



Fall & Advent 2021

Asbury Continues to CARE, SHARE, AND REACH OUT

Because of the pandemic, Sunday mornings have changed. While some people are now gathered in the sanctuary, others continue to join by Facebook or YouTube on Sundays or during the week. Regardless, our worship is still about our relationship to God and with others.

While our worship and Adult Group times have changed on Sunday morning, we are still offering conversation, feedback, fellowship, encouragement, and support. As we meet, we continue to hold each other up in prayer and experience personal discovery and spiritual growth that helps us cope with the many challenges that the present-day world presents.

Asbury offers many opportunities throughout the year for everyone to become involved in an Adult Group. Please note that the times and locations of the various classes may have changed. Check out which groups will be offered in the church and on ZOOM. Please give prayerful consideration to joining one or more of these exciting groups! Remember, you will not only be blessed, but you will also be a blessing!

If you have questions, please contact the leader of the group or
Linda Manning (563-343-5319) singasong4llm@gmail.com
Pam Thornton (563-676-5619) psthornton@gmail.com

**Connecting • Equipping • Transforming • Empowering
Become Part of an Adult Class!**

Blessings along your journey!



ADULT STUDY OPPORTUNITIES ON SUNDAY MORNING

ADVENTURES IN FAITH, AGAPE, AND CIA

Adventures in Faith Contact: Pam Thornton 563-332-4824 psthornnton@q.com
Agape Contacts: Pat Thornton 563-332-4824 psthornnton@q.com
Kurt Streicher 563-508-7614 vicstre@aol.com
CIA Contacts: Phil Paulson 309-502-9236 paulsonphil2@gmail.com
Marian Paulson 309-507-1714 marianedmund@yahoo.com

At the present time, these three classes have combined. They are meeting in Rooms 302-303 on the upper level on Sundays at 9:30 AM. They will begin MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE by Adam Hamilton on October 31 and join the Advent Sunday Sermon Study Series, NOT A SILENT NIGHT by Adam Hamilton on November 28. This is a mixed class who welcomes everyone and encourages you to join them at any time! This class is meeting in person and via ZOOM. Contact the church office or one of the leaders for the link to ZOOM.

EXPLORATIONS

Contact: Realf Ottesen 563-370-6923 rottesen741@gmail.com
Ann Brown 563-332-0841 dbhoms@msn.com

COMMUNITIES OF DISSENT by Stephen Stein will be the study offered by this mixed group meeting on Sundays in Room 202 on the main level at 9:30 AM. Everyone is welcome to join this class which features unusual studies throughout the year.

ADULT OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE WEEK

HANNAH CIRCLE

Contact: Donna Stradt 563-359-3110 donna@jrs-realtor.com

Hannah Circle is a socially oriented group of ladies that meets on the second Tuesday of the month from September through May. They gather to share joys and concerns, catch up on the latest news, and share milestones with one another. They are now meeting at the church in Room 302-303 on the second level and via ZOOM at 11:30 AM. Anyone is welcome and should contact Donna Stradt for the link to ZOOM and any other needed information.

LADIES ARM GROUP

Contact: Sharon Phillips 563-332-8462 phillips363@mchsi.com

This Ladies ARM group is a caring and sharing group of women whose primary focus is to create an atmosphere where group members affirm and encourage one another. They usually meet at the church in Room 304 on the upper level of the church on the 2nd and 4th (and perhaps the 5th) Thursdays of the month from 7:00-9:00 PM. However, as they navigate through the challenges that COVID presents, this could change and they would then meet via ZOOM. Please contact the leader, Sharon Phillips, if you plan to join this group. Once they finish the Fall Sunday Sermon Study Series, they will begin the Advent Sunday Sermon Study Series, NOT A SILENT NIGHT by Adam Hamilton. All women are welcome!

L.I.F.T. (LADIES IN FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER)

Contact: Stephanie Pim 563-340-2738 stephjpm@gmail.com
Marian Paulson 309-507-1714 marianedmund@yahoo.com
Julia Hensch 563-543-7643 julia.c.brimeyer@gmail.com
Jenny Bloomquist 563-320-8632 jennyb48@gmail.com

This Ladies group has their own Facebook page. They meet at different locations or via Zoom for fellowship and service projects which vary each time. Connect with them on Facebook or by contacting Stephanie Pim, Jenny Bloomquist, Marian Paulson, or Julia Hensch.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Contact: Chris Harvey 563-210-1888 chrisharvey4155@hotmail.com
Ron Dixon 563-200-1998 RPDixon2002@yahoo.com

This mixed group meets during the school year on Thursday Evenings from 7:00-8:30 PM. Their main focus is studying the Bible. Following the current Sunday Sermon Study Series, SERMON ON THE MOUNT by Amy-Jill Levine, they will begin SEEING GRAY IN A WORLD OF BLACK AND WHITE by Adam Hamilton on October 28 and then participate in the Advent Sunday Sermon Study Series, NOT A SILENT NIGHT by Adam Hamilton. This group meets via ZOOM, so please contact Chris Harvey or the church office for the link to ZOOM. They would be delighted to have you join them!

