

## What Is Your Top Priority?

My name is Timothy Mattern. I am humbled to have the opportunity to serve as Worship Leader/Director of Music for this beautiful blend of people God has called to form Millcreek Community UMC. As we begin this journey together take a couple minutes to consider the ordering of three priorities that influence the quality of our service to Jesus.

1. Worshippers
2. Leaders
3. Musicians

These are the priorities of our servant musicians who help provide support to worship at Millcreek through our music ministries. But the principles have broader application beyond what we do when we gather to praise God. Let us consider them together.

### **Service**

Whether you serve as a musician or in some other way, finding some expression of your talents for the glory of God is an essential part of the journey of every Christ-follower. Colossians 3:23-24 tells us to do our work for the Lord, not for men, for we are serving Jesus. This is true in every endeavor, especially serving with our church family. This is important, but not our top priority. It is important to remember as we serve, there are other principles at work as well.

### **Leadership**

You may not think you are a leader, but every one of us is responsible to lead our own souls. There are also often people watching how we are doing that, and some of them will follow our example, which makes us leaders. As we follow Jesus, others will be challenged and encouraged to follow us. The writer of I Corinthians 11 reminded his readers to follow Him as He followed Christ. Again, this is an essential part of our journey with Christ, but I would say not the top priority.

### **Worship**

When asked what was the greatest commandment, Jesus said "Love the Lord your God with all your heart with all your soul with all your mind and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30) What is worship, giving glory to God, other than a continuous response of love to the One that has first loved us? This is why I believe that it is our top priority. We must be careful to keep it as the first thing in all our other actions.

We must service using the talents God has given us. For some those talents are musical, for others something else.

We must lead even as we follow Christ every moment of every day.

But first, and in a way that influences everything else we do, we must worship God, as a response to His love for us.

I will be trying to live these out before you and helping our servant musicians to do the same. Please pray for me and all of us as we do. And know we are praying for you to encounter Christ each time we gather to serve, lead, and worship!