



August 30, 2020

Good morning/afternoon/evening church family!

As the church begins its final approach into the fall ministry season, we want to communicate as much information as we can regarding numerous opportunities and schedules that are coming your way. Despite the general reluctance people have to reading through longer notes, we ask you to give special attention to each item listed below. Further information will undoubtedly be communicated moving forward, particularly as it relates to individual ministries.

#### SERVICE SCHEDULE

- **Labor Day Sunday, September 6.** We will have one outdoor service at Tuscarora at 10:00am. The service will be similar to that which we held in June, with limited covered seating available and lunch following. You are encouraged to bring your own small canopies or umbrellas. In the event of rain, the service will be moved inside the Tuscarora Auditorium. Masks are required while moving about the grounds, but can be removed once seated.
- **Sunday, September 13.** We will return for one week to our normal summer schedule at Mount Bethel Church, with two services at 8:30am and 10:30am. The 8:30am service will be livestreamed on YouTube and continue to be available online thereafter.
- **Starting Sunday, September 20 and lasting throughout the fall.** We will continue to have two services, but only one of those services will be held at Mount Bethel Church. The 8:30am service will be held at the church under the same guidelines we have used throughout the summer. It will continue to be livestreamed on YouTube. The 10:30am service will be held at Tuscarora, either in the auditorium or in the gymnasium, depending on availability. As is the case at church, masks should be worn while moving about Tuscarora's interior spaces but can be removed once one finds his/her seat for the service. We are holding services at Tuscarora to more safely accommodate children's Sunday school and also the greater attendance anticipated with its resumption.

#### CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

- **Sunday School, September 20.** We are incredibly excited to announce the kick-off of Sunday School on Sunday, September 20. To prevent sustained periods of time in tiny classrooms and large concentrations of parents congregating to pick up their children, Tuscarora has graciously allowed us to use their campus on Sunday mornings throughout the fall. Classes for grades PreK – 6 will be held in larger gathering rooms in various buildings. Children's Sunday school will run concurrent with the 10:30am worship service. Parents will be encouraged to drop their child(ren) at class and then participate in the worship service. Masks should be worn by all individuals able to do so while moving about the interior spaces on campus, but then can be removed once children are with their individual classes. There is only one registration form for all of our children's ministries and it can be found by [clicking here](#) or visiting [www.mountbethelchurch.org](http://www.mountbethelchurch.org).
- **Club/Journey/Base Camp, October 7.** Due to the large number of students being home schooled or cyber schooled, along with the unavailability of buses for our usual transportation, we are moving Club/Journey/Base Camp to Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm at Tuscarora. It will be part of our larger *MBC Gathers* evening program for the entire church family. Supper will be available at Tuscarora for families with children beginning at 5:30pm, and the children will then be dismissed with leaders at 6:00pm. For those children not participating in supper, drop-off will take place in the gymnasium at 6:00pm. Masks should be worn by all individual able to do so while moving about the interior spaces on campus, but then can be removed once children are with their individual classes or outside. The registrations form can be found by [clicking here](#) or visiting [www.mountbethelchurch.org](http://www.mountbethelchurch.org).
- **Tuscarora's Odyssey Educamp.** Odyssey is an educational day camp for students in grades K-8. Each morning, students will complete their own digital educational programs divided by age, students will bring their own supplies (laptop, headphones, books, etc.) and work in focused environments. In the afternoon the fun continues! Since cyber schooling means more screen time we will have your children active and outside! They will enjoy open air time exploring our beautiful campus. Students will also enjoy physical education, music, art, Bible classes, and more! We have full day, part day, and school closure packages available. There is no commitment to come 5 days a week – choose the days that work best for your family. Learn more at <http://tuscarora.org/odyssey>.

