

# Overview of Our New “Flip-Flop” Schedule for Fall 2025

Written by Pastor Andy

## 1. Why is the new schedule called the “Flip-Flop” schedule?

Our current schedule is known as a “sandwich” schedule because our Connect Group session is sandwiched between 2 Worship Services as follows:

<b><u>Group 1</u></b>	<b><u>ALL</u></b>	<b><u>Group 2</u></b>
8:30 Worship	9:45 Connect Groups	11:00 Worship

The new schedule that will go into effect this August is known as a “Flip-Flop” schedule because the 2 worship sessions and 2 Connect Sessions run simultaneously. Half of our church will attend Worship then Connect Groups, and the other half will attend Connect Groups then Worship as follows:

<b><u>Group 1:</u></b>	9:00 Worship	10:30 Connect Groups
<b><u>Group 2:</u></b>	9:00 Connect Groups	10:30 Worship

## 2. Why are we moving to the “Flip-Flop” schedule?

There are 2 main reasons for the move to the “Flip-Flop” schedule, and both have to do with growth. First, our current 11:00 Worship service is becoming increasingly full. On some Sundays, it is hard for a family of 4 or 5 to find seats together if they come in right before the service starts. The second reason is that we need more Connect Group classrooms to meet our ongoing growth in all age groups. We have to make room for all the people God has already brought to our church (including you), for those He will bring to our church in the next few years. Since we are committed to obeying The Great Commission (see Matthew 28:19-20), we must continue to invite, welcome, and make room for everyone that God plans to bring to our church.

Over the last 3 years, our Worship and Connect Group attendance has more than doubled, and if we continue to grow as we hope, we will continue to need more space. In order to meet this need, our Vision Team considered multiple options to accommodate our growth and anticipate our future growth. The simplest solution would be to build a new education building and to expand the Worship Center to create new space. The problem is that construction costs on a commercial building are running around \$400 per square foot. In simple terms, an additional education building would cost \$5 – \$6 million and expanding the Worship Center would cost \$2 – \$4 million. At today’s interest rates and our current level of giving, borrowing that much money would be unmanageable and unwise.

The best alternative to expanding our buildings is to adjust our schedule. We currently have 2 worship services because we can't all comfortably fit in the Worship Center at the same time. After much prayer and consideration, we realized that we could apply the same logic to our education space. Just like we use the Worship Center twice, we can easily use most of our education space twice on Sunday mornings.

As we considered this option, we realized that adding a 2<sup>nd</sup> Connect Group Session could also solve our space issue in our current 11:00 Worship service. Right now, we have plenty of room for more people in our 8:30 Worship service. If we balance out the number of Connect Groups that meet in each session, we will have a much better balance of attendance in both Worship services. Once we move to the new schedule, we'll have 2 vibrant Worship services with a good mix of ages and generations and plenty of room to grow for the foreseeable future.

### 3. What does the new plan look like?

All the adult Connect Groups are listed below using the last name(s) of the leaders of the group. The numbers in front of the leaders represents the age range of the class. Every Connect Group in the first column will attend Connect Groups first at 9:00 am and Worship afterwards at 10:30 am. Everyone in the second column will do the reverse. You'll notice that the age groups are somewhat evenly distributed in both columns so that we have a good intergenerational mix in both Worship services.

#### **9:00 AM Connect Group**

20 Eaton  
20 Ward/Hoppis  
20 Kilby  
20 Marino  
30 James/Duncan  
50 Price/Fletcher  
50 Harrison/Oversby  
60 Ward  
70 Smith/Hogue  
70 Griffin  
70 Waldrip  
80 Dunn  
Hearing Impaired

#### **10:30 AM Connect Group**

Youth (all 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)  
20 Hayes (College)  
20 Hartman  
30 Robertson/Kardatzke  
30 Gragert/Kelley  
30 Williams/Franzoni/Harrell  
30 Short/Martin  
40 Ward  
40 Herren  
50 Schultz  
50 Payne/Kendrick  
60 Gierhart  
70 Sikes

### 4. How were decisions made about which Connect Groups were assigned to which of the columns above?

The short answer is prayerfully and carefully. Beyond that, we worked to have an

even distribution of ages in each Connect Group and Worship Session. That helps us achieve our goal of creating more Worship space and more education/Connect Groups space. We also really value intergenerational interaction and relationships within our church, which was an added benefit of having a balance of ages in both Worship services.

Another big factor in the development of the plan was how and where to place our student (6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>) Connect Groups. After consulting numerous leaders of other churches that use this “flip-flop” model, we discovered that in almost every case, at least in the beginning, it is best to keep the students together in the same Connect Group and Worship hours. This reality had a big impact on the overall plan because one of our main commitments was to keep parents and their kids (of all ages, including teens) together in the same Worship service. That had a big impact on which groups were placed in the same Worship service with our students, and in turn, who was placed in the other Worship service.

There’s no such thing as a perfect plan, but we believe that this plan does a really good job of achieving all our primary goals:

- Balance the overall attendance between both groups.
- Have a good mix of ages in each group.
- Keep the students together.
- Keep parents and kids/teens together.

