



WORSHIP TEAM

2019 Worship Ministry Update

We have come so far this year in our worship ministry! We always seek to know God in a more meaningful way, and challenge ourselves to continually pursue His will and a closer relationship with Him through the ways we worship together as a church. That is evident in the worship at Yoncalla Church of Christ.

Our Worship Music:

This past year has been a great year for worship at Yoncalla Church of Christ. As a church, we have grown so much in the depth of our worship, moving from repetitive, surface level music to powerful music that is rich in lyrics. We have been very purposeful in our song choices, and have gotten in the groove of worship using a seasonal model. In September-December we sang the first 25 songs from our 50 song library, and then transitioned to the second 25 songs in January. We haven't introduced any new music since January, and have dialed back some of the unfamiliar songs to allow the congregation time to catch up and adjust to the changes. So far, this has been going well.

We decided against introducing some of the songs listed on the 2018 update because they don't seem to be a good fit for Yoncalla. Those songs include

Build My Life
Jesus We Love You
The Well

We are still looking forward to introducing songs including:

My Lighthouse (by Rend Collective)
Yes I Will (by Vertical Church Band)
The Same Love (by Paul Baloche)
Move (by Chris McClarney)

and some 2018 releases that include:

The Way (by Housefires)
Nobody Loves Me Like You (by Chris Tomlin)

We're excited to begin introducing some of these songs as early as May 2019!

With so many great songs out there, it is still hard to keep the list at 50 songs, but it allows us as a church and as a worship team to focus less on singing a huge variety of songs, and more on singing from the heart to our Father in heaven. To do that, we have to remain purposeful in our worship.



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Technology

We have continued to grow in this area as well! We have installed a confidence monitor and projector in the back of the sanctuary, and this has allowed us to say goodbye to the music stands on stage! Also, the speaker can reference the monitor during the message instead of turning around to look at the front projector.

Our vocalists are using the confidence monitor to reference lyrics, and our musicians are using tablets (Samsung Galaxy Tab A) and accessing their music weekly from a folder in Google Drive. Here's how it works:

The worship leader is able to access the yoncallachurchworshipteam@gmail.com Google Drive account from any device, anywhere, to organize the week's music.

- 1) They simply use the password "yccworship" to log in to Drive.
- 2) They create a folder in "Services" for the week's worship set, using the service date as the folder title.
- 3) Then, they download the desired music from the season's worship library (also in Drive) onto their device.
- 4) They upload the music into the services's folder and number the items to organize them.

The other devices that can access that Drive account will automatically update when they log in.

No more pulling paper music, no more miscommunication on song keys or going all the way to the church to prepare the service.

In addition to using Google Drive as a resource, we began using Planning Center Online to organize our Order of Worship for each service. We don't currently use the communication features because of the added cost associated with those features. However, Planning Center Online is the best resource for staying organized and planning weekly services.

Finally, we have started recording and uploading our services to Facebook each week. We bought a high-quality digital camcorder and dedicated an auxiliary channel from the mixer for the audio recording. We are still working hard to get the audio mix right, but we have received a lot of positive feedback from viewers! I look forward to seeing this effort have a greater impact on our mission.



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Percussion

Sadly, our percussionist passed away in 2018. We are very saddened by this loss. No one can replace him, but we are looking in to purchasing a Cajon drum and training a percussionist in this area. We are having difficulty finding a drummer who can handle a full drum set, and it can be a very intimidating instrument to new musicians. The Cajon drum is often used in acoustic worship sets and is a much easier instrument to teach. Plus, it will give Yoncalla's worship team a level of percussion, as well as a unique identity. I look forward to exploring this option further. Currently the church is borrowing the worship leader's personal Cajon drum.

Electric Guitar

We have also added an electric guitar player to the team this year. His lead playing and background support has really added a bit more body to the songs we are singing on Sunday morning, and he has fit in well with the team as a whole! Really looking forward to watching him grow as a musician and as a believer.

Worship Practice

Practices having been going well. We are still meeting on Thursdays from 6:15-7:30pm, but our focus has shifted to more prayer, developing as believers and musicians, and practicing new music. This has been one the greatest benefits of the new worship model! Because the music is more familiar to the team, we are spending less time in our midweek practices on Sunday's set list. Instead, we are praying with one another, sharing our lives together, and practicing for upcoming introductions to the congregation. Also incorporated in this time is devotion and workshop time. This is an invaluable part of coming together as more than just a group of musicians and vocalists, but a group of believers!

Final Thoughts

I am grateful for the dedication of the team, and for the gifts each person brings to this ministry on a weekly basis. It is because of our dedication to challenging ourselves in worship that we grow closer to God. It is hard at times to keep moving forward, when all we want to do is settle in and be comfortable where we are. But as a church, we must always pursue God's Will and His heart. Our worship ministry is a major engine driving that mission. I look forward to the coming year and all that God has in store for us with great anticipation! Never lose your passion for worship or your focus on God!

Always In Christ,
Pastor Anthony