### YOUTH MINISTRIES *(more information will be distributed by Andrew in the coming weeks)*

- **Confirmation, TBD.** Because Sunday school is now running concurrently with the morning worship service, we are still trying to determine the most constructive time to hold the class. At this point, it will meet either Sunday mornings at 9:30am taught by two laypeople, or Sunday evenings taught by Pastor Dan and Pastor Chris. The decision should be finalized this week.
- **Junior High Youth Group (Elevate).** Due to the unavailability of buses, Elevate will move to Wednesday nights this fall. Beginning September 9, Elevate will meet at the church at 6:00pm. Beginning October 7, as the church begins our weekly *MBC Gathers* at Tuscarora, Elevate will move to Tuscarora. Supper will be available at Tuscarora for families beginning at 5:30pm, and Elevate will begin at 6:00pm.
- **Senior High Youth Group.** Senior High Youth Group will remain on Thursday nights at 7:00pm at Mount Bethel Church. It will begin September 10.
- **Senior High Sunday School.** Senior High Sunday school will resume with all other Sunday school classes on Sunday, September 20. Unlike the younger children, however, the high school class will begin at 9:30am at Tuscarora in the Overlook Lounge.

### ADULT MINISTRIES

- ***MBC Gathers – Wednesday Evenings, October 7.*** In light of the fact that the children will now be meeting on Wednesday evenings and Sunday school for adults will not be available with the new morning schedule, we are excited to begin an evening open to the entire church family starting October 7. Supper will be available at Tuscarora for seniors and those without children beginning at 5:15pm and then for families with children beginning at 5:30pm. The children's program will then begin at 6:00pm, and various adult electives will begin at 6:15pm. All electives will end at 7:00pm to allow parents to get their children. There will be special activities available for the church on various weeks at 7:00pm, including the Snack Shop, bonfires, and Songs under the Stars.
- **Women's Bible Studies, Week of September 14.** The Monday evening Bible study will begin Monday night, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and the Tuesday morning Bible study will begin Tuesday morning, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am. Both studies will be held at the church.

- **Music Opportunities.** There will be various music opportunities available for all ages throughout the fall. They will be announced once their schedule is more firmly established.

### CHURCH STAFF INFORMATION

*As the church moves into the fall, there are various staff considerations of which we want you to be aware.*

- **Pastor Chris' PhD studies.** It has been announced at previous business meetings that Pastor Chris will begin PhD studies through Baylor University (Waco, TX) this fall. Such a pursuit will require 15-20 hours per week of study, one week of in-person classes every other month (with the first class being held September 13-19), and significant changes to his daily availability. Mondays will remain his weekly day off and Tuesdays will remain Pastor Dan's day off. Responsibilities will continue to be managed by the entirety of the staff along with the increased involvement of the Elders.
- **Pastor of Mission and Ministry.** It was announced at our July business meeting that the Elders are working on adjusting the job description of this potential additional staff position from full time to part time. That job description will be presented at the next quarterly business meeting in October with the hopeful approval of the modified position and subsequent creation of the special call committee.
- **Children's Ministries Director.** The congregation approved the position of Children's Ministries Director on January 26, 2020. The search committee, consisting of Mary Ann Boyd, Bob Glasgow, Gary Johnson, Roberta Lay, and Pastor Chris, has begun the search process to fill this part-time position (20 hours), the responsibilities of which fall into two main categories: Directing the Little Friends Preschool and working collaboratively with the leaders of other children's ministries such as Sunday School, Nursery, Children's Church, Club 119:11/Journey 45/Base Camp, Vacation Bible School, and Power Camp. If you or someone you know is interested in the position, please contact the committee by emailing [childrensministrydirector@mountbethelchurch.org](mailto:childrensministrydirector@mountbethelchurch.org). Please pray that we follow God's lead in finding the person He has in mind for our church family.

*Congratulations and thank you! You made it through a tremendously long note with a great deal of information, all of which is incredibly important to the life and ministry of Mount Bethel Church.*

*More communication will follow in the days and weeks to come.*