

July 2025 Ambient Noise Concerns During Worship

From: M Bret Blackford (bret\_blackford@yahoo.com)  
To: bret\_blackford@yahoo.com  
Date: Saturday, July 12, 2025 at 07:20 PM CDT

MEMO to FILE

----- Forwarded Message -----  
**From:** Brian Hill <hillbrian@att.net>  
**To:** M Bret Blackford <bret\_blackford@yahoo.com>  
**Cc:** Elizabeth McPherson <emcpherson@mcknightcrossings.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 02:00:03 PM CDT  
**Subject:** Ambient Noise Concerns During Worship

Hi Bret,

You have the majority of information right there. I would invite you to hang out in the back with the team this Sunday to hear what we hear. The sounds aren't directly affecting the livestream since the only audio flowing into the stream comes from the microphones at the front of the auditorium, but the sound of doors, voices, and ambient comings and goings is a significant factor in the experience of people in the pews and does have an impact on the ability of the sound tech to mix the audio as well.

I think being present at the back for a service will be illuminating and I'm happy to discuss the ideas. Nothing I'm thinking is any level of major overhaul. Just enough to control some of the sound that overflows from beneath the overhang into the audience.

-Brian Hill  
(he, him, his)

On Jul 10, 2025, at 1:48 PM, M Bret Blackford <bret\_blackford@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hej Brian,

Elizabeth McPherson reached out to me about some occasional noise issues in the auditorium that may be affecting the AV team during worship. She mentioned two specific concerns:

1. The push-bars on the auditorium doors make a loud “clack” when opened during the service.
2. People sometimes gather and talk at the back of the auditorium under the low ceiling, which can generate distracting noise.

I'm not sure if this ambient noise is bleeding into the live stream, or if it's simply creating distractions for the AV team and making it harder to dial in the audio levels. I'd appreciate any insight you can share to help clarify the scope and nature of the issue.

Elizabeth mentioned that some possible solutions—like sound curtains or acoustic materials—were briefly discussed. Before we consider any changes, we'd like to better understand how significant the issue is: is it just an occasional mild nuisance, or does it consistently create major frustration for the team or negatively affect the live stream?

We'll also want to keep aesthetics of the auditorium and any cost in mind when evaluating any solution—making sure we're addressing the right problem without over-engineering the fix.

We're very appreciative of your skill, dedication, and the many years you've invested in this ministry. I'll try to catch you this Sunday to talk more, but feel free to email if that's a better way to communicate the scope and details.

Thanks again, Brian!

— Bret