

Monday

Disciple II Online

Led by Pastor Mark McDonald

This 32-week online Bible study focuses on the books of Genesis, Exodus, Acts and Luke.

Time: Mondays at 9:00 pm

Study Length: August 30-May 2011

Thursday

Alpha

Led by Betty Seales and a team of volunteers

Alpha provides an opportunity for class members to explore the Christian Faith in a relaxed and safe environment. It is an introduction to Christianity.

Location: Education Center; Fellowship Hall

Time: Thursdays 6:00-9:00 pm

Study Length: February 3-March 31

Christian Believer

Led by Donna Hendricks

A 30-week Bible study that focuses on classical doctrines of our faith. Disciple Bible Study I is a prerequisite for Christian Believer.

Location: Connection Center; Good Shepherd Room

Time: Thursdays 9:00-11:30 am

Study Length: January 6-August 11

Prayer Shawls

Led by Dorothy Connelly

This is a LIFE Group that uses art as an outreach ministry. Members knit, crochet and loom shawls and blankets for persons in our church and community who are experiencing difficult times. All of the shawls are made in an attitude of prayer, and then are blessed both on the altar and also by members of this ministry before they are presented.

Location: Connection Center; UMCOR Room

Time: Wednesdays 6:15 pm

A Day With God

Led by Rev. Mark McDonald

A Day With God is a day-retreat held locally that gives participants a chance to learn what we mean by "Love God." This will be offered quarterly and is led by staff and leaders of the church. It will include breakfast and lunch, a hands-on learning experience about spiritual disciplines, the way we worship and pray, and how the church can help you develop a stronger relationship with God.

Time: Saturday February 19, 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Location: Worship Center; Chapel

Life Groups provide an opportunity to learn and discuss ideas from different perspectives. They are friends I look forward to seeing every week.

Teri Covey

LIFE Groups

Winter 2011

adults

Midweek Groups

Thank you for your interest in LIFE groups! LIFE stands for Living in Faith Everyday, and it represents the second step in the process of Christian growth at First United Methodist Church (FUMC).

Love God. The first step is to *Love God* which simply means that we all start with a personal relationship with God. We do this through private prayer and public worship. Private prayer is something that we encourage every member at FUMC to do on a daily basis, although most of us find we need it even throughout every day. Public worship at FUMC is simple: every service has a time to praise God through songs and prayers of thanksgiving, to hear the Bible read and explained, and to respond to that Word by recommitting our lives to live as followers of Jesus.

Love Others. The second step is to *Love Others*, and we do this primarily through LIFE groups. Every time a LIFE group visits, we focus on three things: laughing, learning, and loving. Laughing reminds us to have fun together-- sharing in a good meal, fun activity, light conversations, and other things that help us remember that life can be good. Learning reminds us that we need to talk about the scriptures and challenge each other to figure out how the Bible pertains to today's situations. Loving reminds us to take care of each other. We all need Christian friends to pray with us or for us, to walk by our side, and to help us through the tough times of life. LIFE groups are made for that purpose!

Serve the World. The third step and goal of every Christian at FUMC is to *Serve the World*. Once you have a good relationship with God and have connected with others through a LIFE group, you're ready to learn how God wants you to be fulfilled. God has created us all very differently. As you grow in your relationship with God and others, you will learn that you have a certain combination of gifts, styles, and passions. When you commit to do things that don't allow you to use those, you will feel frustrated and burned-out. When you do things that allow you to use those, you will get more and more energy and fulfillment in your life. Our goal at FUMC is to help each other find the place(s) to serve that gives meaning to our lives in work, play, and ministry - inside or outside of the church!

Joining a LIFE group is a step in your journey as a Christ-follower. It is a step that leads to more meaning, more purpose, and more fulfillment in your life. I pray that you will find a group that helps you move toward new life. It may happen quickly, or it may happen slowly over time. It is your walk, your journey, but you are not in it alone when you have a LIFE Group!

In Christ's love,
Mark McDonald

Wednesday

Disciple Bible Study I

Led by Dennis Hendricks

This 34-week Bible study sweeps students through both the Old and New Testament. Students will read over 80% of the Bible.

Location: Connection Center; Good Shepherd Room

Time: Wednesdays 6:00-8:30 pm

Study Length: September 8-May 2011

Disciple Bible Study III

Led by Steve Bullock and Joann Bailey

This 32-week Bible study concentrates on the prophets (both major and minor) and the letters of Paul and how these writers constantly emphasized to their audience that as God's children we are a people "set apart."

Location: Connection Center; Emmaus Room

Time: Wednesdays 6:00-8:30 pm

Study Length: September 8-May 2011

Paul The Apostle

Led by Sandy Cobb

This DVD based series by David Nasser uses the life of Paul as a means to demonstrate how followers of Christ can stand up to current culture and stand strong in Christ.

Location: Connection Center; Genesis Room

Time: Wednesdays 6:00-7:15 pm

Parenting: The Early Years

Led by Kathy Helmer

A six-week study focusing on ten Biblical traits your kids will remember. Drs. Les and Leslie Parrot, seen on Oprah and Focus on the Family, will help you identify your parental strengths and weaknesses.

Location: Connection Center; Pathways Room

Time: Wednesdays 6:00-7:15 pm

Study Length: January 5-February 9

The Hurried Family

Led by Kathy Helmer

A ten-week video series based on Biblical principles to help restore calmness and rest to your marriage, family, workplace and to your relationship with God.

Location: Connection Center; Pathways Room

Time: Wednesdays 6:00-7:15 pm

Study Length: February 16-April 20

Grief Sharing

Led by Walt Garrett and Lindsay Hendrix

A place and space to help you cope with grief. Resources include other people to provide support through discussion, suggested readings, ideas on how to cope and move toward healing and wholeness.

Time: Wednesdays at 6:00-7:15 pm

Location: Connection Center; Disciple Room