

VISION UPDATE: Strengthening Our Sundays & Wednesdays (Beginning in February)

A unified pathway for worship, discipleship, connection, and service.

Why We're Making This Shift

It's been a season of grace experienced at Nashville First. We've come together to study the Word, sing songs and hymns to the Lord, enjoy The Supper, and reunite as a congregation on mission in the city. By God's grace, we've had testimonies, baptisms, new families joining, and young people taking steps toward Christ. God is moving among us, and we are grateful.

Our church has changed and grown — spiritually and numerically — and we are committed to aspiring for more growth with care, clarity, and excellence.

This plan is not about becoming a different church. It's about becoming a *stronger, simpler, and more disciple-forming* church.

We're making this shift for four primary reasons:

1. Worship to be more accessible.

Two services allow us to welcome more people, highlight musical excellence, offer distinct worship expressions, accommodate diverse schedules, and provide flexibility for families and guests.

And yet, we remain one church. **Same preacher. Same sermon. Same pastoral team. Same vision.** Two gatherings, *one church family*, worshiping and serving together.

2. Clear, simple discipleship pathway.

We want to reinvigorate our dedicated discipleship hour.

At 9:30 a.m., Connect Groups will meet across the campus for “Open Bible & Open Life” discipleship.

Connect Groups are where friendships are formed; this is the time to be seen, known, and loved in a small group setting. We will launch new groups, strengthen existing ones, and add a New Member Course. We're also encouraging groups to form throughout the city and on college campuses.

This makes Sunday morning simple and effective:

Worship (or serve) → Connect Group → Worship (or serve)

3. Open opportunities for people to serve.

With two services and one discipleship hour, no one has to choose between gathering for worship or serving.

This widens the door for joyful service in worship, next-generation ministry, hospitality, and tech. Everyone can worship. Everyone can serve. Everyone can belong.

4. Develop a unified, purpose-filled midweek rhythm.

Wednesday nights become clear and consistent:

- **First Wednesday:** Prayer Gathering or Business Meeting.
- **Other Wednesdays:** Discipleship seminars, leadership development, and committee meetings.
- **Kids and Students:** Weekly discipleship same as now.
- **Rehearsals:** Choir, Band, and Orchestra gather for fellowship and practice.

One night. One mission. One direction.

THE NEW WEEKLY RHYTHMS

SUNDAYS (Beginning in February)

8:30 – Worship Gathering

Worship with choir, orchestra, and organ.

9:30 – Connect Groups

Current Groups strengthened, new groups added + New Member Course

A dedicated hour for formation, belonging, and biblical growth.

10:30 – Coffee & Connections (Broadway Corner)

A warm space for conversation, hospitality, and welcoming guests.

11:00 – Worship Gathering

Worship with a band and a team of vocalists (with in-house simulcast available in the

Broadway Chapel)

Both services share the:

- *Same preacher, same sermon*
- *Same pastoral voices*
- *Same vision*
- *Same unity and mission*

This builds continuity and connection as one church family.

WEDNESDAYS (Beginning in February)

First Wednesday: Prayer Gathering or Business Meeting

A monthly rhythm for prayerful unity and healthy governance.

Every Other Wednesday: Seminars & Committees

Discipleship seminars, leadership development, and committee meetings in a unified environment of purpose and spiritual growth.

Kids and Students continue weekly discipleship.

The Heart Behind This

This is a step of faith and stewardship. It is rooted in prayer, shaped by Scripture, and motivated by love for our church and city.

We believe God is calling Nashville First to: worship with excellence, form disciples with clarity, build community with warmth, serve with joy, and open our doors wider to the people God is sending.

This is not about adding more activity. It's about *strengthening* our core so more people meet Jesus, grow in Jesus, and serve Jesus.

We believe this next step will create space for renewal, welcome the next generation, and deepen our unity as one church family walking together in Christ.

How You Can Be Part of This

We need every member engaged as we take this next step. Please use the link provided to let us know where you want to serve, grow, or connect.

Opportunities to Join In:

- **Choir**
- **Orchestra**
- **Band & Worship Team**
- **Tech Team (audio, video, lighting)**
- **Children's Ministry (Sundays or Wednesdays)**
- **Youth Ministry**
- **Hospitality / Welcome Team**
- **Join a Connect Group**
- **Lead a Connect Group**

Click the link and let us know how you want to step in.

Everyone has a role. Everyone has a place.

Let's build this together – for Christ and for our city.

FAQs

Some potential questions and answers:

1) Why now? Can't we wait until we are too big for our Sanctuary to split into different services?

Actually, church growth experts recommend creating an environment that fosters growth and offers more opportunities for participation. We are building a foundation to grow, and hope to fill both services in the future.

2) We have tried this before, and it didn't work. What makes you think this will be different?

We have a long history of trying new things to reach our city. Sometimes it works, and sometimes it doesn't. We have learned a lot from our past mistakes, and quite frankly, we are not the same church that we were 5-10

years ago. What will make this different is that it is the same pastor, same message, same vision, and a more cohesive structure. We are one church, just offering two opportunities to gather for worship on a Sunday morning.

3) What about baptisms?

These will still be an integral part of our worship experience. Members can be baptised during either service. Testimony videos will be played in both services.

4) What about the Lord's Supper?

When we partake in remembrance of Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross, we will do so at each service so everyone can participate.

5) What about worship care for preschoolers?

Worship care will be available for both services. We will set up a reservation system for the early service to ensure we have enough volunteers in place to accommodate needs.

6) Do I have to commit to the same service each time?

No, you can be flexible with your schedule and attend or serve in whichever gathering fits your week.

7) Where do I sign up to volunteer?

We have a web form at (*fill in info here*) where you can list your interests and the team you'd like to serve alongside. Someone will contact you to schedule a time to serve and get started.

8) Explain "disciple-forming." Aren't we already doing that?

Yes, we have been forming disciples in multiple ways for years. We want to build on that foundation and continue to offer more in-depth Bible study in various ways. Strengthening our Connect Groups and focused studies gives more people the flexibility of joining a small group and finding their fit at Nashville First.

9) Will all go down to the Broadway Corner at 10:30 a.m., or can we gather somewhere else?

Our church family will have some time built into the schedule to interact and encourage one another. Chat with friends or meet new people. It will be fun and uplifting. If you'd rather take that time to reach out elsewhere, certainly,

but we'd love to see you at the Broadway Corner!

10) Will the simulcast be open to members or only to guests?

A few volunteers will be in the Broadway Chapel area to meet and assist guests. Some might prefer that area as well, and they are welcome to attend that setting. However, most of our church members will be in the Sanctuary.