

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

Question 1. *Which parts/ways of celebrating music in our church do you like best?* (14 comments)

Nearly everyone mentioned they liked the choir. Many comments asking for a balance of music - some oldies, some new and several commented that they liked gospel.

Very important that the choir does not become abandoned; like local church musicians best, but enjoy others too; really enjoy the soloists and duets etc.; choirs are great and there is a place for them; enjoyed the younger folks recording during Covid.

Many liked band music, but others asked for it not to be so loud. A request for jazzed up music that had people bopping in their chairs. Bells were also mentioned.

Question 2. *Do you like seeing musical videos/clips used as part of the service?* (2 comments)

Prefer live, but no objection to some videos/clips.

Question 3. *Do you like seeing paid guest performers from outside our congregation perform in the service?* (3 comments)

Occasional supplement; paid performers should be outside of our service and that way we can charge for the performance and perhaps bring some extra money into the church.

Question 4. *Would you like to see the congregation involved in more singing?* (8 comments)

Some pre-service singing at different times of the church calendar; a quick run-through before the service to introduce new or less familiar music would be useful; involvement of the congregation is what it's all about; ask people for their favourite hymn and have a 'popular choice' hymn maybe for a particular season; being introduced to a song that we would sing and then keep singing it for a month at the beginning or end of the service.

Question 5. *Rank the following types of music you would like to have in order of preference.* (18 comments)

To appeal to a mixed audience, you need a mixture of music; a variety; when using new hymns it is better to have a performer sing them versus the congregation struggle through an unknown song – or take the time to teach the congregation; I enjoy all types of music and believe the different types lend specific emphasis to different messages. Some hymns tell a story on their own. Some represent a true prayer. Words have the most impact, for some. For others, their message is enhanced by the magic of a special melody.

The older hymns have not been played much and I would like to have them, not every week, but more often; some new and inspirational pop, which may be delivered by the youth would be great to see; love all types of music but prefer to go and see a Gospel choir perform rather than sing it in church; the music that Carley and William record or perform is my favourite; I don't like some of the wording in older hymns.

Question 6: *We tend to think of music mostly in regards to the Sunday services, but where/how else would you like to have music in our church?* (19 comments)

I would love to see any and all of the above offered, but feel with the current church attendees, we may not have sufficient participants to fulfill the roles. The 'old' Mistletoe type of event could probably happen again now; cost is an issue but guest singers, choirs, etc. would be nice; re-establishment of the Ceilidh; make our facilities available to public for concerts; unsure of volunteers to produce/participate in church musicals;

I've grown up in a family and in church experiences in which a considerable variety of music is a major part; a variety of music to involve all age groups; invite local school choirs to sing at Christmas. Several expressions of appreciation for all the music presented through Covid.

Question 7: *Should we be trying to reach out with our music to the wider community? If so, how do you see us doing that?* (42 comments)

Many people suggested concerts, inside the church, or out on the lawn in the summer; many suggested Jazz Vespers.

Re-introduce Ceilidh, and expand it to Murrayville; rentals, fundraisers, afternoon concerts, themed music events, Taizé and other small events in Sharon chapel; community concerts perhaps with other groups involved; try to start a community handbell choir based at the church; more involvement with interfaith groups; carolling around Murrayville at Christmas; Ecumenical Carol Service used to be held to support Pastoral Care at Langley Memorial, but that program has now been cut. Could we present those again, to perhaps support another good outreach cause?

Other comments: (23 comments)

I have always appreciated and admired our musicians at UCoL – thank you; I am really just looking forward to getting music back as part of our Congregational involvement! Hopefully the commitment of a regular Sunday service choir can become the core of it; Thank you for the music! I really hope our church can develop a vibrant music program. For me, music is a very important part of my love of attending church; a broader range of music might attract more younger people; Taize and bells would be lovely – not together; the youth and young adult program is very reliant on music. This group want to see younger singers, they want to see younger people included, and that is where things like the soloists and SHIFT band are helping; music touches the soul in many ways that other things do not. Even people who are dying resonate with music.