



NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE Q&A

A big change is coming to South Shore Baptist Church. After much prayer and discussion the Elders are piloting a change to our Sunday schedule beginning January 2025. This document will answer some of the common questions about this change.

What is the new schedule?

9:00-9:45	Sunday School
10:00-11:10	Worship Service
11:10	Fellowship

When does the new schedule begin?

Sunday, January 5, 2025

What does it mean that we are piloting this change?

This means the Elders and staff will evaluate the impact of this change on our Sunday ministries over the course of the next semester. Updates will be shared with the church at our March and June member's meetings.

Why are we changing our Sunday schedule?

The primary reason we are changing our Sunday schedule is to better reach 21–55 year olds as we strive to become a beacon of Christ to the South Shore by 2032. The Elders believe this change will be just one way in which we accomplish the goal God has placed in front of us.

Why 21–55-year-olds?

Remember that one of the areas of concern for our church is the fact that 70% of our members are over age 55, and we are not well positioned to reach and retain younger age groups. When we voted to adopt Vision 2032, we placed a priority on reaching this age group.

How will this new schedule help us better reach 21–55 year olds?

1. This schedule gives the prime time slot of 10am to the worship service. We believe this one-hour change makes our service more accessible to visitors, people with children, and those who commute from farther away.
2. This schedule asks 2 hours of people who wish to participate in all our Sunday programming, rather than 3 hours.
3. This schedule still prioritizes fellowship following the worship service, and this personal connection is a rising value in our church.

What challenges will this new schedule create?

Here are some of the challenges we anticipate—together with answers.

1. Cutting 15 minutes from Sunday School may lessen the experience.
 - Answer: We will create a culture of starting on time and managing time well.
 - Answer: We can place coffee stations in the adult classrooms.
2. Moving SS to 9:00 may have a negative impact on Children's and Youth SS.
 - Answer: We will educate our parents on the value of SS.
 - Answer: We will continue to provide an experience children and youth do not want to miss.
3. Parents need to learn a new Sunday rhythm. With the new schedule parents will drop their kids at Sunday School, and then pick them up to take them to the sanctuary before they are dismissed to Children's Church.
 - Answer: Adult SS classes must dismiss on time for parents to get their kiddos.
 - Answer: Parents will be reminded frequently to pick up their kids on time so volunteers can get to worship on time.
4. This new schedule will not align with everyone's preferences.
 - Answer: It's essential that we structure our schedule around our mission to reach the South Shore.

What other schedules were considered?

The Elders considered a significant number of options; earlier start times, later start times, rearranging the order of things, and even leaving the schedule as is.

How can I help make this change as positive as possible?

1. Place a mark on Sunday January 5th, 2025, on your personal calendar.
2. Pray that this change would help our church better reach people around us.
3. Prioritize being on time whether to SS or the worship service.
4. Invite someone to church.
5. Tell the Elders what you see working well and where you see challenges.