## **5. What about my children?**

We currently have Preschool/Nursery Connect Groups and Pre-School/Nursery care during Worship each week. As such, they are all already in 2 sessions of childcare each Sunday, with some attending worship at 8:30 and some at 11:00. Once we move to the flip flop, they will all attend Connect Group session and then Children’s Worship session together in the same order, regardless of what order their parents attend Worship and Connect Groups. They will all start and end at the same time either way.

Kids in K- 5<sup>th</sup> will have Connect Group classes offered in both Session 1 and Session 2. Kids’ Worship up to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will also be offered during Session 1 and Session 2. Your children can follow the same pattern for Connect Groups and Worship you follow, regardless of which column above (on question 3) that your class is listed. According to our plan, all kids will be able to attend Worship (or Kids’ Worship) during the same time as their parents.

## **6. What about my student?**

As mentioned above, all students will stay together for Worship and Connect Groups. They will attend Worship at 9:00 am and Connect Groups at 10:30 am.

## **7. When will this take effect?**

The “Flip-Flop” plan will go into effect in August at the beginning of our new Connect Group year.

## **8. Where will my Connect Group meet?**

All Nursery, Preschool, and Kids’ groups will essential meet in their same locations. The locations for all our Youth and Adult Connect Groups will be announced very soon (in May). We are still in the process of finalizing those plans.

## **9. Who helped develop this plan?**

The “Flip Flop” plans were developed by the Vision Team in partnership with our church staff. The Vision Team has been meeting for the past 2 years to seek god’s direction for the future of our church. They have provided great insights and ideas that have already impacted and improved many areas of our church. By far, the biggest challenge they addressed was finding the space for Connect Groups and Worship to keep up with our pattern of growth. As they prayed and as our church staff consulted with other church and denominational leaders, they became convinced that God was leading us to develop and implement the so-called “Flip-Flop” plan presented in this paper.

**The Members of Our FBCC Vision Team:** Alan Eaton, Kenny Flowers, Lana Gragert, Nancy Griffin, Candace Hayes, Don Hogue, Steve Payne, Tim Sikes, Alyssa Ward / Also: Pastor Andy, Brandon Adams, Colt Johnson

## **10. What are some additional benefits and some potential drawbacks of the plan?**

**Benefits:** Other than adding more room to reach, minister to and disciple more people, one of the biggest benefits is that everyone who attends both Connect Groups and worship will now begin and end at the same time. In our current schedule, some people are done attending church at 10:45 am (after Connect Groups if they went to the 8:30 am Worship service) and others are done at 12:05 pm if they attend the 11:00 am Worship service. With the new schedule, you and your friends and family will all end at the same time making it easier to go to lunch together after church. Also, we will be able to have Sunday lunches and lunch meetings after church much more easily than we can right now. Finally, in the new plan, ministry groups can meet before church for prayer, planning or even breakfast in a way that doesn’t work very well with our current staggered schedule.

**Drawbacks:** No matter how hard the Vision Team and Staff tried to avoid it, there will potentially be some unintended and unfortunate drawbacks for some people. In our efforts to keep parents and their children/teens in the same Worship Service, we did realize that we were not in every case able to keep grandparents in the

same Worship service as their adult kids and their grandkids. We know this will be very disheartening to those who will be affected. As we tried numerous combinations of Connect Groups in both sessions, we simply couldn't avoid some cases where people will be affected. We wish we could have accommodated every person and every need, but we are prayerfully trusting that just as God has led us to this plan, He will graciously lead and help everyone who is affected as they navigate the changes.

We know that some may suggest that we could avoid any negative consequences by staying with our current schedule. While it's true that making this change will unfortunately negatively affect some people, not making a change will also negatively affect the people we won't have room to reach who desperately need the hope of the gospel and the love of a church family. In some cases, the schedule conflict can be solved by having one or the other generation of the family move to a new Connect Group, which is possible because there are groups for every age (except Students) in both hours. Each affected family will need to prayerfully decide how they want to address the issue. If you/your family is negatively affected by the new schedule and you'd like some help walking through that decision, your current Connect Group leaders and our church staff are available to help you.

### **11. Can I/we move to different Connect Group if it fits my/our schedule better?**

You can always move to a new group whenever you'd like. The same will be true then as it is now.

### **12. Can our whole Connect Group switch sessions?**

Since the schedule is all interconnected and we have worked very hard to create a good balance of age groups in Connect Groups and Worship in both hours, entire Connect Groups cannot switch sessions. Unfortunately, doing so would throw the whole plan out of balance and create as many problems as it solves.

### **13. How should I respond to this new Flip-Flop plan?**

Hopefully, you are pleased by the new plan, but if you have some initial reservations or concerns, we want to encourage you to respond as follows:

- **Prayerfully** – Continually seek God's wisdom and grace.
- **Patiently** – Give yourself some time to pray and discuss the plan with others. In time, you may discover that God has a plan to address your initial concerns that will turn out to be a unforeseen blessing.
- **Positively** – Being positive doesn't mean that you have to love the plan, it just means that you will keep an open mind, a cooperative spirit, and will work to maintain the unity of the church even as you work through any challenges the plan may present for you and your family, your Connect Group, or your circle of friends.