

St. Matthew's Faith Formation



Fall 2017 Programs

a place for you

Growing in Faith—Walking in Love

**Saint Matthew's
United Methodist Church**

Sunday Morning at 9:15

Programs for Children & Youth

Preschool through Junior High

We use *Seasons of the Spirit*, a lectionary-based curriculum for our youngest children through 9th grade. We begin the fall exploring the Season of Creation. Using the gifts of the world around us, we'll see God's love for us in land, rivers, and the wilderness. Classes begin September 10th.

This group will begin with opening worship and the day's Bible story gathered together in the upstairs classroom in the Education Wing at 9:15. At 9:30, classes head to their classrooms based on age: 3 to 5 years old; 6 to 11 years old; Junior High School youth.

Senior High School Class: 10th-12th Grades

Our Senior High youth meets twice each month beginning on Sunday, September 10th. Using guidelines from the UMC and our Social Principles, this group will spend the fall examining racism and discrimination through the lenses of scripture, reason, tradition, and experience.

Adult Education

Adults have two opportunities for faith formation this fall beginning on Sept. 17th:

Pilgrim Class: UM101

(Sept. 17th-Oct. 8th)

This class will provide a quick overview of the history, organization, and distinctive features of the United Methodist Church, the organization and functioning of St. Matthew's, and how the church can be the right kind of soil for your life and growth personally as a disciple of Jesus. You'll come away with some written materials you can use any time. Led by Pastor Steve in the downstairs classroom.

Pilgrim Class: Bible 101

(Oct. 22nd-Nov. 26th)

We'll explore the history, contents and major themes of the Old and New Testaments, choosing a good version, how to read the Bible, and finding your way around in it. As with the UMC 101 class, you'll get some written materials for reference you can use any time. Led by Pastor Steve in the downstairs classroom.

The Library Faithful: First Light

Jesus asked his apostles, "Who do you say I am?" And every Christian, after some serious reflection, should answer this question for themselves. Join the Adult Education class this fall as we watch Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan (via video) relate the culminating thoughts of their lifetime of research regarding Jesus's mission in the 30s CE and the interpretation of his life by the early Christian communities of the Mediterranean. Discover how the Messiah of the Kingdom of God changed the ancient expectation of the Jewish prophets. Discover how the Kingdom of God is already present but depends for fulfillment on collaboration of humans and God. Consider the ever present collision of God's Kingdom of peaceful distributive justice with "Caesar's" domination system of oppressive power. Today is very much like the days of the Roman Empire, and see why Jesus is now, perhaps, more important in today's violent, consumptive, destructive world than ever before. This class is led by Bob Anders and George Emmons and meets in the downstairs Library.

Weekly Programs

Bible Study

Each week (usually during the day) we explore the scriptures that will come up the following Sunday. We do our best to schedule this class at a time that works for all interested. Let Pastor Steve know of your interest.

Women's Study Group

We meet each Thursday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 22nd. While focused on a book we read and discuss together, the women of this community are committed to growing in faith and supporting one another. This fall, the group will begin with *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by the Dali Lama and Desmond Tutu. New members are always welcomed! We meet at the home of Lynne Osborn at 2 Winter St. Contact Lynne for more information: gilyn1961@verizon.net.

Fifty Shades of Faith

Scripture becomes alive when we continuously listen, question, release obstacles, and embrace that which helps us become the people God calls us to be. Through readings, questions, discussion, and prayer, we examine the scriptures, entertain doubt, share perspectives, and experience a growing personal faith within a small intentional community. We begin our 4th year reading, *Wild Goose Chase: Reclaim the Adventure of Pursuing God* by Mark Batterson. We meet at the home of Diana Kendrick the 2nd and 4th Friday mornings of the month from 7:30-8:45. For more information, contact Diana Kendrick (978-264-9862; dck299@gmail.com) or Pam Follet (978-263-4196; plfollett@earthlink.net).

Accountable Discipleship Group

A small group devoted to help each other grow in faith. (Most likely meeting in the evening.) We covenant together to practice agreed-upon spiritual habits and share our experiences, learnings, struggles and prayers. Scheduled according to people's availability. For more information or to sign up (and influence the scheduling) see Pastor Steve.

On-Line Daily Devotions & Inspiration

From the UMC: Upper Room

<http://devotional.upperroom.org>

Sojourners: Verse & Voice

<https://sojo.net/daily-wisdom>

D365: Devotions 365 Days of the Year

<http://d365.org>

Bible in Bloom: For Families

<http://biblebloom.com>

Jesus Calling for Kids

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/jesus-calling-for-kids-devotional>

Steve Garnaas-Holmes Poetry:

Unfolding Light

www.unfoldinglight.net

*"I want the whole Christ for my
Savior, the whole Church for my
fellowship and the whole world
for my mission field."*

- John Wesley

Save These Dates!

September 24th: Youth and Parent Pot-luck following the 10:30 worship service.

November 12th: All-Church Pot-luck Celebration following the 10:30 worship service.

November 19th: All-Church Ice Cream Social following the 10:30 worship service.

December 2nd: Our 2nd Festival of Sharing.



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**Saint Matthew's
United Methodist Church**

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Pastor

The Rev. Stephen Garnass-Holmes
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Director of Faith Formation

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Fall through Spring:
Worship at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages—
infant through adult—at 9:15 a.m.