

## Comments overheard from other members of church regarding Joys and Sorrows

1. Fewer complaints since most recent change-still some eye rolling.
2. None
3. Some think it is wonderful. Others think it interferes with worship.
4. We have very strong feelings in our congregation both for continuing j&s and for eliminating it. A few years ago we held town meetings and openly discussed the pros and cons. Members on each side said they'd leave the congregation if we continued or we eliminated. We continued in a modified form. Some members who wanted j&s eliminated left the congregation.
5. Complaints about trivial sharings
6. most members love it and a very few vocal members feel that they can be too trivial
7. Very mixed. Some hate it others love it
8. varies
9. there are some regulars who find something to contribute each week
10. A majority in favor of our process; occasionally people complain about topics/length of time
11. most consider it important to community-building
12. Some love it, some hate it
13. thankful that we send cards & help as needed
14. Feedback on joys and concerns is mostly positive but there are some who openly dislike it.
15. I dare not change it as long as it is manageable
16. some members do not care for the mix of joys and sorrows
17. Most favor, but a very few individuals oppose this practice
18. Positive and Negative
19. Members who talk to me about it seem to find it completely what they want.
20. Primarily positive
21. Some older members are tired of it. A few hate it.
22. they miss open mic, but they don't miss the gruesome medical details, the long mumbles or the eccentricities....
23. depends on the individual- some very personal lengthy sharing makes some people uncomfortable, frequent trivial sharing by same person is frustrating
24. many people like it. on special holidays, I cut it one service and there was a loud outcry. Never do that again. Some say it is the high point of the service. Some people are known to go on. I try!
25. Very divided opinions on a broad range.
26. some like it , some don't, others don't know anything different
27. Very meaningful to some; helps us stay in touch with each other's lives
28. Strongly supportive -- insist on keeping it
29. sometimes abused with self advertising
30. Almost all are for it
31. Members who use it, like it (it's repetitive people, mostly). It is not something that could easily be changed, as it's seen as expressing care and being welcoming -- sort of a third-rail.
32. very mixed -- both adored and despised
33. they want to keep it

34. the humanist don't like sharing any feelings or emotions. Our younger and middle aged members, while sometimes irritated when someone goes on too long, honor the need to envelope major life events.
35. positive and negative
36. Some complain because it's too long or even exists; others (more) say it is the most significant part of the worship service for them.
37. I have heard a few members say it helped them to join by making the existing members of the congregation seem to be real people with real concerns.
38. See below
39. Varying--most people either love it or hate it! Some find it the most important part of the service; others (like me) think it is actually a hindrance to worship and growth.
40. most members like what we do and comment on it - see note 17 for future directions
41. that it is an important part of creating community
42. Some want more sharing, an open mic, others are fine with the current system.
43. Too many are inappropriate
44. All sides--"for" and "against"--the traditional joys and sorrows are content.
45. some concern since taking away open mic option several (5?) years ago, but mostly very positive about method and practice
46. strongly positive
47. Members are put off by trivial announcements, but most appreciate the opportunity for members to share personal concerns and issues.
48. It's an on-going topic reflecting different ideas of how are time on Sunday should be spent
49. some want the open mic back, others are glad it is different
50. It's an integral, untouchable part of the service.
51. count on it
52. 50-50 like it & don't like
53. We have had conversations about joys and concerns and the comments we received have ranged across the spectrum from J&C is the best part of the service and we shouldn't mess with it, to J&C is a
54. most members feel that it connects them to other members of the fellowship
55. Some Positive, some negative
56. Members participate and share their joys and concerns.
57. Most appreciate; a few don't
58. Those I know really like it as mentioned from our search committee survey
59. there are a few members who do not like it at all. Some think people use it inappropriately
60. Before changes that it took too much time.
61. as with most congregations, some members love J&C, others are less enthusiastic; adding the opportunity for silent J&C seems to be appreciated and utilized by many--also cuts down on spoken J&C
62. mixed, but mostly positive
63. lots of people say it's important some people find it vexing
64. much appreciated
65. Usually very positive.
66. none

67. positive