

Welcome to the KEFC Worship Arts Ministry

We're glad that you have shown an interest in getting involved in one of our Ministry Teams. Please take a few minutes to carefully read The Worship Ministry Handbook before making your commitment. Please contact Pastor Kent if you have any questions. We're here to help you find your place in ministry.

THE GREATNESS OF OUR GOD

What a blessing it is to worship our God together! I mean, really! Can you believe that the very God who created every single atom that your body is comprised of, actually seeks worshipers who will worship Him in spirit and truth? (Jn 4:23-24) Can you grasp the fact that Jesus went to the cross for us, took the scourging, the shame, mocking, and separation from His Father that was caused by our sin? How can we comprehend that the eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing, every-where present God enjoys listening to us pray to Him...enjoys the time we spend with Him...is delighted with you and even rejoices over you with singing?! (Zeph 3:17)

I cannot grasp all of His greatness. Nope. It is too much to handle, but I want to know more. I want to know HIM more. I hope you feel the same way.

-Pastor Kent

Kearney eFree MISSION STATEMENT:

Building a transformational community by growing in love with Christ and all people.

CORE VALUES:

Truth

Gospel

Community

Mission

A-B-C WORSHIP MINISTRY VALUES

- **Authenticity of Leadership:** The quality or condition of being authentic, trustworthy, or genuine. (Antonyms: false, fake, imitation) We need to be people who's faith is real and lived out authentically, admitting our need as sinners for God's mercy and grace, showing grace to each other. Our lives should demonstrate a vibrant relationship with our Savior every day of the week, and not putting on a façade on Sundays when we lead. In pursuing a vibrant relationship with Christ, all worship leaders need to be growing in their faith, and walking with Christ day to day.

- **Bible-saturated:** We will always seek to communicate the Word in the songs we sing, the words we speak. To do this we need to be in the word daily, for our joy and growth in our relationship with God.
- **Christ-Centered:** The mission of the worship ministry can be thought of as pointing people to Jesus. Everything we do should be marked by this goal. In a sense, our leading should say “Look at Him!” “Isn’t He amazing!”
- **Disciple-making:** Pre-believers will be drawn to the Savior by seeing our genuine, heart-filled, joyful, expressions of worship, and we will make efforts to contextualize the gospel message in the musical styles we choose (1 Cor. 9:20-23).
- **Excellence:** We will strive for excellence in all that we do with selfless and whole-hearted worship, resisting a performance-mentality. We strive for excellence as a matter of personal stewardship of God-given gifts, in following God’s example (he does everything with excellence!), and as a church we will seek to lead with excellence as an offering, a costly gift that is an expression of worship (2 Sam. 24:24). One church’s statement regarding excellence that I like reads like this:

“Undistracting excellence: We will try to sing and play and pray and preach in such a way that people’s attention will not be diverted from the substance by shoddy ministry nor by excessive finesse, elegance or refinement. Natural, undistracting excellence will let the truth and beauty of God shine through.”

It should also be said that the standard for measuring excellence in worship is how well people are engaging in expressing their worship. When people are involved and their eyes are fixed on Jesus, then we have been successful.

- **Future Worship Leaders:** Another value in our Worship Arts Ministry is the training and investing in the future worship leaders that God is raising up in our church. Jesus was always living life with his disciples, investing in their lives because they were going to be His representatives and were the future leaders of the Kingdom of God on earth. So also the more mature in faith will serve side by side with younger worship leaders, and we will give opportunities for them to get their feet wet in leading. It would be so great for our mature believers to encourage each of these young ones as they grow spiritually under our roof.

THE HEART OF WORSHIP

We can sing our hearts out and look like we have it all together in worship meetings, but if our heart is not right with God, then it’s all meaningless. Our leading and our living needs to match.

Matt. 15:8-9 “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

There must be a relationship with God that is real and vibrant...a walking with Jesus that is going somewhere. This doesn't mean that you have to be perfect (only God is), just that you are humbly following Jesus, being obedient to his word.

John 15:9-10 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

Our love for God should be the same on Sunday as it is on Monday or Friday. Real worship is lived out, everyday. It is the what or who that you treasure, and give the most importance in your life.

Luke 10:27 And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

The natural outflow of loving God with all of our heart is to love our neighbor. This is a major part of our mission... "Growing in love for Christ and his people".

UP FRONT

Being "up front" means that a few hundred people will be looking in your direction, and what we do can help or distract from worship. It's not only a matter of how we sing or play, but also how we present ourselves in posture, expression, and how we dress. Be aware of these things and how they can help or hinder everyone watching.

It's amazing how encouraging an expressive worship leader can be to worshippers, and the opposite is true too...a dead face can really be a bummer.

Just as our musical tastes are very diverse, so are our tastes in how we dress. From jeans to suits, you see it all in our church. Our aim is to honor God in all that we do, and He knows our hearts, so dress in a way that honors Him. For some that may be a suit and tie, but for others, wearing jeans is living out worship in authenticity. I understand both hearts.

I Sam. 16:7 "...For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

DRESS CODE

We must also consider modesty in how we dress, so as to not be a stumbling block to others. Ladies, please avoid low necklines, tight clothes, & short skirts. Men are wired in such a way that this could be distracting. Desire within the marriage relationship is a great thing, but desire outside of that relationship is lust and many men wrestle with this. I realize that women also struggle with lust, and men also need to be careful in how they dress.

