**All Church Worship Brainstorming**

**No Fear November**

Monday, October 9, 2023 in the LHUMC Lounge

12:00 p.m. Potluck

12:45-3:00 p.m. Brainstorming for Worship

November 5-19, 2023 (3 weeks)

Join us at noon for a potluck lunch at church. Please bring a dish to pass. RSVPs are helpful but not mandatory. Sign up at church or contact the church office (213-798-2181 or Office@LakeHarborUMC.org) or Karen Booth (231-798-8431 or 231-557-1069 or kwbooth@comcast.net). Please read the Scripture and message synopses and preview the videos before we gather if at all possible.

*“The worship we hope to develop will be rooted in Scripture, centered on Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. It will be relevant to local and emerging culture, while addressing the needs of believers and unbelievers alike. Above all, it will intentionally engage people physically, emotionally, intellectually, and soulfully.”*

Felt needs: What physical, emotional, intellectual, or spiritual need are we addressing in this service so that worship is engaging and a means of making disciples? What question needs to be posed/answered so that we are making disciples?

**2023 Theme:**  Jesus is Our Past, Present, and Future Hope

**Key verse:** 38For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,

neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39neither height nor depth, nor

anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in

Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8: 38-39 (NIV)*

**Major spoken/unspoken needs:**

* It is so easy to not attend church when I can watch it online. Worship is for God, not us. Convenience vs. sacrifice. Logistics vs. routine.
* Pastoral care, especially around losses: Grief. Family. Division. Addiction. Unrealized dreams. Financial woes. Abortion. Open marriages.
* Relationships. Reconciliation.
* Fear and regret

**Social justice issue for November 2023:** Hunger & Food Insecurity

**2023 theme connection:** We have fears – it’s part of being human. In this series, we’ll shine a light on some of our greatest fears and see how our faith in Jesus can help us let go of the past, live in the present, and have hope for the future.

**Series synopsis:** Fear saturates our society. Everywhere we turn we’re faced with a new security threat, informed about a new health risk, or warned about some kind of impending doom. But does this overwhelming presence of fear help us pursue the right path in life? Or does it pull us away from God’s purpose for us?

**Notes:**In June 2020, we used Adam Hamilton’s Unafraid as a resource and focused on fear of the other, fear of failure, fear of loneliness, and fear of death. For this series, we’ll focus on other specific fears.

**Resources:**

* “[No Fear November](https://creativepastors.com/product/no-fear-november/): Overcoming Phobias that Keep Us Paralyzed” by Ed Young
* “[~~No Fear November~~](http://www.fellowship301media.com/sermons/series/no-fear-november/)~~” by Mike Grover~~. *Note:* This link is no longer active, but is probably from [Fellowship Baptist Church](https://fellowship301.org/our-leaders) in Florida.
* Sermon series resources from Greater New Jersey Conference UMC <https://www.gnjumc.org/tossingandturning/>
* Articles from Ministry Matters on various topics related to fear
	+ <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/9361/moving-beyond-fear>
	+ <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/7824/7-fears-of-highly-effective-leaders>
	+ <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/10197/why-choose-generosity-in-times-of-uncertainty-and-fear>
	+ <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/10115/how-to-overcome-fear>
	+ <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5433/5-real-fears-of-growing-older>
	+ <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2254/fears-of-aging>

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**Anchor image/Visuals:**

* Pillow – what keeps us up at night – tossing and turning?

**Hands-on item:**

**Useful stuff:** Go to our [website](https://lakeharborumc.org/2023/10/october-9-2023-worship-brainstorming-for-no-fear-november/) for more details

* Pepper & Salt comics (9-23-23, 10-1-23)

**Music ideas:** Use In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful (FWS 2195) each week.

* First Song of Isaiah (FWS 2030)
* Be Thou My Vision (UMH 451)
* Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus (UMH 349)
* God of Grace and God of Glory (UMH 577) – *Grant us wisdom, grant us courage…*
* God of Love and God of Power (UMH 578) – *We are not the first to be banished by our fears from thee; give us courage…*
* How Firm a Foundation (UMH 529) – *Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed…*
* Standing on the Promises (UMH 374)
* “Whom Shall I Fear?” by Chris Tomlin
* “Trust in You” by Lauren Daigle
* “No Longer Slaves” by Bethel Music

**Children’s Time:** Use items that give us comfort – blanket, stuffed animal, etc. *On a related note:* [30 Things that make us feel comforted in 30 minutes or less](https://cupcakesandcashmere.com/lifestyle/things-that-make-us-feel-comforted-in-30-minutes-or-less)

