

## Special Schedule October 20 and November 3

*"We expect sermons to taper into 3 points, or 2 points, or 1 point. What if sermons widened into conversations or participations or actions?" – Leonard Sweet*

"Gathering and Scattering" is a phrase you hear a lot around Lafayette. We call it the holy rhythm of the Lafayette Church of Christ. We gather to worship God's glory. We scatter to reflect God's glory. So I suppose you could say that we regularly try to widen the sermon into actions in that we want to take what we see of God on Sundays and translate it into attitudes and actions on Monday.

But on October 20 and November 3 we will have a special Sunday morning schedule that will enable us to widen sermons into broader conversations in our gathering.

### **Let me explain what our schedule will look like on these two Sundays --**

- We will gather as we normally do at 9:00am.
- We will sing a block of several songs.
- We will have a prayer together as we usually do.
- We will sing another block of songs.
- We will partake of the holy meal together.
- We will worship God with our offerings.

### **This is when things will be different on these two Sundays. Here's what happens next –**

- Our children (up to and including grade 5) will make their way to The Big Room.
- After time together in The Big Room, the children will go to their classes.

### **While the children are in The Big Room and their classes –**

- I will preach the sermon.
- We will have a time of reflection together.
- The sermon will widen into a discussion involving several Lafayette members.

**The children and adults will be dismissed at the conclusion of the children's classes and the discussion in the worship center.**

### **Why are we doing this on these two Sundays? What are we hoping to accomplish?**

- We want to explore this way to go deeper into the Sunday morning text as we widen the sermon into a broader conversation.
- We want to learn from exploring a slightly different schedule for our gathering; specifically we want to explore the benefits this schedule might have on the spiritual formation of young children and their families.
- While we have only two such special-schedule Sundays planned, we want to explore an alternative gathering format that might be helpful on special occasions.

After the November 3 gathering, I look forward to having an idea bounce and some table talk to discern ways to sharpen our regular gathering schedules.

I am looking forward to exploring this together!

-- Bob Clark