The way we dress is one way we can relate to people we are trying to reach. The dress code for the Worship Arts Ministry is based on the vision we have for the people we are ministering to. Always use modesty in your choice of apparel, whatever the current style of fashion. Use these guidelines as a general rule:

- No shorts or tank tops. Ladies, no tops with spaghetti straps.
- No t-shirts with inappropriate writing.
- Jeans should not have holes in them.
- Ladies, skirts must be no higher than the knee, and tops must be modest.
- Avoid wearing anything that might be a distraction to others, whether too fancy or too casual.

WALK WITH JESUS

Whether you like it or not, being up front as a worship leader means that others will be watching what you do off-stage, at work, and around town. Your life is a witness to all around you. The words and message we sing on Sunday will be evaluated in how we act in the office and in the classroom. Our integrity might even be questioned when we sin and mess up. God is gracious and merciful, and we should have the same mercy towards each other. But to continue in sin is to walk away from him, and persisting in sin not only harms us individually, it harms the ministry we represent.

ACCOUNTABILITY, ENCOURAGEMENT & GROWTH

At first glance the word Accountability may seem intimidating, but upon closer examination it is a wonderful thing. To be held accountable (voluntarily) by a friend, a mentor, or group is to know a deep part of fellowship that only believers can experience. Understanding that we all have struggles and times of wrestling with sin, it is extremely valuable to have others helping and encouraging you in your faith walk.

Being a part of the worship team assumes that you are willing to be held accountable by your team leader. Each member will also be encouraged to be a part of a small group for personal growth and application of the Word. Ultimately, we are all accountable to the leadership team of church, the elder team, as they have been charged to oversee the body of believers that make up our church.

LIFE GROUPS

As leaders in the Worship Arts Ministry at KEFC, we all have the responsibility of going before our faith community each week and pointing to Jesus. Our job is to direct others' attention to the magnificence of our Savior God. This is significant role, not one to be taken lightly.

Because of this, it is my desire that we all have in place a system for accountability, personal growth and fellowship, that comes within a **small group** relationship.

This is important for several reasons. First and foremost is my desire that we all would find our greatest joy in walking with Jesus. As Paul said, knowing Jesus is greater than anything!

Philippians 3:7-11

“But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”

Having a personal relationship with Jesus, and growing in knowing Him is to be desired above all things.

Second, as we grow larger as a church we need to grow smaller. It becomes easier to “slip through the cracks” as churches grow larger, even to the point of being in a large group of people and feeling alone. We all need the fellowship that goes deeper than what goes on in a large group. We need to know each other well enough to ask tough questions, share our hearts desires and struggles, pray with each other, and encourage each other.

Third, when we have a small group of believers that loves and cares for each other, we can help each other avoid the joy-crushing pain that sin causes, and spur each other on to following Jesus. Sin grows in the dark, and robs us of joy. Having people to confide in and hold us accountable in love and trust is a wonderful thing and provides a safe place to shine light into the darkness. It takes time to get to the place in a relationship where you can feel ready to share the struggles of your spiritual walk, just as friendships take time to grow. Having the trust of a good friend in accountability can be a huge freedom-giving blessing!

Many of you are already in small groups, which is great! If you are not yet in a small group I want to encourage you to begin thinking about it. I believe for the health and effectiveness of our worship arts ministry team, that participation in a small group will be an expected goal for involvement in worship leadership.

MEMBERSHIP

Church membership is one way of publicly demonstrating commitment to a group of people (the church), and submitting to it’s leadership. All worship team members will be expected to be **in the process** of becoming a member, as a sign of commitment and embracing of the mission and vision of the church. There is no established time-line to complete the membership process. Membership information classes are offered a few times a year.

WORSHIP TEAM REHEARSAL COMMITMENT

- Because preparation for worship is vital, the Worship Team, including scheduled musicians and vocalists, must commit to attend the rehearsal, making the most of the time by learning new songs, spending time together in worship, and making sure the worship set is ready for the following Sunday.
- Being on-time for rehearsals not only a sign of respect to the others on the team, it is an expectation for continued involvement. Remember that when you are continually late, it is a waste of the team's time. If an occasion arises that it is unavoidable to be late, please call the worship leader as soon as you know.
- It is also encouraged for each team member will spend time outside of our regularly schedule practices to learn songs or to improve on his/her voice or instrument. Growth as a musician requires practice, listening to recordings, stepping outside normal style tendencies, and being creative. Much emphasis will be placed on learning techniques & styles demonstrated on the recordings of the songs we are working on.

STEPS TO PARTNER WITH THE WORSHIP TEAM

- Fill out the Worship Ministry questionnaire.
- Read The Worship Ministry Handbook and agree to follow the guidelines.
- After receiving the above, Pastor Kent will contact you to enter the audition process.
- Complete Volunteer Application which includes a background check.

Thank you for taking the time to read over The Worship & Arts Ministry Handbook. It is our desire that you will find your place with us and experience the joy in leading people to a place where they can experience God in a way that they have never known. We look forward to having you become a part of our team.