

Q: Can we have a single *Welcome Home* Sunday without using the longer worship series?

A: *Welcome Home* Sunday and the worship series have related but different goals.

For *Welcome Home* Sunday you are encouraging 100% of members to set aside that day and attend worship. The stated goal is to celebrate the blessings of having a loving Christian community... to have something like a spiritual family reunion... to enjoy a “packed atmosphere” in worship like you might have only on Christmas Eve or Easter. The less stressed but main goal is to have a worship service that, for members who been away from worship for some time, is a natural time to return.

The goal of the worship series is to help people, especially if they have been away from worship for awhile, to get back into the habit of going. It has been demonstrated that organizing worship into a thematic series can encourage more regular attendance. People see a flow from week to week. They see a month of worship as a “whole” rather than as four stand-alone services. Thus, the *Welcome Home* worship series takes the assigned lessons for the liturgical season of End Time and groups them together in a thematic arch.

Certainly, a congregation could have a stand-alone *Welcome Home* Sunday. However, if the congregation achieves the goal of getting some delinquent members to come back to worship on that day, what will be the encouragement to come back the next week? ...the week after that? We believe turning *Welcome Home* Sunday into the first day of a worship series might aid in that encouragement.

Q: The service folder templates have dates for this year, 2019. Does that mean we must do *Welcome Home* this year?

A: No. *Welcome Home* is intended to encourage congregations to be evangelically aggressive in dealing with worship delinquency. That encouragement is part of a long-term strategy that does not tie in with any given year. For *Welcome Home*, the tactic used to achieve that strategy was to have a fall worship service where 100% attendance is encouraged, followed by a worship series that builds on that initial service. Because a worship series was part of the tactic, we provided one—a series that coincides uses the assigned lessons for the season of End Time in liturgical Year C. Late October was chosen, because that is a time when church attendance typically is peaking anyway. *Welcome Home* closes out the Church Year. The first Sunday *after Welcome Home* is Advent 1.

Therefore, a congregation could use *Welcome Home* in later years. If they wanted to use the provided worship series, they would need to schedule *Welcome Home* to fall on the final five Sundays of the Church Year.

Q: Why are there translucent boxes blocking some of the psalms and hymns in the service folder templates?

A: There are some hymns and psalms and songs we have put in the worship plan that are not in public domain. Therefore, a congregation will need to purchase the music for those to make the service folder templates usable.

In some cases, your congregation may already have the rights. For example, if your congregation owns the digital version of *Christian Worship Supplement* and a OneLicense, you already have the right to print any CWS song in the worship plan. You simply need to enter your OneLicense number on the back page of the service folder.

In other cases, your congregation will need to purchase the recommended music. For example, the Psalm of the Day for Christ the King Sunday is not found in *Christian Worship* or *Christian Worship* supplement. In the *Welcome Home* Worship Plan there is a hyperlink to exact page where Northwestern Publishing House sells that psalm. If you do not purchase that psalm from NPH, you don't have the music you need to use that psalm, and legally, you cannot print the service folder. You would have to delete the entire psalm out of the service folder template and put in something else. However, if you purchase the psalm from NPH, you can then legally delete the translucent text box and use the service folder as it is.

Q: Are there any midi files for worship?

Unfortunately, no. However, most of the *Welcome Home* worship series uses familiar hymns and songs. But for the special songs, those would either need to be developed or you would need to modify the service folder templates to include the songs for which you already have midi files.

We greatly look forward to the completion of the new hymnal. A big component of the hymnal project is the digital resources. They will include a Service Builder which will make producing high-quality service folders easy. They will also include an assortment of audio files to help those congregations that do not have adequate musicians on hand.

Q: In the Elder work resources, there are references to an online *Welcome Home* elder training program as well as something called *The Peter Plan*. Are we supposed to pick one? ...use both?

A: *The Peter Plan* is an elder system for addressing delinquency. It shows how to track member worship attendance. It offers suggestions for what to do at various points of absenteeism; e.g. when one is gone for four straight weeks, when one is gone for eight straight weeks, etc. *The Peter Plan* does not offer any training to elders about how to share law and gospel or how to handle objections.

The online *Welcome Home* Elder Training provides all the training that is needed to interact with a straying member. It provides the gospel motivation. It references the need for an elder system and delineates all the necessary components.

Thus, we recommend starting with the online *Welcome Home* Elder training. As your congregation is developing an elder system, if you want a starting point, look at the resources provided in *The Peter Plan*.