

## ✚ What are ChristCare Groups?

ChristCare Groups are one of the many opportunities for adult spiritual formation at First Presbyterian Church.

ChristCare small groups are based on a model of small group life developed by the Stephen Ministry. Each group and facilitator incorporates four key components in their unique way.

Leader/facilitators study the ChristCare approach and participate in monthly small groups (SEA groups) facilitated by **Pastor Eric Corbin** that provide ongoing support, encouragement/education and accountability.

Groups listed with a ✚ preceding their names are part of the ChristCare ministry.

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## Yes, I would like to be a part of a small group!

Three ways to sign up...Sign up with your name, email address if you have one, and phone number at any of the following:

- At the sign-up table in Westminster Hall on Sundays
- Through an email to [info@firstpres.church](mailto:info@firstpres.church)
- By calling the church office at 217.356.7238

**More information about small groups and adult education opportunities at First Presbyterian Church is available at the information table in Westminster Hall and through the church website.**

**If you want to list your group, contact Marcia Franks ([marcia@firstpres.church](mailto:marcia@firstpres.church))**

updated 1/2018



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

[www.firstpres.church](http://www.firstpres.church)

# Small Group & Adult Education Opportunities

## Winter 2018

**First Presbyterian Church offers a variety of small group and educational opportunities for adults during the week to support spiritual formation and growth.**

**Here are some groups planned for Winter 2018. Watch for updates.**

# Opportunities

## Sundays...

### Reformations

January 7 – February 11, 2018  
10:10-10:55 AM Parlor  
Pat Metcalf

As part of the Reformed tradition and for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary following Luther nailing his theses to the church door, this new six week study will first explore the backgrounds of the Reformations and then each of the four Reformation traditions. The book, *The Protestant Reformations* by Donald K. McKim is part of the PC(USA) Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding Series and available in Westminster Hall or in class (\$5.00). This class will be of interest to all who are interested in learning more about the key protestant theological streams developed during the Reformation, and what that suggests for ongoing reformation in our own time. People can enter the class and discussion at any time as each week stands on its own.

### Walking With Jesus: A Lenten Study

February 18 – March 25, 2018  
10:10-10:55 AM Parlor

Join this Lenten class as we prepare for Easter. Copies of the study guide *Walking With Jesus Through the Old Testament* by Paul Strobel will be available prior to the beginning of class in Westminster Hall as well as during the class in Mae Chapin Parlor.

### Feasting on the WORD

April 8 – May 13, 2018  
10:10-10:55 AM Parlor  
Coordinator:  
Judy Geistlinger  
Guest Facilitators

We will be following the lectionary passages for Sunday and offer a place for people to reflect on the Scriptures as well as the messages from that day's sermon. Materials will be provided each week.

### Feasting on the WORD (French)

January 7 – May 13, 2018  
10:10-10:55 AM Room 204, CE Building  
Gabriel & Solange Mboyo

We will be following the lectionary passages for Sunday and offer a place for people to reflect on the Scriptures as well as the messages from that day's sermon. Materials will be provided each week.

## Mondays...

### ✠Rantoul Women's Bible Study

February – May 2018  
1:15-2:45 PM Rantoul  
Betty Hollister

This is an ecumenical group with participants representing seven different denominations from Champaign and Rantoul. Our emphasis is on what we can learn from the Bible to inspire each of us to live our faith and serve as members of our own congregations. Our religious backgrounds are varied. Our discussions are lively. New members are always welcome to join us on this journey as we grow in our shared faith.

This past Fall we completed *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian? A Guide to What Matters Most* by Rev. Martin Thielen and will select a new study for the spring session.

Over the past five years we have studied a variety of books and topics ranging from *Hidden Women of the Bible* by Kathy Coffee, Warren Wiersbe's analysis of *Ephesians and Romans*, Biblical fiction by Francine Rivers and Lynn Austin to a modern day autobiography, *Patrix*, by Nadia Bolz-Weber.

### Prayer Circles (French)

ongoing  
12 - 1 PM, 5 - 6 PM (in homes)  
Alain Nana  
Gabriel & Solange Mboyo

This prayer oriented French speaking small group meets weekdays, Monday through Friday for community prayer. The group is open to all and meets year round.

