



# PARKER HILL THURSDAYS

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Why are we calling it an experiment?**

We want to be good stewards of the resources God has given us, so instead of diving head first into the unknown, we want to take the time to plan and learn through experimentation. We know that not everything we do will work the way we expect, so the best way to explore this idea is through a test run.

### **Why Thursdays?**

Both internal and external research has shown us that Thursdays are the most popular and effective evening for a weeknight service. We know of other churches in the Northeast who have seen growth in their church through a Thursday night service. We may find that in NEPA a different night is better, but we decided Thursday was a good place to start.

### **Why only May & June?**

Like any good experiment, we need a set of controls. The nine weeks of May & June present the right length of time for us to get a sense of how Thursday night services could work. They are also the months leading into summer when, due to summer vacations and travel, attendance is lower. We expect that people who like to travel on weekends during the summer will find Thursdays to be a great option for maintaining consistency in their spiritual growth.

### **What will happen at the end of the experiment?**

June 29 will be the last Thursday night service. In the weeks that follow, we'll learn from staff, Crew members, and attenders about their experience with Thursday nights. Then, through prayer and honest discussion, our church leaders will evaluate the experiment and make a decision about the future of the service. At that time we'll communicate to the church what has been decided and what the next step is.

### **Isn't church supposed to be on Sundays?**

Much of the way we "do church" is rooted in tradition. For instance, the first-century church met every day in small groups in people's homes. But as culture and necessity influenced these small groups of believers, the Church began to change, and now our traditions favor groups of various sizes meeting in dedicated buildings one day a week.

If we keep our eyes open to the changes occurring in our world, we can see how the demands of modern life are causing shifts in many areas, not just in church attendance. Whether it's online education, working from home, or video-on-demand, the message is the same: people want, and expect, more options and flexibility in how they manage their time. We see this as an important

opportunity to reach a culture that is busy and highly-connected—yet often spiritually dry—with the message of Jesus. We're prepared to do whatever it takes to reach them.

### **What can I expect?**

Thursday services will begin at 6:30 PM, but attenders are also welcome to join us for a light dinner at 6:00. The service will be identical to our Saturday and Sunday services. You can expect the same great music, teaching, and ministries for kids that are available at other services. The teaching will be live and will lead the way for the weekends, meaning Thursdays will be the first time the message is taught that week.

### **Will this be happening on other campuses as well?**

During the May-June experiment, Dickson City will be the only campus where Thursday services are held. If successful, weeknight services at other campuses will become part of our growth strategy in the future.

### **How can I get involved?**

Every Parker Hill service requires a massive effort from Crew Members. If you currently serve, we'd love for you to bring your experience to a team on Thursday nights. If you're not currently serving, Thursdays present a great opportunity for you to jump in and see what being a Crew Member is all about. You can also help by inviting people to check out Thursday nights with you.