

FAQ's Regarding Atonement's Move to Two Worship Services in the Fall, 2019

1. How was the decision made to move to two worship services in the fall of 2019?

- a. Throughout May, Atonement's staff facilitated five different focus groups (one targeted at Sunday School families, one targeted at Confirmation / JAM families, one for the staff, and two for our general worshipping population.) A wide-range of people representing different ages, worship services, and levels of involvement at Atonement were invited to attend each focus group. Standard, open-ended value driven questions were asked at each focus group to determine what Atonement values most about worship and our church community.
- b. Responses were then analyzed and explored by Atonement's worship staff, who discussed and discerned where God might be leading our congregation in the upcoming years.

2. How might Atonement benefit from having two, rather than three worship services?

- a. Having two worship services will enable both services to achieve a critical mass, which will not only create energy but will also foster community, enabling more of Atonement's members to get to know one another.
- b. The new service times will better meet the needs of Atonement's families.
- c. Having both worship services end earlier will allow us to intentionally offer opportunities for service, fellowship, and faith formation between 11:15 am and noon that will help our community grow in their relationships with God and one another.
- d. Two services will allow us to be better stewards of the energy of our staff and volunteers.

3. Will Atonement still offer a contemporary worship service?

- a. The 8:45 and 10:10 am worship services will both feature a variety of musical styles, including some contemporary worship songs. However, we will not offer a weekly service of exclusively contemporary styles.

4. What will happen to those individuals who have faithfully served during the 10:50 worship service?

- a. There is plenty of room for them (and you!) to serve during the 8:45 and 10:10 am worship services. We are committed to utilizing our people's incredible gifts and talents in both of these services.

5. Will Atonement ever return to three services?

- a. We don't know. We have had the same schedule for many years, but prior to that the number and times of services changed frequently. We believe that this new schedule will serve Atonement well. But we live in a changing world. We will continue to assess the needs of our congregation as well the gifts and assets of our people. This will help us continually respond well to our congregation's needs, in ways that equip us to move into a healthy and vibrant future as followers of Jesus!

6. When will Sunday School be held?

- a. We are committed to making both the 8:45 and 10:10 am worship services family friendly. Children are always welcome in either worship service.
- b. We also recognize the value of age-specific faith formation. For that reason, we will offer Sunday School for 2 years old – 5th graders during the 8:45 am worship service. For the first ~45 minutes of Sunday School, kids will be downstairs, enjoying both a large group & small group time. Kids will then join their parents in worship for communion and the closing songs.
- c. Our 10:10 am worship service will include a children's message. Additionally, we will continue to utilize the Playground to give kids the opportunity to engage in worship in different ways. Playground activities will be rotated in and out on a regular basis.
- d. Families in Worship will continue to plan designated services throughout the year that will integrate children into worship in additional, creative ways.