



Changes Coming To Our Sunday Morning Schedule

The results of our month-long worship survey regarding changing our Sunday morning schedule have been tabulated, and they indicate a clear path forward. We received 152 surveys. Remember that for most questions, we used a scale between 0 (I dislike it) and 10 (I love it).

Worship Schedule Beginning January 2

8:45 am: Traditional service in the Nave

10:00 am: Sunday School

11:00 am: Contemporary service in the MPR

11:00 am: Traditional service in the Nave

Option #1 (9:45 am Contemporary; 10:30 am Sunday school; 11:15 am Traditional service) received a 3.79.

Option #2 (9:00 am service of worship; 10:00 am Sunday school; 11 am service of worship) received a 5.38.

If option #2 were to be chosen, 73 respondents said they would prefer Traditional worship to begin at 9 am and Contemporary at 11 am; 48 respondents said they would prefer Contemporary worship to begin at 9 am and Traditional at 11 am; and 29 did not respond to that question.

Option #3 (8:45 am Traditional; 10 am Sunday school, and 11 am Contemporary and Traditional services) received a 6.72 response.

Therefore, option #3 seems to be the clear-cut favorite. The worship staff has discussed the implications of this selection and also believe it is the best path for us to take at this time. Beginning Sunday, January 2, we will adopt that schedule for our Sunday mornings.

Of course, no one likes change, even when there is a general agreement that it is necessary. There is no doubt that mistakes will be made in those first few weeks. So as we move forward into the new year with our new Sunday morning schedule, let us choose to be especially kind and understanding toward one another. Let us demonstrate that same patience toward each other that God offers us.

A Service of Lessons and Carols

To mark the beginning of Advent, the community and congregation are invited to a Service of Lessons and Carols. This festive service, with instrumentalists and vocalists, is this Sunday at 7:00p.m. in the Nave.

Why We Worship As We Do

Beginning in January, Rev. Mark Flynn and Rev. Seth O’Kegley-Gibson will co-lead a seven-week study entitled “Why We Worship As We Do.” Each week, they will facilitate a conversation about one or more of our current worship practices through the lens of scripture, tradition, reason, and experience.

Virtual classes will take place on Monday nights at 7 pm beginning January 10, and in-person classes will take place on Wednesday mornings at 10 am beginning January 12. Registration for the class and readings for each week will be found under the “Courses” tab on our church’s website.

January 10/13: **Holy Baptism**

January 17/19: **Worship Movement**

January 24/26: **Liturgical Year**

January 31/February 2: **Art in Worship**

February 7/9: **Prayer**

February 14/16: **Holy Communion**

February 21/23: **Worship Architecture**

KEYSTONE ADULT DAY PROGRAM IS HIRING CARE COMPANIONS

Our Care Companions work part time, NO nights or weekends.

Interested? Contact:

Phyllis Spangler
Executive Director
865.483.6631
www.keystonetn.org



December 11-12: Christmas Concerts

Our congregation and United Church, Chapel on the Hill are teaming up for this year’s Christmas at First Church concerts: Here We Come A-Caroling. The concerts will be take place on Saturday, December 11th at 3 pm and Sunday, December 12th, at 7 pm.

Attendance is free, but a reservation is required. If you would prefer to enjoy the concert from the comfort and safety of your home, you can register for a “virtual ticket” and receive an email with a livestream link to the concert. Wearing masks for these performances is strongly recommended. Reserve your ticket at **fumcor.org/concert-tickets**. Please contact Pastor Seth (sokegley@fumcor.org) if you have any questions.

We Celebrate

We celebrate the marriage of Joshua Gambrell and Erica Lewis Nov. 20, 2021. Parents are Peggy and Mike Gambrell; grandparents are Pete and Sandi Wright

In the Hospitals

We know of no one in the hospital at this time.

Our Gifts

Offering This Week: \$ 10,242
2021 Year to Date: \$1,207,583
2020 Year to Date: \$1,215,449
Monthly Mission Offering: \$1,670

Pastors

Mark Flynn, lead
Jenny Caughman, spiritual care
Seth O'Kegley-Gibson, worship

Contact Information

865.483.4357 www.fumcor.org
Pastor on call: 865.272.9862

Worship for December 5

The Second Sunday of Advent

Sermon: Living Creatively in the In-Between
Scripture: Luke 3:1-18

8:45 & 11:15 am Traditional Services
9:45 Contemporary Service
Preaching: Mark Flynn, Lead Pastor



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Oak Ridge, TN 37830

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Helping Children Experiencing Homelessness Year-Round

A group of people recently heard Greg Chadwick, Executive Director of Family Promise of Roane County, discuss recent changes to that group's ministry.

- No longer are homeless families with children being housed in the building of participating churches. Now those families are staying at Bethel Presbyterian Church in Kingston.
- No longer do participating churches need to find volunteers to spend the night on cots in their building. Now volunteers only need to drop off food for the families for one week each quarter.
- No longer is our congregation lacking someone to coordinate our efforts in this ministry. Now we have two persons who have stepped forward to organize our volunteers who want to make a difference in the lives of homeless children and their families.

We are grateful to Terry Pfeiffer and Jan Melcher for agreeing to be co-chairs.

One thing that has not changed is the great need for this ministry in our area. Families without a home have to be turned away each week for lack of participation by local churches. If you would like to join our congregation's efforts for one day each quarter, please contact the church office.

Falling in Love with the Narrative Line, Again

Visiting homebound members of our congregation is all about falling in love with the narrative line. Before visiting, I mentally remind myself that these members at one time were actively involved with our programs, activities, and worship services, but now are more isolated. It's a reminder that life is always changing for us all until it ends.

"Tell me something about how you came to be in Oak Ridge and a member of our church."

Time and time again when I have met a member, I have been astonished at the recall ability of a time, place, and characters I've been told about when I say, "Tell me something about how you came to be in Oak Ridge and a member of our church." Sometimes the stories are funny, ironic, historically informative, even sad, but they always ring authentic.

The strength of their narrative line never fails. Often I've walked away feeling I've had an unexpected treat and good fortune to have met them and to have shared a time that is now, for me, a memorable story.

- Kay Moss