

The Middle of the Pews

Dear Friends,

We are all familiar with term, “middle of the road.” I’m concerned about the “middle of the pews.”

I’m writing to ask a favor. Dress warmly for church. I’m told that the reason that so many of you sit on the outside of the pews is that it’s too cold in the middle. At Session meeting on Monday someone said that it’s easier to dress warmly and take a coat off than to discover you are cold and have to move. If that’s the case, please wear a coat you can take off if you are warm and please sit towards the center of the pews. The Video camera sees more empty seats than filled. We are trying to figure out how to post our services online but I’m reluctant to do so to broadcast what looks like an empty sanctuary.

Having the center pews of the church empty does not present a welcoming picture to visitors. We are having a good number of visitors this summer and we would like them to come again. Seeing a sea of empty seats does not give a good first impression.

The temperature of the sanctuary is affected by the number of people in the sanctuary. Sitting closer together will make you warmer.

We are a welcoming, caring congregation. Maybe by dressing warmly and sitting closer to each other will better enable us give a “warmer” welcome to those who visit us and encourage them to come again. Maybe after a few visits they will want to become a part of our church family and help us fill in those empty spaces in the ... middle of the pews.