

Worship Service Update – Fall 2021

The Leadership and Staff of St. Andrews have been meeting, praying, discussing, and listening to our congregation, our Conference, our Staff, and from time to time one or two health officials. Our objective -- navigate our way through the earlier surges of the pandemic while maintaining our ultimate mission of spreading the Gospel and Love of Jesus to those we encounter. During these trying times we have developed a whole range of new skills. As we move forward this fall, we plan to take these new skills and our learnings and apply them to how we can best engage our community and draw everyone closer to God through Jesus Christ. We make these plans from a position of strength, knowledge, and discernment to boldly proclaim that we are an active body of Christ ready and willing to build strong relationships and put our faith into action.

Beginning Sunday, September 19, we will meet in-person and online each Sunday. We will begin our morning with **Worship through Prayer**. Starting at 9:30 a.m., we will gather to lift the concerns of our community and families as well as reflect on how God continues to work through and with us.

From 10-11 a.m., we will **Worship through Music and Word**. The service will be similar in format to our current service and will be live streamed weekly. We will continue to have services in the Family Life Center/gym and Sanctuary, and from time to time outside. The music and order will be a mixture of traditional and contemporary keeping with the space and occasion.

At 11 a.m., we will engage in **Spiritual Formation** for Children, Youth, Sunday School Classes, and other small groups. Some studies may be short term, others topical, we also hope this time will engage mission and outreach. And on the last Sunday of each month at 1:00 p.m., our Cross-Cultural Ministry will gather for a celebration and bi-lingual study to which everyone is invited.

Sunday afternoons will become our time for Discipleship and Family Focus with several options being considered involving our youth and children as well as our adults. We are still in the discernment process of what a mid-week gathering will look like, and we hope to resume that ministry in 2022.

I would also stress that this is a framework to guide us for the next several months, September – December 2021 at this point. We will assess and revisit the plan later in the fall. We have scheduled a number of small focus groups to help provide valuable input to help us “put meat” on our framework, and you are encouraged to participate.

God placed St. Andrew's in this community over 60 years ago, our mission of following Jesus, being and making disciples for the transformation of the world hasn't changed, but our methods and approaches must. The key will be the work accomplished in our weekly Prayer and Spiritual Formation encounters moving our faith from the abstract to action. As we step forward in our faith, steeped from the lessons we learned, God is already there. We look forward to hearing your insights in how best to translate our ministries to serve a world searching for truth and meaning that can only come from the one true God.

Yours in Christ,

David Lisk, Sr.

Church Council Chair