

SOCIAL NARRATIVE

Sunday Gatherings

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Sunday Gatherings

Before the Gathering Begins	Page 3
Kids Check-in	Page 4
Kids Check-in Labels	Page 5
Beginning of the Gathering	Page 6
Worship	Page 7
Kids Blessing	Page 8
Greeting	Page 9
Teaching	Page 10
Staying Comfortable	Page 11
Conflicting Accessibility Needs	Page 12
Communion	Page 13
Communion Servers	Page 14
End of the Gathering	Page 15
Leaving the Building	Page 16



Before the Gathering Begins

I will hear music playing over the overhead speakers in the Sanctuary. I can sit down in any available pew, or use the stairs in the back corner of the Sanctuary to sit in the balcony where there are less people. I can also stand in the back of the Sanctuary.

If I need help finding a seat, I can ask anyone wearing a “Welcome Host” badge for assistance.

I can get coffee, tea, or water in the Undercroft at the Hospitality Table before or after the gathering begins.



Kids Check-in

Kids two years old through 5th grade will be checked-in at the kids check-in booth in the Learning Center. I can head up the ramp and to any one of the three check-in stations. I may need to wait in line before I can use one of the check-in stations.

I can use the tablet at the check-in station to check my kid(s) in for Kids Community. After checking them in, I will hear the printer next to the tablet make a brief noise and begin printing three labels.

Kids age two through five can go directly to their classrooms in the Learning Center, while any kid(s) in 2nd grade through 5th grade can join me in the Sanctuary. They will be dismissed to their classrooms during the Kids Blessing.

I can ask someone at the check-in booth for assistance if I have any questions or issues checking my kid(s) in, or for help finding their classrooms in the Learning Center.

I can pick up my kid(s) from their classrooms after the gathering ends.



Kids Check-in Labels

When I check-in my kid(s) for Kids Community, I will hear a brief noise from the printer next to the tablet.

The printer will print three labels. I can give the two larger labels to my kid(s) who will need to take them to their classroom with them. I will need to keep the third smaller label with me to pick up my kid(s) after the gathering.

If any of the information on the labels is incorrect, I can ask someone at the check-in booth to help correct that information and reprint the labels.



Overhead Projector Screen

Beginning of the Gathering

At the start of the gathering the lights will dim and a video will be played on the overhead projector screen. I will hear a young voice speaking and the video will show captions of what is being said. This video lasts for just over one minute.

When the video ends the room lights will slowly fade back on and I will see someone walk on stage. They will welcome everyone to Awaken and take a few minutes to share a Call to Worship.



Worship Band in the Sanctuary

Worship

After the Call to Worship someone on stage will lead a time of singing. This typically includes two songs, lasting around ten minutes total, and I will be invited to stand and sing if I want. I will see lyrics for each song displayed on a single overhead screen. I can also find the set list of worship songs and lyrics in advance in the Awaken Community app.

The musicians are located in the right transept in the Sanctuary, and the pews closest to them will be the loudest seats. I can use headphones or earplugs if the music is too loud. I can ask anyone wearing a “Welcome Host” badge for earplugs or headphones if I don’t have any with me.



Kids Blessing

After two worship songs, a blessing will be sung over the kids as they are dismissed to their classrooms. Any kids in the gathering can walk down the aisles towards the front of the Sanctuary and find their teacher. I will see teachers holding signs that indicate where each grade should stand, and a map with instructions on the overhead screen.

If I have kids, I am welcome to walk with them to the front of the Sanctuary to help them find their teachers, and I can walk with them to their classrooms in the Learning Center if I want.

Kids will walk down the two staircases to either side of the Sanctuary after the song of blessing finishes.



Greeting

After the Kids Blessing, I will be invited to greet those around me. If I don't want to talk to anyone, I can stay seated or take a break to move around or get a drink. During this time I will hear music played over the overhead speakers.

After a minute someone will speak from the stage and ask everyone to be seated again.



Teaching

After the greeting someone will speak from the stage. They will share a few announcements and a 35-minute sermon. During the teaching someone may get up to read from the bible. I can choose to stand or sit while that is read.

I will see the bible passage, and other notes from the teaching, displayed on the overhead screen.

After the teaching ends, the speaker will pray and then there will be a moment of silence. I will see the Sanctuary lights dim during this time, and they will fade back on after the moment of silence ends.



Staying Comfortable

I can choose to use sensory tools like headphones or fidgets to help me feel comfortable during the gathering. I can bring these tools from home or ask anyone wearing a “Welcome Host” badge for earplugs or headphones.

It is okay if I need to change seats, move around, make noise, or take a break during the gathering to stay comfortable.

I can watch or listen to a livestream of the gathering on YouTube or in the Awaken Community app if I want to participate from a separate location or need to take a break during the gathering but don't want to miss what is happening.

I will see people wearing a “Welcome Host” badge throughout the building. I can ask them for help at any time.



Conflicting Accessibility Needs

Everyone has different strategies for staying comfortable. That means other people might make noises, movements, or react in ways I find distracting. It also means that I might be doing things to stay comfortable that are distracting to those around me.

If I am distracted by something going on around me, I can try moving to a different seat in the Sanctuary. I can ask anyone with a “Welcome Host” badge for help finding a new place to sit.

If I need to make loud noises or big movements to self-regulate, the Undercroft is a large and safe space downstairs where I am welcome to do this.



Communion Basket

Communion

After the moment of silence I will be invited to participate in taking communion. There are seven communion stations, four at the front of the Sanctuary, two at the back of the Sanctuary, and one in the balcony. Each communion station has a basket containing a large compartment with regular wafers, a small dish with gluten free wafers, a small dish of red wine, and a small dish of white grape juice.

Each pew will dismiss one at a time towards the side aisles. Ushers in the side aisles will help dismiss the pews towards the back of the Sanctuary. I can follow the other people in my pew to line up in the side aisle, or stay in my seat if I don't want to take communion. Once I reach the front of the line, I can move to any open communion station. I can take either a regular or gluten free wafer, dip it in either the red wine or the white grape juice, and eat it.

After taking communion I can return to my seat down the center aisle of the Sanctuary. During communion I will hear the band resume playing music.

If I want to take communion where I am seated, someone will come down the center aisle with a mobile communion station and I can raise my hand to indicate that I would like to take communion from my seat.



Communion Servers

On the fourth Sunday of each month, communion is served by people on the Communion Team. I will see the same six stations, four at the front of the Sanctuary and two at the back, and each station will have a person holding the communion basket.

When I approach the communion server, I can take a wafer from the communion basket and dip it in either the red wine or the white grape juice. As I do, the communion server will say these words to me: “The body of Christ broken for you and the blood of Christ shed for you.”



End of the Gathering

At the end of the gathering someone will speak from the stage and offer a benediction and a blessing. The gathering will close with an invitation to sing the doxology together. I will see the lyrics for the doxology on the overhead screen.

I can plan to leave my seat a few minutes before the gathering ends if I want to avoid the crowd of people leaving the Sanctuary. I can also wait in my seat until people have cleared out of the Sanctuary before leaving the building.

After the gathering ends the Sanctuary, Undercroft, and Learning Center may be crowded and noisy. I may have to wait in line if I need to use the restroom.



Sanctuary Exit

Leaving the Building

I can leave the building through the Sanctuary Entrance at the back of Sanctuary, or I can use one of the three staircases to make my way back through the Undercroft and out the Parking Lot Entrance.

If I have kids in Kids Community, I can go to their classrooms in the Learning Center to pick them up. I can use a building map, or ask someone with a “Welcome Host” badge to help me find the classrooms.