**Media:**

* [“Do Not Fear for I Am With You.”](https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/130775/do-not-fear-for-i-am-with-you-minimovie) Length: 1:18. Cost: $15.00. Web license: Yes. This highlights the Bible’s repeated admonition to not fear, emphasizing that despite the power of fear to limit us, God’s presence with us is the reason we need not be afraid.
* “[Do Not Fear.”](https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/116287/do-not-fear) Length: 2:04. Cost: $20.00. Web license: Probably not. We live in a world full of worry, fear, and chaos. We’re often blinded by the noise of the world, but when we take the time to look up, we’re reminded of who our God is and all that hea has done.

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**November 5, 2023:** **“Destination Unknown, But God Is There”**

(Fear of the Future) -Pentecost 23

**Scripture:** Psalm 46 (NLT)

#### *For the choir director: A song of the descendants of Korah, to be sung by soprano voices.*

**1**God is our refuge and strength,
    always ready to help in times of trouble.
**2**So we will not fear when earthquakes come
    and the mountains crumble into the sea.
**3**Let the oceans roar and foam.
    Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge! *Interlude*

**4**A river brings joy to the city of our God,
    the sacred home of the Most High.
**5**God dwells in that city; it cannot be destroyed.
    From the very break of day, God will protect it.
**6**The nations are in chaos,
    and their kingdoms crumble!
God’s voice thunders,
    and the earth melts!
**7**The Lord of Heaven’s Armies is here among us;
    the God of Israel[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+46&version=NLT#fen-NLT-14598b)] is our fortress. *Interlude*

**8**Come, see the glorious works of the Lord:
    See how he brings destruction upon the world.
**9**He causes wars to end throughout the earth.
    He breaks the bow and snaps the spear;
    he burns the shields with fire.

**10**“Be still, and know that I am God!
    I will be honored by every nation.
    I will be honored throughout the world.”

**11**The Lord of Heaven’s Armies is here among us;
    the God of Israel is our fortress. *Interlude*

**Scripture:** Proverbs (NKJV)

1: 7 – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
    but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

3: 5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:25-34 (NIV) *Do Not Worry*

**25**“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? **26**Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? **27**Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

**28**“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. **29**Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. **30**If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? **31**So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ **32**For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **33**But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **34**Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

**Synopsis:** We often like to control the future of our lives, so much so that we toss and turn at night. We stress out and worry about things that we can’t control. You may hear and even say, “God is in control,” but what does that mean as we live today and look at tomorrow?

**Felt need:** To let our faith in God (and fear/awe of God) be bigger than our fear of the future unknown

**Visuals:**

**Hands-on item:**

**Activity:** Holy Communion

**Media possibilities:**

* [“Worship Case Scenario.”](https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/55173/worstcase-scenario) Length: 2:27. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. Controlled by fear and worry, our minds often race to the worst-case scenario in any circumstance. However, God wants us to trust Him with our tomorrows, and realize that He is faithful to walk with us through whatever may come.
* [“Fear Not.”](https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/93172/fear-not) Length: 1:19. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. A reminder that we have always had trouble in this world, but Jesus has overcome it. The news that He lives is still the greatest news of all.

**Music:**

**Children’s time:**

**Social media:**

**Resources:**

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**November 12, 2023:** **“You Are Accepted”** (Fear of Rejection)

Pentecost 24

**Scripture:** Psalm 27 (NIV) *Of David*

**1**The Lord is my light and my salvation—
    whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
    of whom shall I be afraid?

**2**When the wicked advance against me
    to devour[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+27&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14288a)] me,
it is my enemies and my foes
    who will stumble and fall.
**3**Though an army besiege me,
    my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
    even then I will be confident.

**4**One thing I ask from the Lord,
    this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
    all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
    and to seek him in his temple.
**5**For in the day of trouble
    he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
    and set me high upon a rock.

**6**Then my head will be exalted
    above the enemies who surround me;
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
    I will sing and make music to the Lord.

**7**Hear my voice when I call, Lord;
    be merciful to me and answer me.
**8**My heart says of you, “Seek his face!”
    Your face, Lord, I will seek.
**9**Do not hide your face from me,
    do not turn your servant away in anger;
    you have been my helper.
Do not reject me or forsake me,
    God my Savior.
**10**Though my father and mother forsake me,
    the Lord will receive me.
**11**Teach me your way, Lord;
    lead me in a straight path
    because of my oppressors.
**12**Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,
    for false witnesses rise up against me,
    spouting malicious accusations.

