



**New Creation**  
United Methodist Church

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On Sunday, September 12, New Creation United Methodist Church will step out of the COVID-19 pandemic and into a New Beginning for our church and our ministries. As we have continued to live into the innovations first adopted by our congregation in November 2019 and now as we emerge from this challenging pandemic season, we continually seek to faithfully live out our church's mission and vision to share the Good News of Jesus Christ so that all people become His followers transformed by His love.

We are excited to launch two new Sunday morning worship services. **Beginning Sunday, September 12, New Creation will offer an 8:30 a.m. and an 11 a.m. service along with an hour of discipleship starting at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday morning.** Sunday services at New Creation will continue to honor our Methodist tradition of worship through responsive liturgy and congregational singing. Both services will include a time set aside for pastoral and intercessory prayer. We will continue to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Our pastors will also continue to preach and teach the Word of God at both Sunday services. The nursery will be open during both services for newborns and children through 2 years old.


In addition to our in-person services, in our desire to reach beyond our walls and stay connected with those unable to attend in person, we will continue to live stream both of our Sunday services through all of our digital and social media platforms.

**The 8:30 a.m. Service** will be an abbreviated worship experience approximately 45-50 minutes in length and will share the good news of Jesus by providing a more classic experience for those who love the church's heritage. This service will primarily include songs from the United Methodist Hymnal accompanied by piano or organ. Other musical ensembles will occasionally offer their gifts of music during this service.

**The 11 a.m. Service** will be an inclusive and welcoming space for ALL people to comfortably engage in worship. The service will follow a simplified liturgy and order and will be approximately 60-65 minutes and will connect us with God in a reverent yet slightly more informal atmosphere. Music, including modern praise and worship songs, will be led by our Praise Team. On any given Sunday, you may also sing your favorite song from the United Methodist Hymnal accompanied by piano or organ, or hear a special musical offering provided by one of our church's handbell choirs, the Children's Choir or the New Creation Chancel Choir.

During the 11 a.m. hour, **New Creation Kids** will provide a space for our kids (who are enrolled in 5th Grade and below) an opportunity to learn, grow, worship, and serve in a fun and engaging environment.

**At 9:45 a.m., our church will set aside an hour for intentional adult discipleship.** During this time, our pastors and the Connectional Ministries Team can help guests and new members become more familiar with our church and beliefs through our Coffee with the Pastors and Discovering New Creation small groups. The Discipleship Team will support our other ongoing Discipleship Groups (Adult Sunday School classes) in forming believers and church members towards more Christ-like lifestyles.



We are very excited about this New Beginning! Our Sunday morning experiences are the heartbeat of New Creation. Divine worship is essential to the church's life; gathering together to worship God is necessary for Christian fellowship and spiritual growth.

I want to thank the members of our New Beginning Team! Together we have worked faithfully and prayerfully to get to this point. We have observed the spirit and energy present in our current worship services and Kids Ministry. We have listened to and incorporated feedback from a broad cross-section of our congregation. We believe these forward-thinking and vision-focused innovations position our church to best offer the inspiring, engaging, and relevant worship experiences that will enable us to reach as many people as possible with the good news of Jesus Christ.

For the last two years, we have been asking God in our Breakthrough Prayer to “Show us how to make a difference in our community and in our world.” I believe this plan is an answer to that prayer. Now, as we move forward into this exciting future, we continue to ask God to walk with us as we seek to live into the last part of that prayer: “Give us boldness to follow where You lead.”

As an interim step towards this New Beginning, we are announcing that **on Sunday, August 1, the early service time will move back from 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.** Now that many of our Sunday morning discipleship classes have resumed meeting in person, this enables folks to worship at either hour without overlapping with the Sunday school hour. Please note that the worship service format will remain the same until the launch of the New Beginning Sunday.

We recognize that there may still be some questions. So, we have prepared a thorough Frequently Asked Questions document to provide more information and hopefully answer most of your questions. That document is found on our church website at [www.newcreationumc.org](http://www.newcreationumc.org) or we have some paper copies available to be picked up in the Church Office.

After reading through it, if you still have questions that have not been addressed, feel free to reach out to Pastor Spencer or me by calling the church office to schedule an appointment where we can speak in person.

We also recognize that change is not always easy. But change is necessary for any individual or organization to adapt and to continue to grow and thrive. We are a diverse body of believers with a wide variety of ages, backgrounds, beliefs, and preferences. But we all have one thing in common, our love for our great and mighty God and our desire to worship and serve Him and to spread His good news to the world around us.

As together continue living into that with a spirit of grace, cooperation, understanding, and unity, we are confident that this plan is the best way forward for our church to continue to grow and to meet the needs of our diverse church family and community.

—Pastor Randy Duncan