### Knifty Knitters – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month

January – June except holidays  
1-3 PM Westminster Hall or Parlor  
Brandi Lowe

We knit and crochet together in fellowship. We gather together to learn knitting techniques and create items to be given to those who could use a warm hat or scarf, such as, the children at Kemmerer Village, and prayer shawls that our Care Deacons give those who are dealing with transitions or some loss in their lives. We have prayers as we knit and bless each item to be given. We always welcome new members. Anyone wanting to knit and crochet and give to others can start any time.

### ✠Monday Night Bible Study – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays

January – May  
6:30-8 PM Homes  
Naomi Rempe

In this group for women, we share leading the weekly sessions among those who are willing to do so. Participants give ideas of what they would like to study. Currently we are in the fourth of the *Jesus Calling* series, *Living a Life of Worship*.

Our mission is to be encouragers to group members and to others in the church and community. We close our meetings with prayer reflecting this mission. Anyone who wants to seriously study what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ in a nurturing and caring atmosphere will find a warm welcome. The group is open to new people throughout the year.

## Tuesdays...

### Men's Breakfast Bible Study

ongoing

7-8 AM

Centennial Hall

Bill Metcalf

Bill Marble

We meet for breakfast and to study selected books of the Bible. This is a relaxed Bible study facilitated by several members of our diverse multigenerational, multicultural group. No advance preparation is required. Members include retired and active pastors who share their knowledge and understanding. We attempt to translate the Word to practical use for ourselves and our congregation. And we try to start on time. Breakfast is prepared and served by some of the group members. A donation of \$5.00 per session is accepted for cost of food. Extra collections are donated to a mission program of the church. We meet year round. Men interested in growing in Christian faith are welcome at any time.

### Prayer Circles (French)

ongoing

12 - 1 PM, 5 - 6 PM (in homes)

Alain Nana

Gabriel & Solange Mboyo

This prayer oriented French speaking small group meets weekdays, Monday through Friday for community prayer. The group is open to all and meets year round.

### Classic Christian Book Study

January – May 2018

NOON-1 PM U of I Atkins Bldg, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Rm

Jeannie Snoeyink

We get together to discuss a variety of Christian authors and apply the book we are studying to Christian daily living. We resume meeting January 16 and will be finishing *Return of the Prodigal* by Henri Nouwen. After this we will read *In the Fullness of Time* by Paul L. Maier, a historian's description of the Early Church. Each week we discuss a designated number of pages in our book of choice. We aim to broaden our knowledge of classical Christian books but also read current Christian authors. We spend 10-15 minutes at the beginning of the hour on pertinent issues in our lives. Always open to new members, we would love to have you join us.

## Wednesdays...

### ✝ ChristCare Facilitators SEA Group

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month

January 10 – June 13, 2018 (will not meet during Holy Week)

8:30-9:30 AM

Parlor

Pastor Eric Corbin

This monthly small group for ChristCare leaders/facilitators provides ongoing support, encouragement/ education and accountability (SEA). Each month includes time in Scripture, prayer, sharing and a discussion of readings and a topic related to leadership training from *ChristCare* Facilitator materials.

### ✝ Education Is Path to Peace

January 10 – TBD

1:15 - 2:45 PM

Parlor

Sallie Hutton

Our group focuses on learning about Pakistan and their culture and supporting the work of the Presbyterian Sangla Hill School. Study leadership is shared among the members of the group and biblical studies follow the theme for the day. All who want to learn more about our PC(USA) school in Pakistan, who want to support those schools and learn more about Pakistan, Islamic religion, their culture and current events are welcome to join us throughout the year.

### Prayer Circles (French)

ongoing

12 - 1 PM, 5 - 6 PM (in homes)

Alain Nana

Gabriel & Solange Mboyo

This prayer oriented French speaking small group meets weekdays, Monday through Friday for community prayer. The group is open to all and meets year round.