UPPER ROOM MEN'S GROUP

Contact: Cliff Pim 563-340-2722 cpim@hhsales.net
Phil Paulson 309-502-9236 paulsonphil2@gmail.com

The goal of the men's group is building Faith through Study, Service, and Fellowship. This is done by watching a short video, having group discussions, and studying the Word and how it relates to everyday life as a Christian man. Fellowship is built through some fun time at each meeting and through one-on-one prayer partners. An "open chair" is always there to greet you, so please join them! They meet the second and fourth Saturday mornings at the church in Room 302-303 on the second level and via ZOOM at 8:00 AM. Please contact one of the above leaders for the link to ZOOM or any other needed information.

WINGS (WEDNESDAY INSPIRATIONAL NIGHT (OF) GROUP STUDY)

Contact: Jean Black 563-676-0120 jeaniniowa60@gmail.com
Heather Dennis 563-340-1748 rhdenfour@mchsi.com

WINGS is a group that is open to everyone! They gather to study the current Sunday Sermon Study Series and then, at other times, offer a different study, watch and discuss a movie, or participate in a service project. They meet at the church in Room 302-303 on the upper level on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:30 PM. They will be discussing episodes from THE BIBLE PROJECT and then joining the Advent Sunday Sermon Study Series, NOT A SILENT NIGHT by Adam Hamilton on December 1.

RACHEL CIRCLE

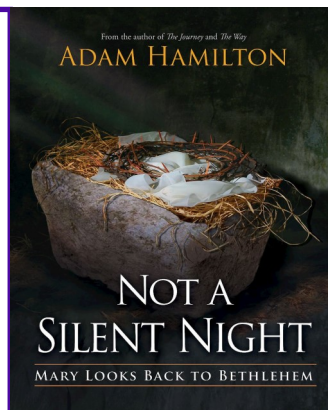
Contact: Sue Gallagher 563-359-1874 suegal@mchsi.com
Katie Nelson 563-508-4438 kadonelson@gmail.com
Jo Winegar 563-940-2516 tagdirector@mchsi.com

Rachel Circle's goal is to support and encourage each other in their Christian journey. Members rotate responsibilities as hostesses and plan programs that could include a speaker who presents information on a relevant topic. A service project is also included each month. Their mission is to form relationships with community agencies and assist them either with a monetary donation or with goods and service. Anyone is welcome to drop in and join the group at any time. They are currently meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at the church in Room 302-303 on the second level and via ZOOM at 6:30 PM. Please contact one of the above people for the link to ZOOM or any other needed information.

**2021 Advent Sunday Sermon & Study Series
November 28 - December 26**

Pastor Tom's sermons will follow
Adam Hamilton's study "*Not a Silent Night*"

Join a small study group to enhance
your worship experience during Advent.
All are welcome!



Not a Silent Night

NOT A SILENT NIGHT by Adam Hamilton takes an unusual approach to Advent. The five week study centers around Mary. Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the Crucifixion and Resurrection and travels back in time as she witnesses Jesus' life and ministry, ending on Christmas Day with the birth of Jesus.

This study begins with Mary at the age of 64. What did Mary do the last 15 years of her life? Did she feed the sick, help others, and bring people to Jesus? Was she a person of hope and one to witness to others so that they might know her son?

The second session has Mary at the age of 49 standing at the foot of the cross. Mary's day began at 6:00 AM and she walked with the crowd knowing things wouldn't turn out well. Jesus, her son, was hung on the cross around 7:00 AM. She stood there, watching her son suffer and finally die 8 hours later—at 3:00 PM. Remember, Christmas and Calvary (Christ's death) go hand in hand. This is the gift of salvation! God's love is shown to the world, but the cost was high! Mary's grief had to be tremendous, yet that is always the cost of grace whenever it is given to each of us.

Mary is 28 in the third session. It is the time of the Passover Festival. This is the only story of Jesus' childhood and the last time that we know Joseph is alive. It is also the earliest recorded words of Jesus. Can you imagine the feeling of losing your child? Mary must have told this story over and over to help others as they go through traumatic situations. And Jesus? This was a defining moment as he made clear His mission. "I must be in my Father's house." Jesus knew who His father was and claimed His relationship to God.

The fourth session finds Mary at the age of 14. She is living in Nazareth as a peasant girl when the angel Gabriel appears. Hamilton discusses "why Mary?" and spends time explaining the words "grace" and "favorite" which appear 170 times in the New Testament. The challenge is for us to offer grace—something good to those who don't deserve it. Said another way, to humble ourselves, trust in God, and reach out in kindness even when someone may not deserve it.

The final session finds Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Hamilton explains why this could not have been a time of silence—it wasn't a silent night when Jesus was born! He then talks about how the world was forever changed and that God sent Jesus to love us, to offer mercy and forgiveness. As Mary learned, God doesn't promise a perfect, peaceful life or a silent, holy night. In the messiness of life, God is at work, bringing blessing out of pain. After all, Christmas and Easter are inseparable!

While offering up many points to ponder, Hamilton's book is an easy read. You are encouraged to pick up a book and to join a group which will help to make this Sunday Sermon Study Series more meaningful during this wonderful season of the year. See the enclosed flyer for groups that will be studying NOT A SILENT NIGHT and would be delighted to have you in their group. If you have questions, please contact either Linda Manning (563-355-5218) or the leader of the group.