leaders who have been successful in reaching their neighbors. The best wisdom we can find encourages us to place this service on Sunday morning. When we launch this service in the fall our Sunday morning schedule will look like this:

Traditional Worship	9:30am
Children's Sunday School	9:45am
Coffee Hour	10:30am
Contemporary Worship	11:00am
Children's Time	during the Message