



Small-Group Opportunities for Adults

January 2023

It's January, 2023! Do you make New Year's Resolutions? Have you thought about choosing **ONE (Maybe TWO)** areas on the Discipleship Pathway to move forward toward a deeper walk so that you are living a life that is daily centered on God?

Asbury is unique because we offer many ways for you to connect with an Adult Small Group. While these groups differ, they all offer conversation, feedback, fellowship, encouragement, and support because our lives are about our relationship to God and with others. As the groups meet, either in person and/or via ZOOM, they continue to hold each other up in prayer and to experience personal discovery and spiritual growth which helps one cope with the many challenges that the present-day world presents.

Please check out the Adult Small Groups and decide which one(s) you'd like to join. 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



STUDY OPPORTUNITIES ON SUNDAY MORNING

AGAPE PLUS

Contact: Pam Thornton	563-332-4824	psthornton@g.com
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Kurt Streicher	563-508-7614	vicstre@aol.com
Phil Paulson	309-502-9236	paulsonphil2@gmail.com
Marian Paulson	309-507-1714	marianedmund@yahoo.com

This mixed class meets on Sundays from 9:30-10:25 AM on the upper level in Room 302-303. Beginning on January 8, 2023, they will be studying Ecclesiastes using the book, A LIFE WELL LIVED: LIVING WITH A PERFECT GOD IN AN IMPERFECT WORLD by Tommy Nelson. It is thought that Ecclesiastes was written by King Solomon (David's son), who was touted as the wisest man of his time. According to Ecclesiastes, in the desire to make sense of the world and our existence, three great sirens (temptations) have lured men and women. At the end of his life, Solomon contemplated what competed for his attention and wrote his conclusions in the Book of Ecclesiastes. In today's world where the search for meaning and purpose propels people to try everything under the sun, Solomon's conclusions ring louder than ever for people who need answers more than ever! At the conclusion of this study, AGAPE will participate in the Sunday Sermon Study Series for Lent, SEVEN MILE MIRACLE by Steven Furtick. Everyone is welcome! Why not join this group for this unusual study?

EXPLORATIONS

Contact: Realf Ottesen	563-370-6923	rottesen741@gmail.com
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Vickie Streicher	563-508-0430	vicstre@aol.com

This mixed class will begin A STUDY OF THE REFORMATION by Rob Fuquay. Fuquay is the Senior Pastor of St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis, Indiana. This study takes a look at Martin Luther and the Reformation with a great focus on the importance of our stories as part of God's bigger story. He explores Martin Luther's life of reforming and how those basics matter today and might even give us new life. They meet on Sundays at 9:30 AM on the main level in Room 202. On Sunday, February 26, they will begin their study for Lent entitled WITNESS AT THE CROSS by Amy-Jill Levine. Everyone is welcome to join this class at any time throughout the year!

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 meet every other Thursday from 7:00-9:00 PM via ZOOM. On February 2, 2023, they will begin their study for Lent: WITNESS AT THE CROSS by Amy-Jill Levine. Please contact the leader if you plan to join this group. All women are welcome!!

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

Contact: Stephanie Pim 563-340-2738 stephipim@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 one of the leaders.

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.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Contact: Chris Harvey 563-210-1888 chrisharvey4155@hotmail.com

This mixed group meets on Thursday Evenings from 7:00-8:30 PM via ZOOM. Please contact Chris Harvey or the church office for the link to ZOOM. Beginning January 5, they will begin THE WALK by Adam Hamilton. This is an excellent way to begin to move forward on the Discipleship Pathway. In THE WALK, Hamilton focuses on five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is a part of our daily walk with Christ and "are doable". This study offers ideas that will help you move toward a life that is daily centered on God. Following this study, they will join the Sunday Sermon Study Series, SEVEN MILE MIRACLE by Steven Furtick. This group 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. 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. In January, they will begin a study entitled COURAGE by Tom Berlin. Berlin is the Lead Pastor of Floris UMC in Herndon, Virginia. In this book, he states that Courage is the foundational virtue required for the Christian life. By examining the life of Christ, one begins to understand what true courage is and how God works in the lives of Jesus followers. We live in challenging times, and Berlin captures the spirit of courageous leaders and provides the essential ingredients that allow people to be faithful on this journey. This study challenges people to unlock the courage that they already have as they exhibit a brave faith and find the life Jesus offers. It's a must read, especially for the lifelong learner seeking to follow the example of Jesus. An "open chair" is always there to greet you, so please join them!

WINGS (WEDNESDAY INSPIRATIONAL NIGHT (OF) GROUP STUDY)

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

WINGS is a group that is open to everyone. Beginning on January 11, 2023, they will be studying CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS by Adam Hamilton. This new, fully updated book explores four major world religions--Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism--and compares the beliefs of each with those of Christianity. Hamilton urges us as Christians to build bridges with others so that we might grow in our faith, seek peace in our world, love our neighbors, and find positive ways to share the gospel. WINGS meets in person at the church in Room 304 on the upper level on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:30 PM or via ZOOM. Please contact one of the leaders for the link to ZOOM. They will follow this study with the Sunday Sermon Study Series, SEVEN MILE MIRACLE by Steven Furtick. This group does a variety of studies and service projects throughout the school year. All are welcome!

ONE STORY THAT LEADS TO JESUS (YouVersion BIBLE APP)

Contact: Pastor Tom 563-355-5218 pastortom@asbury-bett.org



One way to move toward a life Daily centered on God is to read the Bible every day. I have found the YouVersion Bible App to be a helpful tool. The app has many different reading plans from which to choose. Twice before I have read the whole Bible in one year using a YouVersion plan. I really appreciated gaining a deeper understanding of the whole Bible. In 2023 I will be using a reading plan created by the Bible Project called, "One Story that Leads to Jesus." It includes many videos that explain the books and concepts of the Bible in easy-to-understand graphics. This is a great option for using the Bible as a way to daily center your life on God.

Let me know if you would like to join me in this reading plan. There are also options for reading the plan as a group. Find the YouVersion Bible App from your App store, then search for the reading plan called, "One Story that Leads to Jesus" created by The Bible Project. I would be glad to help anyone who would like to find it and give it a try.

Pastor Tom