



FALL IS HERE!

**Now is the perfect time
to join an Adult Small Group!
All are Welcome!**

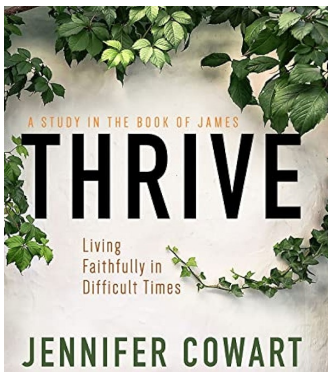
Why join a group? If you are new to Asbury or if you are a long time member and are looking to meet others, then an Adult Small Group offers conversation, feedback, fellowship, friendship, encouragement, support, fun, and, some learning along the way which will help you connect with God and others in a deeper way.

Asbury is unique because we offer many groups which meet either in person and/or via ZOOM. They offer a variety of ways to experience personal discovery and spiritual growth which helps one cope with the many challenges in our ever-changing world. Many of the small groups participate in service projects both inside and outside the church as a way to live out their Christian faith.

Please check out the Adult Small Groups and decide which one(s) you'd like to join or see me if you are interested in organizing a new group. Remember, you will not only be blessed, but you will also be a blessing!

**Please check out the enclosed Adult Small Group Opportunities.
If you have questions or need help finding a group, please contact
Linda Manning or Pam Thornton.**





THRIVE - A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF JAMES

Living Faithfully In Difficult Times
by Jennifer Cowart

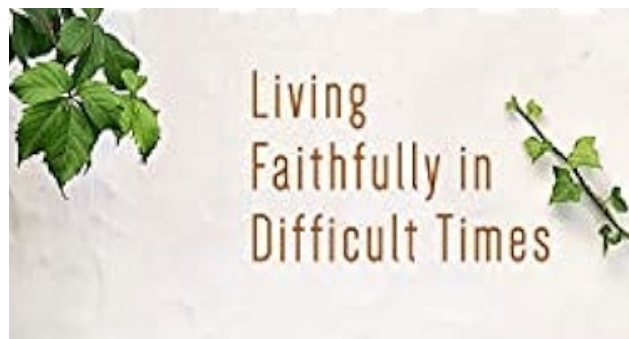
Tucked toward the end of the New Testament is the small, often overlooked, book of JAMES. The author of this epistle is usually identified as James, the brother of Jesus. James assumed a position of authority in the church and was a leader of the Jerusalem Church. He also presided at the council of Jerusalem and was considered one of the pillars of the Church. James, along with his brothers, was skeptical of Jesus during his earthly ministry, but was converted as an eyewitness of the resurrection. An early Church historian, Hegesippus, identified him as “James the Just,” testifying to his extraordinary godliness, his zeal for the law of God, and his devotion to prayer. Josephus (another historian) recorded that James was martyred in A.D. 62. He was beaten to death after having been thrown from the pinnacle of the Temple.

The Adult Ministry Team selected the study of the Book of James for the fall Sunday Sermon Study Series using the book, **THRIVE - A Study in the Book of James - Living Faithfully in Difficult Times** by Jennifer Cowart. This six-week study centers around six words: Endurance, Wisdom, Action, Control, Humility, and Prayer. The book of James emphasizes practical Christian living and the importance of actions over mere belief. It displays a Jewish flavor by containing references to the Old Testament and groups of sayings that reveal a similarity to the style of Jesus. James wrote to encourage his audience to gain wisdom, strengthen their faith, and display their faith through obedience to God, especially in their treatment of other people. He encouraged believers to be “doers” of God’s Word, and to demonstrate their faith through acts of love and mercy, particularly towards the poor and marginalized.

Cowart’s book, **THRIVE**, is written like a devotion book. Each of the six weeks will center around one of the words. There is a three-page reading, sometimes with questions or thoughts to consider, followed by a prayer for each day of the week. Her book is easy-to-read and very user friendly. For those of you who are in a small group, there is a one-page brief Video Viewer Guide for each week. You may want to bring your book and fill out the information as you watch the video.

As always, the book is available without cost to you in either narthex. (Donations are always welcome). You are encouraged to take a flyer and decide which group you will join. Doing so will help you as you learn more about the Book of James and its teachings about how to live a life that is daily centered on God and how we can better demonstrate our faith through acts of love and mercy.

Jennifer Cowart is the executive and teaching pastor at Harvest Church in Warner Robins, Georgia which she and her husband, Jim, began in 2001. Jen oversees a wide variety of ministries, is a gifted Bible teacher and the author of other studies. She and her husband are the parents of four children.



