

# New Service Times, Spring of 2025

We would like to reintroduce the notion of changing our Sunday worship service times to 9:30am (Sanctuary) and 11:00am (Thrive) beginning in the Spring of this year. The current Sunday schedule was put in place when the two services were preached by different pastors. Now both services are overseen by one pastor. We anticipate the following questions:

Why do we think this is necessary?

The current worship schedule creates a hardship on staff and volunteers who are engaged in both services. This includes the pastor, associate pastor, child care staff, and a number of volunteers that work in the kitchen and nursery areas. It is often impossible for all of those people to be in place on time for the 11:00 service.

The impact on Children's ministry is of special note. Ample time is needed for parents to pick up their children after the 10:00 service as well as to drop off children before the beginning of the 11:00. Currently, those two time frames interfere with one another.

The current arrangement also makes it impossible for the pastor to greet and speak to worshippers, and guests after the 10:00 service. While this greeting time might not seem important, it will become a VERY important time for a new pastor to spend meeting his/her new congregation beginning this summer.

What about Sunday School classes?

We will consult with our current Sunday school classes. Past conversations indicated a willingness to change the class meeting times to accommodate the change. In some cases, the earlier hour is actually more convenient.

Why not move the 11:00 service to 11:30?

Frequently, first time visitors assume an 11:00 start time for Sunday worship and arrive accordingly. Our Thrive service receives these first time visitors each month (on one occasion, a group of 14!), who may not choose to wait an extra half hour for services to begin, especially with other nearby churches holding services at the traditional 11:00 hour.

In the past, some families of youth have found that a service ending at noon left them time to eat and still get their youth to afternoon activities, while a later start time would make it impossible for them to attend.

In addition, the church serves a lunch at noon, after the 11:00 service. Our volunteers already work well into the afternoon to serve and clean up after that meal.

Why do we need to make this change now?

We would like to make the change and be settled into our "new normal" before a new pastor arrives. The extra time between services will make it easier for the pastor to meet and get to know their congregants, as well as create a less stressful Sunday routine in their new church.