## Thursdays...

### Men's Bible Study

ongoing  
7-8 AM Hardee's (South Neil-C.)  
Bill Metcalf,

We meet to study the Old and New Testament in a side room on the southeast corner of Hardee's Restaurant. Coffee or breakfast can be purchased individually. Various members of the group share leadership and lead studies on selected books with study guides. This is the fiftieth year as a group. Men and women are welcome. New people are always welcome any time of year. Stop by. It would be great to include you, too.

### ✠Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study

January 11 – March 29, 2018  
9-10:30 AM Parlor  
Beth Hutchens

We are a large, encouraging and supportive group of caring women who are studying and praying together. Currently we are reading the *Twelve Women of the Bible Study Guide* by Lisa TerKeurst. Our mission focus is support for our local community and our churches. Starting early September would be best for continuity of study, but anyone, whether as a visitor or new member, is welcome anytime.

### Presbyterian Women – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month

September 2017-May 2018  
9 AM, 1 and 7 PM Church  
Plus Gatherings for all members and guests 4 times a year  
Sabrina Hwu  
Pat Phillips & Mary Gritten, Bible Study preparation

Presbyterian Women are an integral part of the ministry of the church, providing ministry, support for mission projects, leadership training, education, fellowship and service locally, regionally and internationally. Study guides, \$10 each, are available at the "Welcome Center" in Westminster Hall. Circles and Gatherings are always open to new members throughout the year. Additional information is available on the church website.

### Prayer Circles (French)

ongoing  
12 - 1 PM, 5 - 6 PM (in homes)  
Alain Nana  
Gabriel & Solange Mboyo

This prayer oriented French speaking small group meets weekdays, Monday through Friday for community prayer. The group is open to all and meets year round.

## Fridays...

### Men's Prayer Group

8:30-9 AM Chapel, CE Building  
Jeff Wampler

We gather weekly for general prayer and prayer requests. This group is open to new members anytime.

### Prayer Circles (French)

ongoing  
12 - 1 PM, 5 - 6 PM (in homes)  
Alain Nana  
Gabriel & Solange Mboyo

This prayer oriented French speaking small group meets weekdays, Monday through Friday for community prayer. The group is open to all and meets year round.

### ✠Friday Night Lights

September 2017 – August 2018  
7:30-9 PM Homes (with breaks throughout year)  
Ann Stout

Our studies are Biblical or topical, e.g. characters of the *Old and New Testament*, *Psalms*, minor prophets, *Galatians*, *Ephesians*, *Romans*, *Philippians*, *Acts* etc. Our current study is titled *Jesus Christ, Teacher, Servant and Savior* by John Stott. The group decides together what to study next. We meet in group members' homes, but it is not necessary to "host" to participate. Our evenings together include study, sharing, prayer and simply enjoying each other's company. As a group we participate in some the activities sponsored by the Church Outreach Committee. The group welcomes new members any time throughout the year.

## To Be Announced...

### Courageous Conversations

Dates TBA

6 PM

Church (other locations TBA)

Contact church office

Our group meets about 8 times a year to develop programs or events for the church and community with a focus on justice, mercy and caring for our fellow human beings. We plan and host 3-4 programs a year at church on various topics. These programs include daytime workshops and evening events with a speaker and/or panel. We cover a broad spectrum of issues, many of which require courage to address. We hope to provide education and opportunities for better dialog, deeper understandings and relationship building among our congregation and community. We welcome all to participate in our group and in the programs and events we host.

## Online...

### ***Holy Solitude: 2018 Lenten Study and Forum***

February 11 – April 1, 2018

online

Judi Geistlinger

[lentenholysolitude2018.blogspot.com](http://lentenholysolitude2018.blogspot.com)

The Lenten season offers the opportunity to clear the clutter of winter and draw closer to God. We will be reading *Holy Solitude* by Heidi Haverkamp and engaging with one another through an online forum starting February 11. Join us for daily reflections and practices that invites us to simplify life, reflect on Scripture and experiment with a variety of spiritual disciplines.

There are no weekly meetings. You can do this on your own time.

Buy the book and join us online. The forum can be found at

[lentenholysolitude2018.blogspot.com](http://lentenholysolitude2018.blogspot.com). All are welcome!