



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **1. WHAT IS THE BRIDGE?**

"The Bridge" is the name for a new worship opportunity happening at Gulf Shores United Methodist Church beginning November 1. The worship service will have contemporary worship music, a teaching-style message, and small groups.

### **2. WHAT TIME IS THE BRIDGE & WHEN DOES IT START?**

The Bridge will be at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the South Campus Auditorium of Gulf Shores UMC beginning November 1. The service (including small groups) will last from 9:30 until 10:45. (see question 11 for more info on the service)

### **3. IS THE BRIDGE JUST FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?**

NO. We believe persons of all ages will grow closer to Christ and experience meaningful worship and Christian fellowship by attending The Bridge.

### **4. WILL THERE BE NURSERY FOR MY SMALL CHILD?**

YES. South Campus Nursery (located just outside of the main worship area) will be open for this worship service, including the small group time. A paid nursery worker as well as a nursery volunteer will staff the nursery. Children up to age 3 may stay in the nursery during the worship service.

## **5. WHAT ABOUT MY SUNDAY SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN? IS THERE A SMALL GROUP FOR THEM?**

YES. GSUMC has an incredible team of children's Sunday School teachers and The Bridge is designed so that your child can time in worship with you, but also time in Sunday School. Around 9:45 each Sunday, the pastor will dismiss the children to go with a team of adults and youth to their Sunday School class. Children will need to be signed in by parents at the children's team table before they can go to Sunday School. Sunday School dismisses at the same time as our small groups (10:45 a.m.), so children will need to be picked up promptly.

## **6. WHO ARE THE LEADERS OF THIS SERVICE?**

The pastor for the service will primarily be Rev. Julianna Cooper, although Rev. Glenn Butler and Rev. Jody Kranz will also provide leadership at various times throughout the year. Music and technical leadership will be provided by Jeff Jones, Associate Director of Worship Arts and GSUMC. There is also a leadership team of church members (youth and adults) that will be visible each week and behind the scenes.

## **7. IS THE BRIDGE A NEW CHURCH?**

NO. The Bridge is a new worship opportunity that is emerging out of the prayers and visioning process of the lay leaders and staff at GSUMC.

## **8. IS THE BRIDGE REPLACING THE 9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE?**

NO. The 9:45 Contemporary service has moved back to the main campus Sanctuary, which is where it began 11 years ago.

## **9. WHICH SMALL GROUP IS FOR ME?**

There will likely be 3 adult small groups when we begin, but this may change. We are looking to participants for input on how best to organize small groups. Right now we are considering having a men's group, a women's group, and a young adult group. Youth will likely have one or two small groups based on the number of attendees. If you have input now or even after we get started, please share with a member of the leadership team.

## **10. HOW DO I HELP/GET INVOLVED?**

The Bridge needs lots of volunteers in order to launch by November 1. We need adults as well as youth to prayerfully consider serving in one or more of these areas –

- Usher
- Greeter
- Children's team
- Nursery volunteer
- Co-facilitator of small groups
- Audio/visual team

We need volunteers NOW so that they can be trained in October in order to be compliant with Safe Sanctuary policies by November 1.

## **11. WHAT WILL THE BRIDGE WORSHIP SERVICE LOOK LIKE?**

Here is a breakdown of what will happen in the service at what time, etc.:

9:30 a.m. Welcome/announcements

9:32 a.m. Musical worship

9:45 a.m. Children are dismissed to Sunday School (with leaders, see question #5) as we continue musical worship

9:50 a.m. Message

10:10 a.m. Closing prayer/ gather in small groups

10:15 a.m. Small groups begin

10:45 a.m. Small groups dismissed/children must be picked up from Sunday School