

## **Saturday Worship Service Update – July 2017**

Over the last year the Worship Commission, including members of the Saturday worship leadership, has spent much time and energy in conversation, prayer and planning regarding the Saturday church service. Unfortunately, based on the significant decline in attendance, the Worship Commission, at its June 6 meeting, voted to retire the Saturday 5 p.m. service. Session affirmed this decision at their June 13, 2017 meeting.

This decision was not made lightly. We honor the efforts and devotion of many members who started this worship alternative to Sunday mornings in December of 2012. The Saturday service has offered much to all of us: worship in a welcoming, informal, family-friendly style and on two occasions in the past year, introduced the congregation to Taize worship and the convenience of a Sunday morning alternative.

In the Saturday services, we have been encouraged to interact with each other in preaching the word and to learn some of the newer hymns in our hymnals. But because average attendance at the Saturday service has steadily decreased so significantly, it no longer seemed to be a priority for our worshipping community.

The Worship Commission asks the congregation to share with them the most transforming worship experiences that nurtured you in the past so that we can incorporate them in our worship services in the future. As always we are open to hear the needs and concerns of our worshipping community and remain open to new and enriching worship experiences and opportunities.