

Trinity UMC
New Sunday Morning Schedule
Question and Answer



On June 22, 2017 Trinity's Church Council unanimously approved a plan that will alter our Sunday morning schedule. **Beginning on Sunday September 10, 2017, our Sunday schedule will be as follows:**

- 9 AM **Sunday School for All Ages**
- 10 AM **Coffee Hour**
- 10:30 AM **Worship**

Below are some anticipated questions and responses about these changes.

1) Why are we making this change to our Sunday schedule?

We are trying to encourage greater, more consistent participation in both Worship and Sunday School. With a dedicated Sunday School hour followed by a Worship hour, we believe that will create an ideal Sunday schedule that will include more of our adults, youth, and children into both Sunday learning and worship. We also believe that one full worship service will enhance the vitality of worship for everyone and make our service more warm and inviting for new people.

2) How was this decision made?

Last fall, a special worship task force designed a Worship survey that our congregation completed. Based on those findings and a vision to move more of our adults into some kind of Bible study, at our March Church Council meeting Pastor Chris presented a vision to re-arrange our Sunday schedule to enhance our Worship experiences and to create a dedicated Sunday School hour so that more people would be encouraged to participate. Over the next four months our Church Council considered several different schedule options, but ultimately asked the Worship Committee to bring a proposal to our June Church Council meeting. After reviewing the Worship survey in depth and examining the worship and education needs of the church, the Worship Committee proposed and the Church Council unanimously approved the forthcoming changes to our Sunday schedule.

3) What kind of worship service will be at 10:30?

Worship will very much resemble our current 9:30 and 11 AM formats, which are almost identical except for music and some liturgical differences. Music instrumentation will be principally provided by Karen Yim, our outstanding organist/pianist. In addition, we'll also enjoy a rotation of all the different music groups that bless us every week- Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Children's Choir, CrossFire/Fire Inside, On the Road, Joyful Voices, and more. In August, our Worship Committee will work out the details, but we fully intend that our Worship service will be a powerful, Spirit-led time in which there will be something for everyone to latch onto and worship God.

4) **What will happen during Sunday School?**

Our current children's and youth Sunday School classes will remain fully intact. In addition, we will provide several different adult Sunday School classes that will offer a variety of formats and topics to choose from. A Bible study survey will soon be shared with you, and the results of that will help determine what kinds of classes will be offered in September- both Sunday morning and midweek.

5) **How will we accommodate families with children during Worship?**

Pastor Chris passionately believes that worshipping God should be a family event- something that encompasses and includes all ages and generations. To become lifelong worshippers of God, children must learn how to participate in Worship alongside adults, and adults must make room for children and youth in Worship. To make this easier, we are considering having resources available for children (children's bulletins, worship activity bags, etc.), involving children and youth in Worship leadership, and perhaps other things in our Worship setting geared towards children of all ages.

6) **Is this a permanent change to our Sunday schedule?**

Nothing is ever permanent. As a congregation we continually adapt our ministries to meet the needs of both our congregation and our surrounding community. That said, in September of 2018, the Worship Committee and Church Council will evaluate the effectiveness of our new Sunday schedule and make any needed adjustments. Of course, we'll continually evaluate what we do and tweak things as needed. As always, your feedback and ideas are most welcome. Please share them with Pastor Chris, the Worship Committee chaired by Pat Linthicum and Joyce Brimhall, or the Church Council chaired by Roger Harrison.

7) **Will everyone buy into this new Sunday schedule?**

It's unreasonable to expect that everyone will embrace our new Sunday schedule with the same degree of enthusiasm. This will create change and a needed adjustment for everyone. Yet this is a change with an important purpose, and that purpose is to encourage all of us to step up our discipleship by worshipping and learning together. All in all, we're asking each of us to commit two hours of our Sunday Sabbath to God- an hour to learn and an hour to worship. If all of us take this challenge to heart, step it up, and commit to growing and maturing as disciples of Jesus Christ, Trinity will grow spiritually and numerically over time.