

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2021
REVEREND EDWARD DUNN

“Perhaps no other profession requires the use of more skills than that of a pastor. To be a pastor one must have commitment, patience, a deep love for God and all God’s people, and a sense of humor too!” The book, *The Presbyterian Handbook for Pastors*, includes advice for the pastor faced with how to handle a ringing cell phone during service (sing along or allow the moment to pass); what to do with old sermon manuscripts (use them for packing paper); or things you should never say in worship (anything your grandmother would not want to hear).

So you’ll never hear me say, “let’s give the...(choir or others) a round of applause.” The question about clapping in worship is sometimes asked and my response is to acknowledge why we applaud and whom we are applauding. God is the center of our worship so when we are moved to clap, we applaud God. We express our appreciation to God for the gifts and talents given to those who lead worship, not to the performer.

Let’s be honest, not everyone is comfortable with clapping in church; not everyone is comfortable uttering an “Amen” during worship. Not doing so is okay.

Clapping in worship: This pastor’s advice is clapping that honors God, not the performer, is acceptable.

Not clapping in worship: This pastor’s advice is it’s okay not to clap.

Blessings,
Edward