

Worship & Education Schedule

2024-2025 Program Year

This schedule will be assessed after the program year

Sunday

9:10 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. Sunday School for PreK- 8th Grades
Refreshment/Coffee Hour
Service Projects as scheduled (ex/Sandwich Making)
Musician/Choir rehearsal as needed
Nursery Open

Pre-Service music prior to worship

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Worship
Nursery Open

11:10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Religion in Life
Youth Group for grades 9-12
Nursery Open

Full Sunday program year schedule begins September 15 and runs through May 18

On September 8 we would celebrate the start of the program year with Lunch on the Lawn following worship and Sunday school registration/meet the teachers/activities at 11:10 a.m.

the summer worship schedule would begin on Sunday, May 25 (Memorial Day weekend). Sundays at 10:00 a.m.; Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Dinner

5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Youth Music

6:10 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Confirmation (7-9th grades)

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Adult Choir
Potential other ministries such as Bible study, support groups, etc.

Wednesday schedule would begin September 11 and end on Wednesday, May 14

Possible Exceptions:

- November 27 (Thanksgiving Eve worship would be same as previous years at 7:00 p.m.)
- December 25 (Christmas Day is a Wednesday this year—off)
- January 1 (New Years day—off)
- March 5-April 9 (move to traditional Lenten schedule)
- April 16 (no Wednesday meal, worship, or confirmation during Holy Week)
- April 23 (no Wednesday activities the week after Easter)

Education, Service, & Fellowship

After hearing considerable feedback from Sunday school teachers and choir members who are currently unable to attend Religion in Life regularly, we want to create opportunities for them that do not overlap with those essential volunteer and leadership roles. This schedule also allows for a dedicated fellowship hour and intergenerational service opportunities that can be woven into the Sunday school hour. A 9:10 a.m. start provides appropriate time for volunteers to prepare for ministry without requiring them to be at church significantly earlier.

Feedback from older youth to meet later in the morning drove the decision to move senior high Sunday school ("Youth Group") to after worship, which would now better align with scheduled youth events that typically occur in the afternoon on Sundays. Additionally, their leadership would be encouraged in working with the younger Sunday school classes prior to worship.

Worship

A single Sunday worship service supports enhanced community building, fosters connection, and reduces stress on the volunteer base. On holiday services such as Easter and Christmas, we would move to two worship services.

Worship leaders will make slight adjustments to the single service to ensure it concludes by 11:00 a.m. For example, the prelude will be moved to the minutes leading up to worship rather than starting after welcome and announcements.

Mid-Week Meal

Adding a mid-week meal becomes an additional a place for connection and is an act of hospitality for those involved in Wednesday evening ministries. A kitchen manager would be hired to manage Wednesday dinners. Free-will donations will be accepted at dinner to help cover the cost of the meal.

Youth Music

Youth choir and bells will be combined to a single timeslot for children and youth to explore music in engaging ways.

Mid-Week Worship

Evening prayer will be a unique experience, distinct from Sunday worship. This worship would be seen as supplemental to, not in place of, Sunday worship. The motivation to add a midweek worship experience is multifold:

- It allows us to retain music staff
- It provides an alternative or additional worship experience beyond Sunday morning
- It creates a worship opportunity for those who cannot attend Sunday worship

New Ministries

Current Wednesday ministries would be supported and enhanced by a meal and worship; new ministries could grow out of this midweek gathering.