

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



Fargo, North Dakota

August 23, 2023

Dear Families,

Fall has arrived, and we are once again preparing for another year of Sunday School. We are adopting a few changes and I would like to share with you the new structure and the rationale behind it before we meet for the first time.

Sunday School will be on one Sunday each month, the Second Sunday, starting on October 8, 2023. We will begin at 8:45 a.m. with breakfast, followed by VBS-style programming with creative high-energy activities from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. when we transition to worship. We are keeping family units together and partnering them with other families to form groups that will meet all year long. These groups will be encouraged to sit together in worship and get together outside of Sunday School time.

Keeping groups together helps to establish the trust and intimacy necessary to engage in deep conversations about what we believe, a key ingredient for building faith. This will work because:

- VBS – Our VBS experiences prove that children will beg for energetic high-quality programming.
- Confirmation – The Confirmation service last spring was evidence that forming deeper relationships promotes greater connection to God and the community.
- Wednesday Nights – Parents started connecting with one another on Wednesday nights because we offered a meal and self-directed activities that they could engage while they waited for their children. That's how the Uke Group started.

It may seem counter-intuitive to meet less often if we want families to grow closer, but the extended time on Second Sundays will allow those relationships to form. We are also encouraging family groups to gather with one another on the Sundays – or other days - we don't meet as a way to further their relationships with each other and God.

The success of this experiment requires your commitment. We hope that you will prioritize Second Sunday as an important part of your family's development. We also need creative skillful people to help. If you love volunteering at VBS or you love helping out in Sunday School, we are meeting on **Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at 6:20 p.m.** to discuss ideas. We'd love to see you there.

If you have questions, please reach out to me and I will do my very best to address them. I'm so excited about getting to work with our families this fall. I hope to see you soon.

Blessings,

*Pastor Sarah*

Pastor Sarah

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