**13**I remain confident of this:
    I will see the goodness of the Lord
    in the land of the living.
**14**Wait for the Lord;
    be strong and take heart
    and wait for the Lord.

**Scripture:** Proverbs 29 – esp. v. 25 (NIV)

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.

### Scripture: I John 4: 7-21 *God’s Love and Ours*

**7**Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. **8**Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. **9**This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **10**This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. **11**Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12**No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

**13**This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. **14**And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. **15**If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. **16**And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. **17**This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. **18**There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

**19**We love because he first loved us. **20**Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. **21**And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

**Synopsis:** It’s easy to feed our fear of rejection by paying more attention to what others think of us rather than remembering that we are loved and beloved by God. How do we stop doing the things that feed feelings of rejection and instead take on practices that help us overcome it?

**Felt need:** To let our recognition of God’s love and our desire for God’s wisdom, will, and way be bigger than our fear of rejection

**Visuals:**

**Hands-on item:**

**Activity:** Acknowledge Veterans Day

**Media possibilities:**

* ["But God Does Love You.”](https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/113705/but-god-does-love-you) Length: 1:20. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. “God loves you.” This mini-movie pushes past the cliches that simple phrase brings to mind for so many people and insists that God does love and that it matters.
* [“Psalm 27.”](https://skitguys.com/videos/psalms-for-lent-iii-psalm-27) Length: 2:56. Cost: $18.00. Web license: Yes. Based on Psalm 27, this call to worship reflects on God as our shelter, reminding us that we don’t need to fear because we can be confident in His protection.
* [“Our Light (Psalm 27).”](https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/95923/our-light-psalm-27) Length: 1:25. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. You are our light. You are our salvation. Why should we fear? This energetic worship intro is based on Psalm 27.

**Music:**

**Children’s time:**

**Social media:**

**Resources:**

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**November 19, 2023:** **“Are You ‘All In’?”** (Fear of Commitment)

Pentecost 25, Sunday before Thanksgiving

**NOTE:** Pastor Mary will be on a trip to the Holy Land and will secure coverage. This service could be conducive to people sharing about how commitment has changed their lives.

**Scripture:** Psalm 23 (NKJV)

*A Psalm of David.*

**23**The Lord *is* my shepherd;
I shall not want.
**2**He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
**3**He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name’s sake.

**4**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You *are* with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

**5**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.
**6**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.

**Scripture:** Proverbs 16 – esp. v. 3

Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
    and he will establish your plans.

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 31: 7-8 (NIV)

**7**Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the Lord swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. **8**The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

**Scripture:** Philippians 4: 4-7 (NIV)

4Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

5Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**8**Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. **9**Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**Synopsis:** Too often fear can keep us from experiencing the fullness of God’s blessings. We stand on the sidelines instead of making deeper commitments to use God’s gifts as a part of building God’s Kingdom. But our faith story is full of people who followed God faithfully and found great joy in loving and serving, and it can be our story too.

**Felt need:** To let our commitment to God be first in our lives so that other commitments fall into place

**Visuals:**

**Hands-on item:**

**Activity:**

**Media possibilities:**

* ["Psalm 23 – The Good Shepherd.”](https://skitguys.com/videos/psalm-23-the-good-shepherd) Length: 1:57. Cost: $18.98. Web license: Yes. We all need to be reminded that God is our protector, and that His goodness allows us to break free from our fears. No matter what happens to us, The Good Shepherd is always WITH us.
* [“Fear No Evil.”](https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/121069/fear-no-evil) Length: 2:33. Cost: $20.00. Web license: Yes. A mini movie themed from Psalm 23. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil. I will no fear. But I am afraid. Yet somehow, in just releasing my worries to the ONE, there is a peace beyond all understanding that covers me. A relief. As if expressing my grief has allowed my cares to be cast upon the one who hold the world in his hands.
* [“In Uncertain Times.”](https://skitguys.com/videos/in-uncertain-times) Length: 1:35. Cost: $19.99. Web license: Yes. In uncertain times, it’s easy to be consumed by fear, anxiety, and hopelessness. But God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind. As we walk this journey together, let us remember our God is not surprised by any of this. He is sovereign. He is in control. He is great, glorious, gracious, and good. May we, without hesitation, find strength and peace in that truth.

**Music:**

**Children’s time:**

**Social media:**

**Resources:**