

Expanding our Sunday Morning Capacity

1. When are we changing our Sunday morning schedule to increase capacity?

Year over year, we are growing more than 20% annually. We do not have room in GroupLife space or Worship Center space to handle another full year of GroupLife and Worship growth. We are therefore changing our schedule for the upcoming 2024-2025 ministry year that begins this September to make room to welcome and assimilate those in our community who do not yet attend.

2. What schedule is being proposed?

8:40 am Traditional Worship

10:10 am Contemporary service 1; GroupLife hour 1

11:30 am Contemporary service 2; GroupLife hour 2; Spanish service

These times were selected because they allow time for the stage and worship style transition between the 1st and 2nd Worship hours, along with increased buffer time to better alleviate parking pinch points when those leaving and those arriving are vying for the same parking spots.

3. Why are we adding another Contemporary service but not another Traditional service?

This decision is being driven by attendance, not a valuing of one worship style over another. Our rapidly growing college ministry is expanding into our Contemporary Service at a much higher rate than our traditional service. With the summer renovation of the Worship Center providing 200 new seats, the Traditional Service still has room to grow for at least another ministry year. Just like with the addition of the second Contemporary Service, the Traditional Service will likely utilize an overflow venue before deciding to start an additional service.

4. Will the new schedule force families apart, like the old schedule prior to 2017?

The old schedule forced some families to worship at different hours because every department did not meet at both GroupLife hours, separating some families according to worship style preferences. The new schedule will, like our current 1 GroupLife hour schedule, provide a place for every age demographic during GroupLife, at both hours, so that families do not have to be divided by Worship style. Each hour will have classes for Preschoolers, Kids, Youth, College, and **Adults**.

5. Didn't our new building give us enough GroupLife space?

We designed the new building to provide enough ministry space for GroupLife and Worship space to fill up at about the same time, extending our current 1 GroupLife/2 Worship Service model as long as we possibly could. This is exactly what happened, though growth has happened much faster than anticipated. Our new building was built to provide space not only for adults on Sunday mornings, but an equal amount of essential ministry space for our growing preschool, kids, and college departments that meet at various times during the week as well. Since opening the new space, we have already filled the net number of adult rooms gained. We have birthed three new adult classes, repurposed three rooms for staff and safety offices, merged two sets of rooms to make them larger, and will be removing a modular of two rooms from campus property (temporarily used as construction trailer through Summer). Also, every new preschool and kids ministry room is in use, much earlier than anticipated. The new model will allow us to use our educational space more than once on Sundays, providing ample space for all of our growing departments—babies through senior adults.

6. In which hour will my current GroupLife class meet?

Most senior adult classes will continue to meet at the 10:10 hour. We will have a place at the 11:30 hour for any senior adult who attends, though we do not yet know whether newly birthed or moved classes will meet that need. At least a third of our families and median departments will be encouraged to attend at the 11:30 hour—this will provide growth room at the 10:10 hour, and will seed the 11:30 GroupLife hour with classes to support the growth of the new 10:10 Contemporary Worship service. The pastors who serve GroupLife departments will begin working with every class's leadership team to make decisions together that best position our church for balanced kingdom growth. These changes will give opportunity for new leaders to emerge and use their gifts for kingdom service. It will also allow an opportunity for those who wish to serve an hour on Sundays an opportunity to attend Worship and still attend an adult GroupLife class.

7. Are we beginning the Fall Kickoff with a church campaign that aligns sermons, GroupLife Curriculum, and devotional content?

Not this year. Instead, the series on Romans will extend to mid-October, after which Jim will begin another sermon series. GroupLife classes will continue their staff-approved curriculum without interruption for the remainder of 2024.

8. Do we have adequate parking to support this model?

One of the parking pinch points will be addressed by increasing the transition time between ministry hours, so that those who arrive on campus for the later hours will find more parking spots available from those who have left from earlier ministry hours. We will continue to use the Lowe's lot and will add parking to unused land when deemed necessary and essential.

9. Is this change going to cost the church more money?

Yes, growing churches have additional costs such as staffing, curriculum, supplies, and utilities. However, this pales in comparison with building new Worship space and additional GroupLife space so that our schedule doesn't have to change. We can best steward our capital resources by using all of our worship and educational spaces multiple times on Sundays.

10. What happens when this new schedule fills up in Worship and GroupLife space?

The plan is to continue adding Worship service and GroupLife hours until the Lord leads us to expand into new buildings and/or additional campuses are developed.