Adult Small Groups

Participating in the Sunday Sermon Study Series

AGAPE - The word AGAPE means a selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love. This class welcomes you and encourages you to join them as they seek to understand and reflect the Agape that Jesus had for His Father and for His Followers through study, fellowship, and action. They participate in the Sunday Sermon Study Series during the Fall, Advent, and Lenten seasons. At other times, they offer a different study. They will convene on September 7 for a Meet and Greet and begin the Study, THRIVE, by Jennifer Cowart on September 14. This mixed class meets on Sundays from 9:30-10:25 AM in Room 302-303 on the upper level or via ZOOM. Please contact the leaders or the church office for the link to ZOOM.
Contact: Pat & Pam Thornton, Kut Streicher or Phil Paulson

EXPLORATIONS - If you want to explore connections between the scriptures and the findings of historians and archaeologists, this is the class for you! This mixed class will begin with a Meet & Greet on September 7 followed by the Study, THRIVE, by Jennifer Cowart on September 14. They meet in Room 202 on the main level from 9:30-10:25 AM. Everyone is welcome to join this group at any time!
Contact: Realf Ottesen, Gary Hendershot or Vickie Streicher

GOOD NEIGHBORS - Looking for a women's group that meets during the day? This group is open to anyone who would like to join them on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Chapel at the Masonic Village now called The Vista (2500 Grant Street in Bettendorf). They will begin on Tuesday, September 14 with the Study, THRIVE, by Jennifer Cowart. They would be thrilled to have you join them!
Contact: Roberta Gimmy

LADIES ARM GROUP - This group of ladies meets every other Thursday from 7:00-9:00 PM via ZOOM. The focus of this caring and sharing group of women is to create an atmosphere where group members affirm and encourage one another. They will begin the Study, THRIVE, by Jennifer Cowart on Thursday, September 4. Please contact the leader or the church office for the link to ZOOM.
Contact: Sharon Phillips

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY - This mixed group meets on Thursday Evenings from 7:00-8:30 PM via ZOOM. They participate in the Fall, Advent, and Lenten Sunday Sermon Study Series and will begin on September 11 with THRIVE, by Jennifer Cowart. Please contact Sylvia or the church office for the ZOOM link.
Contact: Sylvia Sorensen

WINGS (Wednesday Inspirational Night (of) Group Study) - WINGS is a group that is open to everyone. They gather to study the current Sunday Sermon Study Series in the Fall, during Advent, and Lent. At other times, they offer a variety of studies, watch and discuss a movie, or participate in a service project. They meet at the church in Room 302-303 on the upper level or via ZOOM on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:30 PM. They will begin the year with a Meet and Greet on Wednesday, September 10 and then participate in the Study, THRIVE, by Jennifer Cowart. Please contact one of the leaders or the church office for the link to ZOOM. They hope to see a lot of new faces this year as everyone is welcome!
Contact: Jean Black or Heather Dennis

Other Adult Study Groups Meeting Include:

ASBURY MEN'S GROUP - The men's group meets at 7:45 AM on the second and fourth Saturday mornings at the church in Room 302-303 on the second level and via ZOOM. They watch a short video, have group discussion, study the Word and how it relates to everyday life as a Christian man, and enjoy one-on-one prayer partners, fun and fellowship. They also participate in a variety of service projects throughout the year. There is always an "open chair" so they would be delighted to have any man join them.

Contact: Cliff Pim or Phil Paulson

Fellowship and Connection Groups

CARD MINISTRY - This group has a lot of fun working together to make handmade greeting cards to send to Asbury members & friends for many special events & holidays. They meet at 6:30 PM on the second Wednesday of each month in Room 302-303 on the upper level of the church. To learn more, visit their Facebook page or contact the leaders.

Contact: Alinda Littrel or Linda Dudgeon

CRAFT & CHAT - This group is open to anyone who is interested in crafts. They meet the third Saturday of every month in Connections Café from 9:00 AM-Noon. Bring your own supplies and work on any craft project you like, or come and help make a sleeping mat for those in need! Connect and have fun with fellow crafters.

Contact: Michelle Bonney

HANNAH CIRCLE - This is a socially oriented group of ladies that meets at different locations on the second Tuesday of each month either for brunch or lunch. Watch the GOOD NEWS for information or contact Donna Stradt. Join them for fun conversation and fellowship!

Contact: Donna Stradt

L.I.F.T. (LADIES IN FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER) - Details regarding activities, studies, and/or service projects can be found on their Facebook page or by contacting one of the leaders. They do a wide variety of events during the year, so check them out regularly. All ladies are welcome!!

Contact: Stephanie Pim, Marian Edmund-Paulson, Julia Hensch or Jenny Bloomquist

RACHEL CIRCLE - This group of ladies meets at 6:30 PM on the second Tuesday of the month at the church. They support and encourage one another, have a speaker each month, and include a service project which helps support an organization within our community. If you are looking for ways to learn more about community groups that serve a wide variety of needs within our community, then this is the group for you. You are welcome to join them at anytime.

Contact: Pam Duehr or Katie Nelson

