

**WESTLAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



**8/18/23**

## **August 2023 Worship Survey**

This paper reports the results of a congregation-wide survey executed August 11-16 regarding the format of the Sunday worship experience. 125 responses were received from approximately 1,100 contacted for the survey.

# Westlake United Methodist Church

## WUMC SUMMER WORSHIP AUGUST SURVEY

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Westlake United Methodist Church (“WUMC”) moved to a single service format during the summer. As summer comes to an end and we get back to school and work routines, we also return to full church programming. Many have reported to church leadership that they’ve enjoyed the energy generated when the whole community gathers for a single worship service and that the blended music and worship elements have been meaningful, fun, and inspiring. The lively environment has also provided a vibrant, welcoming experience for first-time guests. A desire has been expressed to continue with a single worship service until our in-person participation better supports two well-attended, equally robust, services. As a result, a churchwide survey was executed from August 11-16 to gauge the sentiments of the membership.

The team wishes to thank the WUMC congregation for participating in the survey and providing honest feedback regarding their preferences related to the worship format going forward.

## SURVEY RESULTS

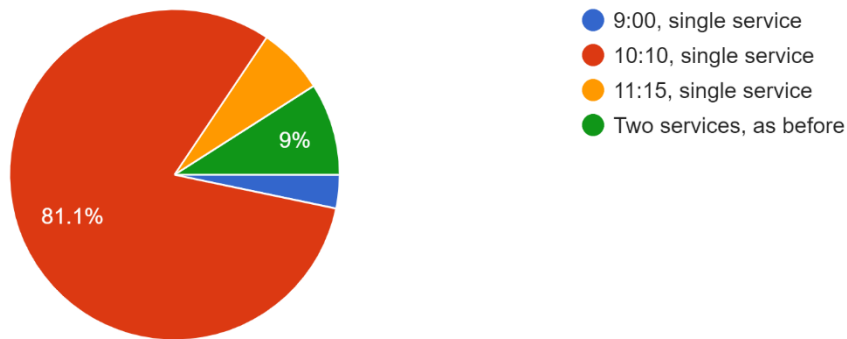
The charts and lists below detail the survey results by question.

### Overall Preference for Multiple Services

Question responses:

Moving forward, what is your worship service preference?

122 responses

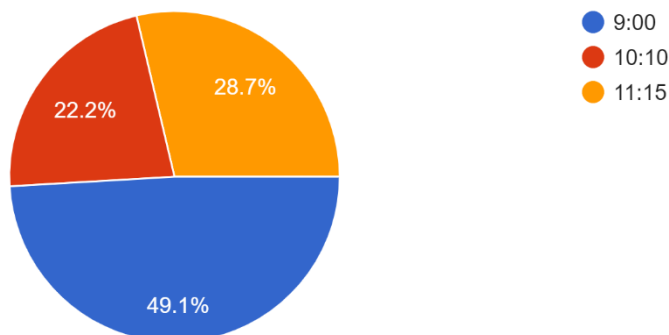


Tabulation: 99-10:10 single service; 11-two services as before; 8-11:15 single service; 4-9:00 single service

The respondents overwhelmingly preferred keeping one worship service at 10:10.

Moving forward, what is your Sunday school preference?

108 responses



If the 10:10 service is selected, there is general support for two options for Sunday School.

## General Feedback

The last questions provided the congregation with an avenue to express their thoughts, comments, suggestions, and concerns. The ChatGPT.ai tool was used to take the comments and create a summary for each question.

### **What have you liked about the summer programming/schedule?**

*The congregation's feedback regarding the combined church services is overwhelmingly positive. The transition to a single service has created a strong sense of community and energy among attendees. Worshippers appreciate the opportunity to gather together and connect with fellow members they might not otherwise see. The fuller sanctuary and blended music program, combining contemporary and traditional styles, have been well-received. Many highlight the joy of singing familiar hymns and experiencing uplifting music. The convenience of a later time slot is noted, allowing for a more relaxed Sunday morning. The unity of the congregation is a recurring theme, with attendees valuing the chance to interact with people of all generations. Overall, the move to a single service has enhanced attendance, fostered connections, and invigorated the worship experience, contributing to a vibrant and engaged church community.*

### **What have you liked about the summer programming/schedule?**

*The feedback from attendees reflects a mixed range of experiences with the church's programs and services. While some express satisfaction with the current setup, others offer suggestions and point out areas for improvement. The meetups for children and families are mentioned as having low attendance despite efforts. Requests for more transition time between events and concerns about remote connection difficulties arise. Some miss the interactive Facebook broadcast for its engagement. Specific time preferences are noted, with some favoring earlier services while others find it challenging. Some attendees miss particular classes due to scheduling conflicts. The length of services, especially with children, and preferences for music styles are brought up, with a desire for variety. Travel plans during the summer impacted participation for some. Overall, while there's a mix of contentment and minor issues, attendees seem open to adapting and engaging with the church's offerings.*

