

To Be Announced

Lenten Study

March 6-April 18, 2019

The 40 days of Lent can be a meaningful way to prepare our hearts for Easter. Information about Ash Wednesday observances (March 6) and Lenten study opportunities will be available online and in the church bulletin in February.

✝ 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 ChristCare group is unique but seeks to intentionally incorporate 4 elements: Worship & Prayer, Biblical Equipping, Caring, and Missional Service. How these elements are expressed and incorporated is determined by the individual ChristCare leader and group.

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.

YES, I would like to be a part of a small group!
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)

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

www.firstpres.church



Small Group & Adult Education Opportunities

Winter/Spring 2019

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

Opportunities

Sundays...

✠ **Easy English Christian Fellowship**

starts September 23, 2018 (ongoing)

10:15-11:05 AM CE Building, Room 204

Bob Kirby

This group is open to all English learners interested in growing in the Christian Faith. We offer an easy English, informal setting to help English learners develop language and learn worship elements such as hymns, liturgy, and prayer. Most of our time is spent on study of the Word using an easy English Bible. We welcome all members of the international community, immigrants, guests and their families. Attendees will be invited to select a service function monthly, such as, serving as greeters or assisting at the hospitality table. We are always open to new group members.

One Blood: Parting Words to the Church on Race Session 2

January 6, 13, 27, 2019

10:15-11:05 AM Parlor

Betty Hollister

We didn't finish! So much ground to cover. So many thought-provoking ideas to ponder and explore through discussion. Even if you didn't participate in the first session, it is not too late to join us. We will finish reading *One Blood: Parting Words to the Church on Race* by Dr. John Perkins and examine the author's thoughts on race and love and God's invitation to the church. This class is open to all who are curious to learn about racial/biblical reconciliation and have hearts open to transformation.

DREAAM House

January 20, 2019

10:15-11:05 AM Parlor

DREAAM House Staff Tracy Dace and Rev. Bruce Brown

You have probably heard of the DREAAM House. Come and learn about how this community impact organization has been building a school to college pipeline for boys in Champaign-Urbana and Rantoul since 2015 and hear about current initiatives.

Feasting on the WORD

February 3, 2019 Other dates TBA

10:15-11:05 AM Parlor

Guest Facilitators

We will follow 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.

Speaking the Language of Love

February 10, 2019

10:15-11:05 AM Parlor

Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews

Christ commanded us to love one another but sometimes our loving efforts are not received as "loving." It's like we are speaking different languages! We will use Gary Chapman's book *The Five Love Languages* to help us love and receive love more fully. This short overview will enhance couples' as well as singles' relationships and point us to new avenues to strengthen them in the future. Gary Chapman's book can be purchased online and will give deeper insight but is not necessary to come to the class. There is a free study guide for the book online at Gary Chapman's website.

Faith in the Real World

February 17, 24 and March 3, 2019

10:15-11:05 AM Parlor

Peter Yau

We will follow 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.

Lenten Study

March 10-April 14, 2019

10:15-11:05 AM Parlor

TED Talks

April 28, May 5, 19, 26, 2019 (Break May 12, 2019)

10:15-11:05 AM Parlor

Pat Phillips

Join us to hear short TED Talks by articulate presenters on religious topics, followed by discussion. Sharon Brous: *It's time to reclaim religion*; Tom Honey: *Why would God create a tsunami?*; Brian Enderle: *Science vs. Religion*; Tanya Luhrmann: *When God Talks Back*. Each week will be a different speaker. Sign up for the series is not needed. Drop in when you can. The group will not meet May 12 (Mother's Day).

Mondays...

✠ **Rantoul Women's Bible Study**

January - Mid April 2019

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. 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 Language)

ongoing

12 - 1 PM; 5 - 6 PM 1207 Montgomery Street, Urbana

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 – 2nd & 4th Monday of the month

September – 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 – 1st and 3rd Mondays

January 7 – May 2019 (Breaks...determined by group)

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. The book we are currently studying is *John, 26 Studies for Individuals and Groups* by N.T.Wright. 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 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 per session is accepted for the 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 Language)

ongoing

12 - 1 PM; 5 - 6 PM 1207 Montgomery Street, Urbana

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

September 11, 2018 – May 2019

NOON-1 PM U of I Atkins Bldg. 2nd 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. 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

2nd Wednesday of the month

Starts September 12, 2018 – June 12, 2019

8:30 AM Parlor

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.

Prayer Circles (French Language)

ongoing

12 - 1 PM; 5 - 6 PM 1207 Montgomery Street, Urbana

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.

✝ Education Is Path to Peace

September – 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.

Covenant Bible Study

January 9 – May 15, 2019

6:30-8 PM

Centennial Hall/Westminster Hall

Judi Geistlinger

This is a 24-session, yearlong, in-depth group Bible study which began in September. We reconvene January 9 to pick up our study with the *Trusting the Covenant* book (Episode 9). We will read and discuss the Bible together, learning how to love God – and each other – better. Covenant represents a relationship – a living breathing conversation. Each week we reflect on God's Word and get to listen in on a video conversation about the readings. We will explore what Covenant is, and how we fit into the story of God and God's people. Our study runs from 6:30-8:30 PM but we plan to gather an hour early (5:30-6:30 PM) to have a quick bite of dinner, catch up with each other and be ready to dive deep into the Word.

Thursdays...

Men's Bible Study

ongoing

7:30 AM

Church Library

Gene Morgan

We meet to study the Old and New Testament. 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.

✠ Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study

January 10-April 18, 2019

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 *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. 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.

Compassion, Peace and Justice

1st and 3rd Thursdays of month ongoing

11 AM- 12:30 PM

Church Library or Westminster Hall

ongoing

Presbyterian Women – 4th Thursday of the month

September 2018-May 2019

9 AM, 1 and 7 PM

Church

Plus Gatherings for all members and guests 4 times a year

Nancy Brombaugh, Mary Gritten

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. The PW/Horizon Study guide is *God's Promise: I AM With You* by Amy Poling Sutherlun. 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 Language)

ongoing

12 - 1 PM; 5 - 6 PM

1207 Montgomery Street, Urbana

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.

Courageous Conversations

2nd Thursday of the month

TBA

Parlor

Sandy Carr

Through workshops and other events, Courageous Conversations aims to engage the congregation and community in purposeful conversations on topics and issues of justice, mercy and caring for our fellow human beings. These often require courage to address. The purpose of these conversations is mutual education, better dialog, deeper understandings and relationship building among our congregation. We welcome all to participate in our group and in the programs and events we host. 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.

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 Language)

ongoing

12 - 1 PM; 5 - 6 PM

1207 Montgomery Street, Urbana

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 2018 – August 2019

7:30-9 PM

Homes (with breaks throughout year)

Ann Stout

Our studies are Biblical or topical. Our current study is titled *Sermon on the Mount: A Deeper Look* by John Stott with Dale and Sandy Larsen. 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.