

✚ 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 1/2020



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

www.firstpres.church

Small Group & Adult Education Opportunities

Winter/Spring 2020

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/Spring 2020. 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.

AfterWord

January 6, 12, 19, 26

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.

Faith in the Real World

February 2, 9, 16, 23 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.

Lenten Study

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5

10:15 AM Parlor

Join us as we study *Lent in Plain Sight*, a Devotion through Ten Objects by Jill Duffield. Books available at a cost of \$10 each.

Mondays...

✚ Rantoul Women's Bible Study

Mid-February – Mid-April 2020

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. The book study for this Spring season will be

determined prior to the start of the study.

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.

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.

In Lieu of Flowers

March 10, 17, 24

3-4:30 PM Westminster Hall

Let's get together and write our obituary. We—or somebody we love—will have to do it sooner or later, so let's check this off our to-do list. Let's use this exercise to think theologically about our grief. What or who are you mourning? How are you doing since your most recent loss? You might be thinking, "It's too soon for me to meet with a group and talk about this stuff." Or, "I've handled my loss and there's absolutely no use dredging up old feelings." I invite you to reconsider. Our group will share whatever we'd like about recent or old losses. We'll ask, "What did Jesus mean when he said, 'Come unto me all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest?'" (*Matthew 11:28*). Did Jesus know what he was talking about when he said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted"? Do you wonder, when will comfort come? Is there really such a thing as closure? We'll ponder this line from Henri Nouwen, "Time doesn't heal all wounds, it deepens them." As we explore these angles of grief, mourning, and loss, we'll end up holding a rough draft of our own obituary, remembering the wisdom of the ages: The eternal God is our dwelling place and underneath are the everlasting arms (*Deuteronomy 33:27*).

Wednesdays...

✝ ChristCare Facilitators SEA Group

September 11, 2019 – June 11 2020 2nd Wednesdays

8:30-9:30 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

January - TBD

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. We meet every Wednesday and are studying *Threading My Prayer Rug* by Saveeha Rehman. We will be finishing this book by February 19 and starting a new study tbd in the next couple of weeks. Our sessions will go until the end of May.

Our focus is on Presbyterian Education Board, Pakistan, Sangla Hill School. Our purpose is to promote education, and understanding as a means to peace while building a closer relationship with the school and with Muslims and Pakistanis in our community by learning more about their religion and culture.

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

January - April 9, 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

11:15 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.

Fellowship for Young Adults

Thursday evenings

6:30 PM Aroma Cafe in downtown Champaign

Fellowship for young adults.

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

February 28 – 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 Spring we will use the Bible study guide *Loving Justice* by Bob Hunter and Carol Hunter. 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.