



2 to 1? That's no fun!

Last month we wondered in some meetings if it would be a good idea to shrink our service offerings to one. Attendance might be down and it would be easier to staff just one Sunday School and do one service.

The move from one service to two is a major breakthrough for a church. It's a hurdle that many churches are never able to pass. People seem to prefer staying as "one big happy family" instead of expanding their potential to reach others.

We gave the idea of shrinking our worship options serious consideration. It would be easier. But our own ease wasn't the most important factor. We want to serve well the people God brings here. Reducing services reduces the options that people have for the time of worship. It almost always results in a net decline in attendance from what it would have been with two. Both services had children attending Sunday School. Which service should we eliminate?

The Board decided to do our best to continue to serve the people who worship here at both hours and to trust God to help us do it well. Sunday School teachers can still go to worship. Families can know that we will have children's ministry at both hours. And there will be plenty of room for visitors at either service. Had we combined services, seating would have been tight with the attendance we have had so far this year.

Thank God that He continues to help and bless our worship and teaching times on Sunday. Thank you for being part of what's going on here—at 9 or at 11. And thank you to those of you who make it possible—loving and leading our children and planning and leading our worship services—both of them!

Pastor Greg
Interim pastor

Summer Events & Happenings

VINEYOUTH EVENINGS (GRADES 6-12)

THIS SUNDAY, meet in Baldwin Hall at 6pm as we finish the series Salt & Light

SUMMER WEEDING & CLEAN-UP Thank you to all who attended our church clean-up days in June. We truly appreciate all of your help! In order to keep our church grounds looking beautiful, it is imperative that weeding, etc. be done on a weekly basis. We are asking our congregation members/families to pick a week or weeks during the summer when you can help. It's a fun way to fellowship and serve the Lord and if the effort is maintained weekly, the job should be minimal. Please find a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center on Sunday morning where you can pick your week/weeks to participate. All the tools that are needed can be found on the church property and you can come to work anytime during your assigned week. Please contact Ginny Priola at 860-8528 or gpriola220@yahoo.com for more detailed information. We thank you for your anticipated participation.

PLAYGROUND GROUP

Parents (and grandparents!), let's meet up and let the kids burn off some summer boredom together! We'll be meeting every Friday morning (10am) at various parks in the area. Circle **PLAYGROUND GROUP** on your connection card on Sunday morning if you'd like to receive the weekly email on where we'll meet. Feel free to invite friends! Any questions contact Amanda Hartrich at ahartrich@vinewc.org

PRAYER TEAM

If you would like to receive Pastor Greg's weekly email on how we can pray for our work and life together at the Vine, please circle **PRAYER TEAM** and include your email address on the front of the connection card or sign-up at the Welcome Center on Sunday morning and we will add you to the email list.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Our First Impressions Team has some openings that provide a great opportunity for you to help serve such as 11am Refreshment hosts; 11am Welcome Center hosts and 9&11am Worship hosts. If you would like to help in any of these areas, please circle accordingly on the back of your connection card on Sunday morning and Kathy Maass will be in touch with you.

URGENT PRAYER REQUESTS

Barb Kaczmarek is now handling all urgent prayer requests that come up during the week. Please **email her at barbkacz77@aol.com or text 716-984-1132** and she will forward your request promptly to our prayer team.

ANNUAL VINE WESLEYAN CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, August 5, at 4pm Westwood Park Pavilion. Rain or shine. If you plan on attending, please write in the number of adults and children in the spaces provided on your connection card on Sunday morning. Volunteers are needed to help with clean-up and organizing children's games. If interested, please circle **VOL PICNIC and indicate where you would like to serve** on your connection card on Sunday morning. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Emser at demser@vinewc.org or Ginny Priola at gpriola220@yahoo.com.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Check out our Vine calendar <http://vinewc.org/calendar/> for more upcoming events.