## **Any other suggestions or feedback?**

*The collected comments show a diverse range of opinions regarding church services and programs. One person expressed a desire for more frequent Communion and consistency in piano music is expressed. A few feel the reduction in services and worship opportunities is concerning, while others see benefits in optimizing time and energy. The transition to a single service is praised for fostering unity and managing summer heat. Attendees suggest varying ideas for scheduling, integrating Children First, and music styles. Members appreciate the survey process and share suggestions for enhancing worship experiences. Concerns about membership growth are voiced. Preferences for contemporary and traditional music vary, with hopes for a blend. Attendees remain engaged, open to change, and committed to nurturing fellowship and growth within the church community.*

## CONCLUSION

Summary conclusions based on the purposes of the survey include:

- By a wide margin, the congregation prefers a single worship service at 10:10
- Sunday school times should be determined by the individual classes
- The recommendation for our Sunday Morning Schedule is:

8:45am	Nursery for pre-k aged children open Coffee and Donut Fellowship Time
9:00am	Children and Youth Sunday School Adult Sunday School Option 1 <i>*Children First on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays</i>
10–10:10	Coffee and Donut Fellowship Time
10:10am	Single Blended Worship Service
11:15am	Adult Sunday School Option 2

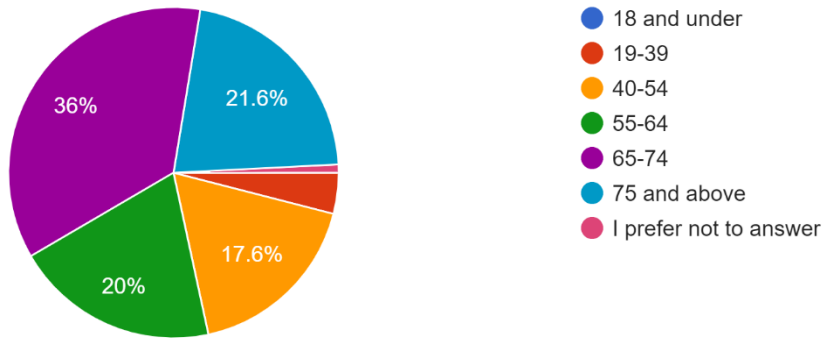
APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Demographics and Past Participation

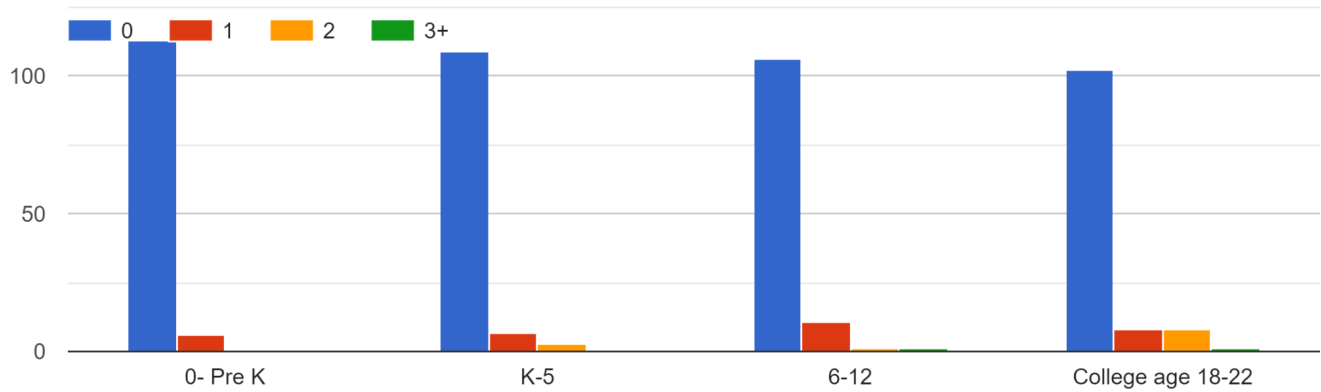
Question responses:

What is your age:

125 responses



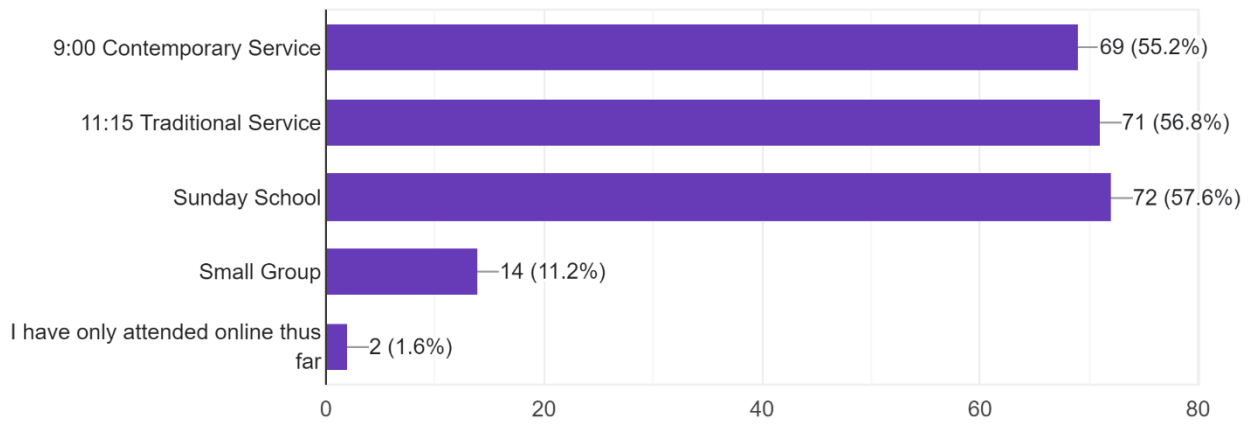
How many children do you have in these ranges?





