

Cornerstone Worship Service Change

Dear Church Family, we are pleased to announce a big and we believe really good change coming this fall. At a recent Elders meeting we voted to move our weekly worship service from Saturday afternoon to Sunday morning starting Sunday, September 8th (the weekend following Labor Day). We've made this big decision for many reasons but we can sum them all up with one key word, discipleship. Here are our main reasons:

1. **Time:** Incorporating a Christian education hour along with the worship service gives us the opportunity to invest in our spiritual growth more than we can achieve in our current format. Currently, between Cornerstone Kids, the youth Bible Study, Community Groups, and the sermon our children, youth, and adults receive less than an hour of teaching each week. This fall we want to be more intentional in the time we invest in making disciples (Matt 28:18-20).
2. **Plan:** The Elders and Youth Ministry Team each recently created a wish-list for what we want to teach our teenagers and adults. This plan, found on pages 2-3, is something we intend to work at slowly and over time, addressing each topic and theme as the Lord leads us. We believe this addition of a Christian education hour will help us take positive steps to begin to accomplish these discipleship-goals.
3. **Maximize Participation:** When a program happens before or after the weekly worship service it's more likely to have people participate than when it takes place at a time that requires a drive back to church or a home. While Saturdays are not a good day for this due to social activities, family events, and kids' bedtimes the traditional Sunday-morning pairing of Christian Education and the service will provide us with the opportunity to get everyone involved.
4. **Family:** We would like our grade-school kids to benefit from and enjoy the weekly worship service with their families. By moving to Sundays this could give us the opportunity to have a separate Christian education hour rather than a program during the service, freeing up our teachers to be refreshed and worship with us.
5. **Gifting:** We have incredibly gifted teachers who would love the opportunity to teach and help others grow in their faith. As we're all learning and growing and using our gifts the church body is refreshed and flourishes together.

After prayerfully wrestling with this since last fall we sense now is the time. We don't make this change lightly, but we do make it trusting the Lord and excited about what he will do in this new work. We realize and mourn that this change may result in some brothers and sisters having to step away from Cornerstone. We don't seek this but trust God will take care of our church family as we seek to know and love him more deeply. We acknowledge that you may have questions, and we are here to talk and pray through this change with you. We are thankful for you, our Cornerstone family, and we ask for your prayers for a successful transition this fall.

In Christ - Mark Pender, John Ralls, & Pastor Jonathan Romig

Youth Discipleship Plan

- Formulate a 6 year plan (covering grades 6-12)
- Divide year into Fall term/Winter term/Spring term
- Fall Term: CORE STUDIES
 - Basic Christian beliefs, do this TWICE during cycle
 - OT Survey
 - NT Survey
 - Life of Jesus
 - Christian Worldview
- Winter Term: BIBLE STUDIES
 - OT books
 - NT books
- Spring Term: TOPICAL STUDIES
 - These can vary depending on current needs of Youth. Youth will be surveyed in Nov for interest. Some ideas include:
 - Discipleship - worship, Bible study, prayer, witness, fellowship, lectio divina (reading, reflection, response, rest-contemplation), assurance of salvation, etc.
 - Christian Living - stewardship, dating & relationships, marriage & divorce, Biblical sexuality, emotional health, anger, depression, prosperity gospel
 - Christian ethics - war & peace, capital punishment/euthanasia/assisted suicide-end of life, abortion, reproductive technology, stem cell research, cloning-beginning of life, sexuality & LGBT / SSA/ same sex marriage, gender identity, homosexual/transgender equality, women leadership, racial equality, economic equality, slavery, environment/global warming, gun control, politics, separation of church & state, etc.
 - Comparative religions & cults, occult, etc.
 - Shades of Grey - marijuana/smoking/drinking, gambling, etc.
 - Evolution, Creation Science, Intelligent Design, Worldview, etc.

<h1 style="text-align: center;">Whole-Life Journey</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">Adult Christian Education Plan: Scope & Sequence</p>		
<p><i>Our goal is to make whole-life disciples by teaching the Bible and all its applications.</i></p>		
Bible Journey (Fall & Spring) ¹	Internal Journey (Fall) ²	External Journey (Spring)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Old Testament³ B. New Testament C. Bible Survey D. Hermeneutics (how to study the Bible) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Discipleship B. Christian Basics C. Theology D. Catechisms E. Church History F. Worship G. Spiritual Disciplines H. Spiritual Giftings <p style="text-align: center;"><i>We will add other topics to the plan as needed.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Evangelism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Frontline Ministry⁴ b. Missions c. Church Planting d. Apologetics B. Relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Family & Parenting b. Marriage c. Human Sexuality d. Money e. Conflict & Peacemaking f. Church Membership & Discipline C. Christ & Culture⁵ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Christianity in New England b. Faith, Work, & Business c. Science, Technology, & Healthcare d. Government & Society e. Education & Information f. Arts & Media

Why call it a “Journey”? We are all on a faith-journey. Our desire is to move each one of us further along that path towards Christ through the study of God’s Word (Bible Journey), through engaging our hearts and minds (Internal Journey), and through putting into practice our Christian faith in our everyday lives (External Journey). Together, let’s journey after Jesus.

¹ Our adult Christian Education plan (scope and sequence) is based on FBC Durham’s *Bible For Life* program. <https://www.fbcdurham.org>

² Optional summer classes for any of the journeys as needed.

³ We may not necessarily complete these classes in the order listed. The format is not necessarily prescribed. We could teach them in a dedicated education hour, or a community group, or a one-night book discussion.

⁴ “Your Frontline is the place where you spend the majority of your time outside the church, where you are in contact with non-Christians.” *Life on the Frontline* (Leadership Booklet, Pg 8)

⁵ Topics inspired by the Gordon-Conwell Theology Seminary (GCTS) Ockenga Fellows program.