

“...until Christ is formed in you.” (Gal. 4:19)

August 15, 2018

Dear Calvin Church Family and Friends:

Part of our threefold calling is to **Transform Lives**. And that includes *your* life!

We want to do everything we can to support your spiritual formation in Christ. Now, starting this fall, that will include prioritizing time on Sunday mornings.

For quite a while now, our elders on session have been prayerfully asking how we can better facilitate the spiritual formation of the Calvin Church congregation. A significant piece of their discernment was feedback through the *REVEAL for Church: Spiritual Life Survey*, which so many of you participated in earlier this year. What you shared led us to celebrate how Calvin Church is making a difference in the lives of people in need, but also to explore ways we can grow deeper in Christ through prayer and grow richer in our community through relationships with each other. Consequently, the session believes God is leading us to set aside dedicated time for spiritual formation on Sunday mornings between worship services.

Spiritual formation is the grace-driven inside-out renovation of your whole life, after the pattern of Jesus, with and for the sake of others.

Our two primary worship services in the sanctuary will continue, but the first service will now begin 15 minutes earlier at 9:00 am. In between worship services will be 40 minutes focused on spiritual growth opportunities for all ages and life stages; children, youth, and adults growing at the same time. Call it the “Formation Forty.”

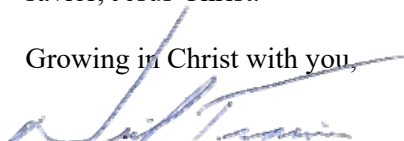
Beginning September 16, our new Sunday schedule will look like this:

- **9:00 am – 10:00 am – Worship Service**
- **10:10 am – 10:50 am – Formation Forty & Fellowship**
- **11:00 am – 12:10 pm – Worship Service**

For families with younger children, parents may now attend a class of their own while their children are in Sunday School, and the nursery will be open during each block of time. For our residents of Cristwood Park, the shuttle bus will continue to provide transportation to and from the first worship service, and arrangements will be made for those wishing to stay for the Formation Forty. Also, for those who prefer to enjoy conversation with friends both old and new, coffee will continue to be served in the Fellowship Hall between worship services. Please see the enclosed brochure for more details.

In the coming weeks, we’ll share more about the initial Formation Forty offerings. In the meantime, as we move into this new season in our life together, please join me and the session elders in praying that God would bless our desire and our efforts to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord. The Apostle Paul said of the Galatian Christians, “*I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you.*” May each of us be filled with a similar passion to see ourselves and one another transforming to become more and more like our savior, Jesus Christ.

Growing in Christ with you,



Rev. Neil Trainer
Pastor