



Downtown for Good!

June 2, 2009

Dear Friends and Members of First Church,

At its recent May meeting, the Church Council made several important decisions. You'll be hearing about some of these decisions over the next weeks and months. This letter is to address one exciting and new opportunity for our worshipping community during the upcoming summer months.

Beginning on June 14, we will go to one Sunday service at 9:30 a.m. This decision was made with several factors in mind:

The summer provides us an opportunity to worship together as ONE community. With three services on Sunday morning, we do not always have the possibility to see one another and share in a sense of connectedness. The summer months give us this opportunity to reconnect and worship as one family.

With one service, we can host other opportunities to build community. Beginning at 8:00 a.m. a breakfast will be provided for all to enjoy. The by-product of this time will be the opportunity to meet and reconnect with other church members. Enjoy good food at a nominal cost and good fellowship that will enliven our Sunday experience.

Classes will be offered during the morning for further community building and a "Conversation with Clergy" will follow the worship service.

Without the need to transition between worship services, we can offer some different musical settings for our summer festival worship experiences. We will begin in the sanctuary at 9:15 with a time of centering and sharing in a variety of musical presentations. This will allow us to focus as we prepare to enjoy worship together.

Our worship experiences will offer a variety of liturgical, musical and presentation styles. Summer is a great time to venture into new experiences of spirit-filled worship.

We know from years of experience that there is a seasonal shift in our worship patterns during the summer. People enjoy attending worship earlier and fewer people stay for coffee fellowship. This schedule accommodates that reality and allows for new possibilities.

All new members are asked at orientation meetings "What do you need most to help you feel 'connected' and able to grow in faith?" The most frequent response is "meeting people" (52%). Meeting people and building community is about connecting people face to face. That is another reason we are excited to offer this intentional opportunity to grow community.

Celebrate *in* Community

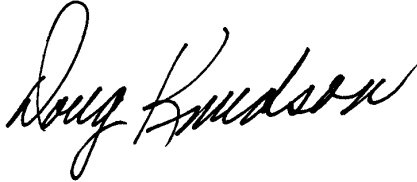
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This new summer schedule will give a needed break to our volunteer praise band, Current, and the large number of volunteers who staff all three services as greeters, ushers, hosts and hostesses. This will also allow for some creative conversation and planning for the three services in the fall.

We know this is a major change but we are a Pentecost church, open and receptive to the winds of the Spirit. We believe that God is continually guiding, challenging and opening new doors to deepen our connection with one another, our sense of service and our awareness of God's activity in our lives. We hope this summer experience will do just that. Who knows, we may even have a little "fun" along the way.

Let this summer be a time of new experiences in worship and building community with one another. The Spirit is moving. The church, like sails of a ship, is ready to be empowered by that Spirit. This summer, let's Celebrate in Community as we gather for one Sunday festival worship experience!

See you in Church,



Doug Knudson,
Chair of Church Council



Rev. Keith Schroerlucke,
Pastor