Prior to beginning the summer single service, which church activities did you attend or participate in? Select as many as apply:

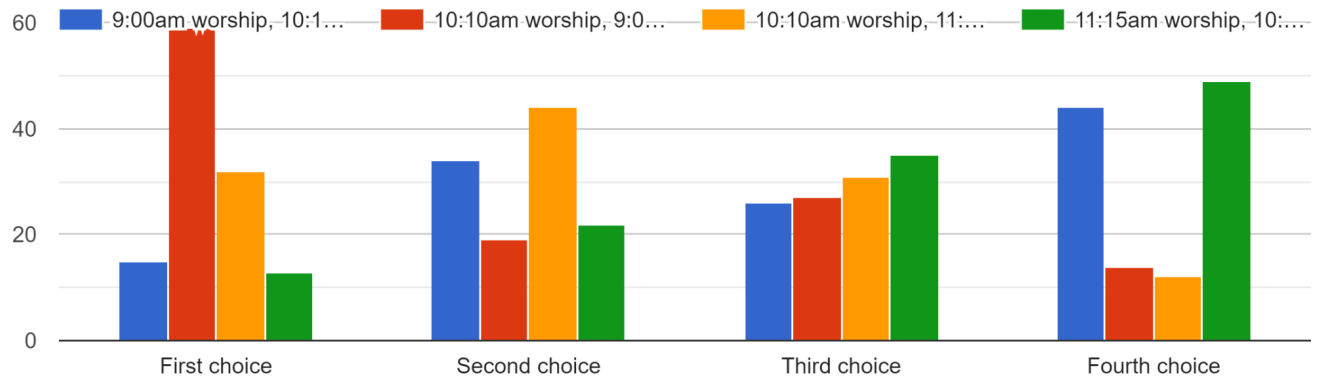
125 responses



## Appendix 2 - Blended Service Preferences

Question responses:

Alternative Single Service Options: if we keep the single service format what would be your preference?



## Appendix 3 – Alternative Single Service Option Analysis

Choice Matrix: (start time truncated to the nearest hour for spacing)

	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice	Fourth Choice
9 AM Worship, 10 AM Sunday School	15	34	31	45
10 AM Worship, 9 AM Sunday School	62	20	28	15
10 AM Worship, 11 AM Sunday School	34	48	31	12
11 AM Worship, 10 AM Sunday School	14	23	35	53

The results show the congregation prefers the 10:10 worship time by a significant margin.

Considering the respondents' first and second choices, the 10:10 service was again the clear leader.

	Sum of 1st and 2nd Choices	Sum of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Choices
9 AM Worship, 10 AM Sunday School	49	80
10 AM Worship, 9 AM Sunday School	82	110
10 AM Worship, 11 AM Sunday School	82	113
11 AM Worship 10 AM Sunday School	37	72

In the previous survey congregants were relatively evenly split on Sunday School times. The total numbers are evenly split with this survey.

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	Total
9 AM Sunday School	62	20	82
11 AM Sunday School	34	48	82

## Appendix 4 – Crosstabs

Crosstabs provide a mechanism to compare different data sets to identify patterns that might be obvious otherwise. The following crosstabs compare the age of the congregant to their preferences for service options, Sunday school preference, and the blended service preferences from Appendix 3.

Row Labels	10:10, single service	11:15, single service	9:00, single service	Two services, as before	Grand Total
19-39	4			1	5
40-54	19		1	2	22
55-64	21		2	1	24
65-74	33	4	1	5	43
75 and above	21	4		2	27
I prefer not to answer	1				1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>122</b>

Congregant Age	10:10	11:15	9:00	Grand Total
19-39	1		3	4
40-54	3	7	8	18
55-64	2	5	15	22
65-74	12	9	15	36
75 and above	6	10	11	27
I prefer not to answer			1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>108</b>

Row Labels	19-39	40-54	55-64	65-74	75 and above	I prefer not to answer	Grand Total
10:10am worship, 11:15 Sunday school		7	4	13	10		34
10:10am worship, 9:00 Sunday school	4	12	16	19	10	1	62
11:15am worship, 10:10 Sunday school			2	8	4		14
9:00am worship, 10:10 Sunday school	1	3	3	5	3		15
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>125</b>

Row Labels	19-39	40-54	55-64	65-74	75 and above	I prefer not to answer	Grand Total
10:10am worship, 11:15 Sunday school	1	11	13	16	7		48
10:10am worship, 9:00 Sunday school		6	3	7	4		20
11:15am worship, 10:10 Sunday school		1	2	11	9		23
9:00am worship, 10:10 Sunday school	4	4	7	11	7	1	34
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>125</b>