

# Coming July 21. New Worship Schedule!



## Encourage the inclusion of children in all worship services.

The “one-hour” Sunday model that allowed children to attend Sunday School while parents are in worship has been convenient, but it has not served our younger generations well. As we can see in lagging worship attendance, children who were never in worship grow into adults who are never in worship. We want our children to gain appreciation for the traditions that are so important to pass along. In doing so we want them to find the hope that we know in Christ as we participate together in worship!



## Encourage everyone to participate in worship AND faith formation

Scheduling our worship and Adult Faith Formation (AFF) opportunities at the same time in the most popular hour of the morning (9:30) has impacted our worship attendance and limited participation in AFF. It is important to be able to worship *and* engage with others to grow in faith. The pastors also need time to engage with you on Sundays!



## Affirm our diverse worship styles.

Traditional worship continues to draw all ages at Grace. There is also room for a less structured service that allows for a meaningful time of connection and worship. The new “9am Gathering” offers an easy way to worship, be formed in faith and get to know others in a relaxed setting.

## New Sunday Schedule at a Glance:

Two Traditional Services in the Sanctuary  
8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Faith Formation Hour for All Ages  
9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

The 9 a.m. Gathering Activity Center  
Non-traditional, with Praise Team.  
Includes an element of Faith Formation!

Coffee/Donuts in the New Gathering Space!

### Saturday @ 5:00 p.m. Activity Center

- Casual, caring atmosphere
- Committed community & refreshments
- Weekly Communion
- Reflective/meditative music & message

### Sunday @ 8 a.m. Sanctuary

- Traditional service & liturgy
- Weekly Communion
- Weekly Children’s Message
- New Life Singers, hymns, and organ

### Sunday @ 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

- Traditional liturgy with a few variations
- Weekly Children’s Message, Children’s Church (ages 4 -6 years old) & Children and Youth Participation
- Chancel Choir, hymns, and organ

### The 9am Gathering Activity Center

- Non-traditional service with message and music by Praise Team
- Weekly Communion and Conversation
- Coffee and food at tables or in rows
- Children may come with their families at 9 and stay for the service or attend their 9:15 Sunday School class! Service ends at 10:15.

# Adult Faith Formation

The new worship schedule outlined on the front page provides exciting new opportunities for Adult Faith Formation at Grace UMC starting on Sunday, July 21. Currently, many of our small groups such as Questors, Hearts on Fire, Forum, and New Connections meet during our popular 9:30 worship service with the Chancel Choir. (Information about our current Sunday Adult Faith Formation classes is below.) This model puts our members and visitors in a difficult situation: choosing between adult formation and this beautiful service.

The new worship schedule opens the Adult Faith Formation hour (9:15-10:15) to everyone who attends either of our worship services in the Sanctuary (8 and 10:30). This new approach accomplishes two key objectives. First, more of our church family will be able to participate in Adult Faith Formation! We believe strongly that the education and fellowship that comes with participating in small groups is essential to our lives as disciples. The new model opens our adult formation groups to more members and new visitors, allowing us to put this belief into practice.

Second, the new Sunday model provides an open time for our pastors and small groups to come together for church-wide presentations in Fellowship Hall—now with new ceiling lights and a new HD projector! We will take advantage of this opportunity with two consecutive presentations on Sundays, July 21 and July 28, by Pastors Cindy and Daniel. We will have two more church-wide presentations on Sundays, September 1 and 8, to welcome back our summer travelers. Following these Sundays, the pastoral staff will work in conjunction with guest presenters and our faith formation leaders to offer church-wide presentations on the first Sunday of every other month, beginning on November 3. The possibilities for this time together are endless: topical conversations, in-depth Bible studies, presentations on the new liturgical season (Advent or Lent) or visual explorations of church history and art, opportunities to learn about missions and service...

The pastoral staff encourages every member of Grace UMC to jump in! If you are new to Adult Faith Formation at Grace, let us help you find a small group or create a new one; and all are welcome to attend the church-wide presentations. A final schedule will be publicized on the church website and through our regular communications. We look forward to this new opportunity to explore our faith together as the people of Grace!

## Sunday Morning Groups @9:15 a.m.

### Hearts on Fire Class

Jesus-centered, warm-hearted folks who don't take themselves too seriously, seeking to grow in faith through study, conversation, and relationship. 9:30 a.m. in room 250. Contact Bob Pacanowski (bpacanoswki@franklinports.com).

### The Forum Class

All ages engage in insightful and lively conversation about the Bible, Christian theology, and the implications of discipleship in contemporary matters. Guided by knowledgeable discussion leaders. 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Contact Mark Fleming (markwflemi@aol.com).

### Questors

A traditional lecture and discussion format that focuses on contemporary Christian issues, Bible studies, and practical application of faith. Members organize speakers, missions and fellowship events. 9:30 a.m. in room 231 (due to construction). Contact Ginnie Battle (ginbattle@icloud.com)

### New Connections

Younger couples & singles engage in thought-provoking studies that help negotiate the stuff of everyday life, faith, and relationship to God and one another. And they do fun stuff, too! 9:30 a.m. in room 226. Contact Dr. Jeffrey Barbeau (jeff@jeffbarbeau.com).