

## Worship Service and Bible Class Changes

On January 9<sup>th</sup> we will be making a transition to begin worship at 9:30am and class at 10:45am.

As part of this change, we are also shifting our traditional adult Bible classes to a small group format and calling them Bible Fellowship Groups.

We have been communicating this shift for the last couple of months through a congregational meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>, several smaller discussions with different groups, and emails, and we have gotten a lot of good feedback from you on how to do this well. This has included positive comments and new ideas to incorporate. We also recognize this is a change and will be a bit more of a challenge for some and we have taken all of that feedback into consideration and made some adjustments as a result.

We are making this change with the desire to bring some new life into our adult Bible class time as we focus on spiritual development, deeper personal relationships and being intentional about the mission of reflecting Jesus in our community.

It is our hope that the energy from worship services will flow into meaningful smaller group discussions to help internalize and apply the sermon message, spend some focused time in prayer and even add some accountability for acting on what we learned. We also expect this will lead to some new spiritual rhythms and service projects within the small groups.

This also gives us the opportunity to invite visitors that come to worship to stay and get to know us and who we are during our Bible class time.

What you should expect starting in January:

- Worship will begin at 9:30am and end about 10:30 am. Bible class for all ages will begin at 10:45 am and end at 11:45.
- Praise Kids will still be available during worship for birth through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- The Bible class format for the Refuge (Jr. High and High School) and KidMin (birth through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) will not change.
- For the adult Bible Fellowship Groups, the size will be 10-15 people leaving room for visitors to join.
- Sign-ups for Bible Fellowship Group sign-ups on Dec 12<sup>th</sup>.
- It is our hope that when you join a Bible Fellowship Group in January, you will stick with that group through May.
- It is not our expectation that all Bible Fellowship Groups look and function the same. We support flexibility to meet the needs of the group, our congregation and community.
- Looking forward to next summer we will most likely have a combined adult and teen class as we did this past summer, and then adult small group classes again in the fall.
- This change will not affect connection groups that are currently meeting outside of the Sunday morning time-frame, we hope those will continue.

We value and appreciate your continued feedback as we move through this transition, so as you have questions or comments, please reach out to any of the elders or ministers.

We are excited about the opportunities these changes bring as we strive to serve God and love one another together.