



Sunday Schedule Expansion Begins September 14, 2025

NEW SCHEDULE

- **9a** // Worship Service & Connect Groups
- **10:30a** // Worship Service & Connect Groups

WHY ARE WE EXPANDING OUR SCHEDULE?

We have a *great problem*—Salem is growing! More families are attending worship and Connect Groups than we currently have space to accommodate, especially in **preschool and children's ministry classrooms** and **adult Connect Groups**.

Recent Sundays have averaged over **900 in worship attendance**, and our classrooms are regularly at or over capacity. Praise God!

When facing a space challenge, a church typically considers four options:

1. Stop inviting people to church — *Not an option!*
2. Plant a church — *We've done this and will again as God leads.*
3. Build a bigger space — *Not the most resource-wise decision right now.*
4. **Add another service** — *This is our next faithful step.*

After much prayer, our pastors and deacons believe **expanding to two worship and Connect Group hours** is the best decision for our church's continued growth and Kingdom impact.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF AN EXPANDED SCHEDULE?

1. **Room to Grow the Mission**

More people can worship, connect, and serve—helping us love others toward a growing relationship with Christ.

2. **Better Support for SalemKids**

More space allows us to better partner with parents and disciple the next generation.

3. **More Connect Groups**

A second hour allows us to launch new adult groups where people can grow in community.

4. **More Opportunities to Serve**

Doubling our hours creates more on-ramps for people to serve with their gifts.

5. **Wise Use of Resources**

This change maximizes our current facilities with minimal added expense.

FAQs: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

When will the new schedule start?

Sunday, **September 14, 2025** at 9a & 10:30a.

Will the worship services be different?

No—both services will be identical in form, style, and message. We remain a *multi-generational* church and are committed to staying unified.

Will SalemKids be available at both hours?

Yes! Preschool and elementary ministries will be offered during both worship and Connect Group times.

Will this divide our church?

We've prayed over this deeply. Unity is rooted in our shared Savior and mission—not a shared time slot. Connect Groups are where we truly become family.

Will we still gather as one big family?

Yes! Special Sundays and **Midweek** gatherings will continue to unite us all.

Will we return to one service in the summer?

No. Summer attendance has remained strong, and switching schedules back and forth creates confusion.

HOW CAN I HELP?

We'll need more volunteers in all areas—**media, worship, SalemKids, First Impressions, safety, and more.**

Visit mysalembaptist.com/nextsteps to sign up to serve.

NEXT STEPS FOR EVERYONE

☐ PRAY FIRST

Pray for unity, servant hearts, and for God to use this step to reach more people.

☐ INVITE OTHERS

This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to experience Salem.

☐ SERVE THROUGH SALEM

If you're not currently serving, now's the time! Many roles are available—especially in **SalemKids**.

LET'S TAKE THIS STEP TOGETHER

We believe God is doing something special at Salem. As we step forward in faith, our mission stays the same:

To generously love people at home and around the world toward a growing relationship with Christ.

