

May 3, 2021

Sisters and brothers of Ardmore Baptist Church:

The Spirit of God is alive and present when God's people gather together for worship. As Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20). Something spiritual is present when we are together to praise God with one another, to learn about following Jesus Christ, and to lift our collective prayers to the Holy Spirit.

It has given so much joy to our hearts to see many of you joining us for worship on Sunday mornings. We know that it has also brought joy to many of you to be present in the sacred space of our sanctuary. We wanted to write to you today to inform you about what worship will look like this summer. The summer season is generally a time when we simplify things in worship and we are continuing that trend this year.

### **Worship Leadership**

I (David) will be on sabbatical from June 6 to August 15 of this year. During this time, Jim Davidson will step in to lead the summer choir rehearsals and to lead worship for the 10:45 service. Jim is a wonderful servant-leader in our church and will do a beautiful job of leading us through these summer months.

### **8:15 Service**

The 8:15 service will look quite a bit different for at least the next few months. It has been difficult to recruit worship leaders and tech volunteers to duplicate the order of the 10:45 service. Therefore, the 8:15 service will be simplified for the summer, offering a different worship experience than the 10:45 service. It will be a simpler, shorter, summer service (say that ten times fast!).

Due to the scarcity of persons able to sing in a choir, the music at the 8:15 service will be led by a musician in the church. Each musician will offer the Gathering Music and a Song of Contemplation. Jeanell Brown will play a Postlude each week and assisting any Soloists or special musicians.

Some of our wonderful church musicians who will be helping to lead the 8:15 service for the next few weeks are:

May 9 – David Niblock, Amanda Walker, and Gene Vance

May 16 – Gustavo Antoniacomi & Jeanell Brown

May 23 – Clark Hopper & David Fitzgerald

May 30 – Clark Cothran & Carol Polk

There will also be participatory practices incorporated in the 8:15 service such as praying the Lord's Prayer together and reciting the Apostles' Creed each week.

We will maintain consistency between the services. I (Tyler) will preach the same sermon in both services and we will observe communion in both services on the assigned Sundays (such as this upcoming Sunday, May 9).

Please note: We will not be livestreaming the 8:15 service and childcare is not currently available for this service. Please register for the 8:15 worship service by visiting our [website](#), using links in QuickBits, or by calling the church office between Monday 10:00 and Friday 4:00.

### **10:45 Service**

Our service offered on Sunday mornings at 10:45 will be organized in very much the same way it has been. We will live-stream the 10:45 service. We will have our usual “Summer Choir” made up of adult choir members and anyone (youth and adults) from the congregation who would like to sing with the choir as we have done for the past several summers. No robes and no Wednesday rehearsals. Just meet in the choir room at 10:15 right before the service, to rehearse an easy hymn-anthem to sing! During the summer months, Jim Davidson will lead the musical portions of this service. Please register for the 10:45 worship service by visiting our [website](#), using links in QuickBits, or by calling the church office between Monday 10:00 and Friday 4:00.

We remain grateful for the people of Ardmore Baptist Church and we are so delighted to work with such a thoughtful, loving congregation. Our worship has always been a hallmark of our identity as a congregation and we look forward to the ways that God will use these worship experiences to fill us with the Holy Spirit, so that we may depart to serve. That is, after all, why we gather in Jesus’ name.

Peace,

David Fitzgerald, Minister of Worship, Music, and Arts  
Tyler Tankersley, Senior Pastor