

Dear Covenant Partners and Friends of First Pres,

Jesus is risen, Spring has arrived, and at First Presbyterian Church we are in a season of rebirth and revitalization! We are excited to share that Session has voted to adopt a new Sunday morning schedule. The new schedule will begin on August 28, which allows us ample time to plan and prepare appropriately. This email is just the start of a multi-phased approach to communicate about how God called us to adopt the current plan and why we are so enthusiastic about the opportunities it presents to **Encounter God through worship and Equip one another in discipleship.**

Beginning August 28, 2022:

From **9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.** we will hold a traditional worship service in the Sanctuary. Simultaneously, we will offer discipleship opportunities for all age groups. Specifically:

- Nursery/Preschool
- Elementary Sunday School / Children's Church (combined)
- Youth Sunday School (middle and high school students)
- Various Adult Sunday School classes

From **10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** we will have time to gather in fellowship and transition between worship and discipleship offerings.

From **11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.** we will hold a modern worship service in the Worship Center. Simultaneously, we will offer discipleship opportunities for children and adults, similar to those listed above with the exception of Youth Sunday School, which will only be offered in the 9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. block.

By design, we will periodically have Sundays with a single all-church worship service to build and enjoy our community. Additionally, Wednesday nights will continue to be a time of life, love, and fellowship.

We continue to put our faith and trust that our unity is found in Jesus. We believe this new schedule best honors Sunday mornings as a time for Encountering God in worship and Equipping one another in discipleship. Further, this new schedule gives us the greatest opportunity to welcome prospective members and anticipates growth in engagement, growth in spiritual formation, and growth in number. By creating time and space on Sunday mornings for community-building through casual interaction, we will position the church to warmly greet each other and welcome visitors every week. Our hope is that people will choose to stay on campus for both blocks of the morning – using one to participate fully in worship and the other to serve or participate in the Equipping time – leaning into community and commitment.

The end of August is often the time we kick off a new season of worship and discipleship as summer travel and activities wrap up and many people return to a regular rhythm of weekly Sunday worship. August 28 serves as an ideal start to a new rhythm of life for First Pres. In the meantime, we will continue with our current schedule of Equip Hour from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Gathering Time from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., and a single worship service **from 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. that will include both styles and both venues.**

Elders will be available during the Gathering Time over the next several Sundays (May 8 - May 22) to talk with you about the new schedule and to answer questions. We also invite you to reach out individually to any elder or pastor about the new schedule.

We are working on a Frequently Asked Questions document which will be available through the First This Week emails. We will keep it updated as we hear from congregants and continue to address outstanding items as we prepare for this change. We welcome your participation in the planning and the implementation efforts.

The elders on Session are united in our faith in the discernment process that led to the new schedule. We appreciate the trust you have put in us as leaders tasked with discerning God's voice as we attempt to strike a balance between the needs, desires and values of our congregation.

We are excited about this re-visioned Sunday morning schedule and how through it we can grow in community and grow broader and deeper as we walk with Jesus. We hope you join us in joyful anticipation.

Yours in Christ,
Members of Session

Class of 2022

Leigh Askew
Brett Eaton
Eric Hoyle
Debbie Hunter
Julie Lanford
Todd Rabold

Class of 2023

Rob Boone
Lisa Dull
Ellen Gibbs
David Satterwhite
Kathy Shields
Rick Wesley

Class of 2024

Mike Ford
Margery Lewis
Molly Lineberger
Tim Lynde
Debby Pollock
Carter Sturkie