

What is happening to the current Sunday night Illuminate service?

- The Sunday night Illuminate service in its current form will be ending and The Gathering will replace it.

Is this a service for young adults only?

- No. While The Gathering will still be the primary service for the college ministry of the Chapel, this service will now be open to people of all ages! It is our hope that the majority of the people who attend Illuminate will continue to worship with us on Sunday nights at The Gathering, and that it will also draw other adults who we are not currently reaching. We are convinced that the style and approach that has been so effective in reaching college students will be equally effective and well received by people of all ages.

I currently attend Illuminate, what is changing and what is staying the same?

- Starting January 8, the service will move its start time from 6:40pm to 7:00pm.
- The name will change from Illuminate to The Gathering.
- Brian Kunkler will take over as the primary teaching pastor.
- The current college ministry band led by Paula Kuzman will merge with the current Illuminate band led by Drew Belden. Each week they'll put together the best band possible based on availability. It's going to be awesome!
- There will be between 400-500 college students who love Jesus in the room worshipping alongside of you!
- Announcements will be streamlined to better reflect things relevant to the people attending Sunday nights.
- Bulletins will not be passed out, but will be available in the back foyer.
- We will be transitioning to drop boxes for the purpose of offering collection.
- The service will still have a band-led worship that will be very similar to what Illuminate currently has.
- The service will still have God-centered biblical teaching by Chapel pastors.
- The service will still be open to people of all ages.
- The service will still have kids' programming available.
- A member of The Chapel's leadership team will still choose the sermon series; however the sermon series will be different than the morning services.

What about Kids programming?

- Chapel Kids programming will be available for newborn through fifth grade. This programming is currently offered at Illuminate. Nursery will provide excellent care just like Sunday mornings. Preschool and elementary will offer only small groups and will use the same curriculum that we offer on Sunday mornings. High Voltage will not be offered on Sunday nights. When we reach 75-100 elementary kids on Sunday evening we will be able to offer this program with the help of volunteers.

What is the motivation behind these changes?

- The Illuminate service was first launched with the intent of being the cutting edge service at The Chapel. It was designed to reach a demographic that was not currently being reached by the morning services. It is our hope to refocus this service back to its original design to continue to achieve those goals.
- We have also noticed over the years that while our college ministry has been able to reach many students during their college years, our retention rate after they graduated was not as good as we would like. It is our hope that by moving The Gathering to Sunday nights and by opening it up to all ages that this will encourage college students to stay in the Akron area and be committed to The Chapel for the rest of their lives!

Will anything new be added?

- We will be adding a new small group available to people who are "post college." Paul and Tracy Eck will lead the group on Thursday nights in their home. It is our hope that over time we will be able to add more and more small groups to various ages as the need arises.

What is a timeline for these changes?

- The Illuminate service will meet in its current format for the remainder of the 2011 calendar year. It will not be meeting on Sunday, December 25 or on January 1 due to Christmas and New Years. The following Sunday, January 8, will be the official launch of the Sunday night Gathering at 7:00pm.