

✚ 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 Matt Mathews** 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)

updated 9/2019



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

www.firstpres.church

Small Group & Adult Education Opportunities

Fall/Winter 2019

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 Fall/Winter 2019. Watch for updates.

Opportunities

Sundays...

✚ Easy English Christian Fellowship

September 8, 2019 (ongoing)

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

This group is open to all English learners interested in growing in the Christian Faith and those who want to help them. We offer an easy English, informal setting to help English learners develop language and learn worship elements such as hymns, liturgy prayer. We welcome all members of the international community, immigrants, guests and their families. We welcome new fellowship members, both learners and teachers. This is a collaboration with Parkland College.

Faith in the Real World

September 8, 22, 29 and October 6

10:15 AM Sanctuary

Join us in the Sanctuary these Sunday mornings to hear how faith impacts professionals in our community as they tackle issues such as at-risk children, educational opportunities for the incarcerated and immigration. Come and be inspired. September 8 – Peter Yau, September 22 – Tracy Dace, Director and founder of the DREAAM program; September 29 – Rebecca Ginsburg of the Educational Justice program (U of I and Danville prison); October 6 – John Muirhead.

AfterWord

October 13, 20, 27

10:15 AM Parlor

Guest facilitators

Stick around after the 9 AM service to get in the “Last word.” Join us in the Parlor Dining Room for a bite to eat and a time to focus on the scripture of the day and discuss the sermon.

November Bible Study and PreAdvent Activities

November 3, 10, 17, 24

10:15 AM Parlor

Matt Matthews matt@firstpres.church

Pastor Matt will lead a Bible Study focusing on the Nativity scripture in Luke. A prayer walk with pre-Advent stations will also direct our thoughts toward Christianity's Holy Season.

Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes

December 1, 8, 15, 22

10:15 AM Parlor

Judi Geistlinger will lead this Advent Study based on the book, *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes*, by Cynthia Campbell who “reflects on the distinctive perspective of the birth of Jesus or the incarnation offered by each Gospel.” Join the discussions each Sunday morning in December to help you focus on faith this hectic holiday season.

Mondays...

✚ Rantoul Women's Bible Study

September 16 - November 18 resumes in January with a new study

1-2:30 PM Rantoul

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 lively. New members are always welcome to join us on this journey as we grow in our shared faith. This Fall we will be reading *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. Over the past six 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.

Knifty Knitters – 2nd & 4th Monday of the month

September – June except holidays

1-3 PM Westminster Hall or Parlor

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

September 16 - May 19, 2020 (Breaks...determined by group)

6:30-8 PM Homes

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 called *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.

✚ Cuba Study

September 30 - November 18, 2019

7-8:30 PM Matthews' home, 708 Hamilton Dr-C.

This is an 8-week small group study of Cuban culture and the Presbyterian Church in Cuba. We study the Scriptures chosen by the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Cuba for their annual scriptural theme. We talk about the significance of the texts in the context of both countries. Learning includes limited introductory Spanish conversation and limited exploration of various aspects of Cuban culture. The group uses active learning, asking group members to assume some responsibility for learning by researching specified topics.

New members may join during first two weeks of the study. (Note: While all are invited and welcome to participate in the group, only members or regular guests of a Presbyterian Church or their staff are eligible to travel to Cuba under current US government travel license requirements for religious groups.)

Tuesdays...

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Ongoing

7-8 AM

Centennial Hall

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.

Classic Christian Book Study

September 11, 2019 – May 2020

NOON-1 PM

U of I Atkins Bldg. 2nd floor Conference Rm

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

September 11, 2019 – June 11 2020 2nd Wednesdays

8:30 AM

Parlor

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

September 4 - December TBD, 2019

1:30-2:45 PM

Parlor

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. This Fall we are reading and discussing *Threading My Prayer Rug* by Rasheem Rehman. 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.

Ten Commandments for Today

October 16, 23, 30 and November 6

3-4 PM

Westminster Hall

Can't make Sunday morning classes? Here is an opportunity for Bible Study led by Cliff Dykstra. Dr. Dykstra will lead a discussion on the book, *Ten Commandments for Today*, by theologian William Barclay.

Thursdays...

Men's Bible Study

Ongoing

7:30 AM

Church Library

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

September 12 - November 21, 2019 resumes January-April 19, 2020

9-10:30 AM

Parlor

We are a large, encouraging and supportive group of caring women who are studying and praying together. Currently we are studying the book of *Hebrews* with a study guide by N.T. Wright. Our mission focus is support for our local community and our churches. Anyone, whether as a visitor or new member, is always welcome anytime throughout the study.

Compassion, Peace and Justice

September 4, 2019 - August 2020 1st and 3rd Thursdays

11 AM - 12:30 PM (Bring your lunch) Church Library

We aim to support God's work through the Presbyterian Church—USA with a focus on the commitments of our congregation to fulfill the message in *Micah 6:8* and *Isaiah 6:8*. Our recent focus has been on racial justice, particularly the school to prison pipeline, and on immigration justice. Guests and new members are welcome.

Our principal resource and guide is the Holy Bible. We use additional materials, such as books and film, to learn about conflicts between social norms and biblical values. We attend meetings of common interest in the community and engage in discussion with opinion leaders. The group follows a shared leadership model and acts when we discern that we can make a practical difference. We support the DREAM House Project.

Presbyterian Women – 4th Thursday of the month

September 2019-May 2020

9 AM, 1 and 7 PM

Church

Plus Gatherings for all members and guests 4 times a year

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 *Love Carved in Stone...A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*. 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.

Fridays...

Men's Prayer Group

8:30-9 AM

Chapel, CE Building

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

✠Friday Night Lights

September 13, 2019 – July 2020

7:30-9:30 PM

Homes

Our studies are Biblical or topical, e.g. characters of the Old and New Testament, Psalms, minor prophets, Galatians, Ephesians, Romans, Philippians, Acts etc. The group decides together what to study next. This Fall we are reading *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. 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 activities sponsored by the Church Outreach Committee. The group welcomes new members any time throughout the year.

New Group

Fellowship for Young Adults...

TBA

Organizational Meeting, Thursday, September 19

TBD

varies

Fellowship for young adults. This is a new group that will grow and develop with its members. We will have the opportunity for Bible study and fellowship together.