

FPC Study/Fellowship/Volunteer Opportunities:

Fellowship Activities:

Dinners for Six – at least 2 rotations each year. Pairs of persons (married couples or friends) sign up to host one potluck dinner at their homes, taking turns in groups of 3 or four “pairs”, in whatever time frame they choose. Not a study nor a class; just a way to mix up the congregation as to age groups and which service people attend, to get to know members of our church family better.

All-church Progressive Dinner – every 2 or 3 years. Various people host courses of a meal; involves MANY people preparing appetizers, salads, desserts (the main courses are all the same) and hosting 8 – 12 people in their homes for the courses. On the schedule for next fall. A great way to get to know people!

Take advantage of trips or conferences: theatre outings, baseball games, concerts, etc., as advertised in newsletter or bulletins. Watch for information about women’s and men’s “retreat” opportunities, either here or in other locations. We have taken groups of women to various locations for retreats/presentations by well-known speakers or writers; there are Christian conferences at locations all over the country available. There are national and state men’s conferences, and marriage-enrichment conferences publicized as we get information about those occasions. Watch for publicity about those events.

“Knit-Wits”: **6:30 Monday evenings:** A group of women (men are welcome, too!) who meet in the Narthex to do needlework of their choice. A primary function of this group is to maintain a supply of knitted or crocheted Prayer Shawls to be taken to shut-ins or those who are ill or grieving, by our Deacons or Congregational Care Pastor.

Menders—anyone close to or over retirement age: Meets the 4th Friday (*except for certain months*) in the Narthex for a pot-luck supper, and often a program. The group was named for the volunteer “mending” and upkeep chores of the old church—and as they say now, the “mending” of hearts of those who have been ill, widowed or are in any way disabled.

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES:

Weekly Bible Study classes offered during the daytimes and evenings, during the program year. Most are winding down by this time in the year, although a new one beginning April 14 is for all adults: **a DVD lecture series on the history of Christianity: “Christianity, from Christ to Constantine”, presented by WMU professor Paul Maier. 9:00 Thursday mornings in the Adult classroom.** It will be a 3-or-4-week series. All are welcome. During the regular program year, there are regular bible study groups meeting weekly:

- **Wednesdays, 6:15 a.m.:** An early morning men’s group held at the hospital lounge for the working man (*or the early riser*).
- **Thursdays:** 9:00 a.m. - Men’s Bible Study Group *and* Women’s “Brown-Bag Bible Study”; 11:30-1:00 (*bring your own lunch; beverages provided*)
Any age group is welcome to either of these classes.
- **Tuesday evenings, 6:30 p.m. -** Women’s bible study group, primarily comprised of younger-mid-age women, often those still working.

Sunday Morning Adult Sunday School: Held between services each Sunday (except specified dates: Easter, Christmas, Spring Break, etc.).

SPIRITBUILDERS is generally, but not limited to, adults with children in the home or who have college-aged children.

FAITHWEAVERS is generally, but not limited to, people close to or in the retirement-aged group.

Each group decides their courses of study, based on their interest level. Sometimes they study a book of the Bible; sometimes they read other books of “Classical Christian content” (i.e., **Screwtape Letters**, by C.S. Lewis) or watch videos of theologians/teachers/bible study leaders.

Both groups provide fellowship as well as a deepening understanding of what it means to walk the Christian path.

(NOTE: Christian Education opportunities exist for children and youth as well during these times on Sundays)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Summer: VBS always needs teachers, craft leaders, musicians, “guides” to take the children from one station to another, or help with snacks. Contact Tracy in Children’s Ministry for information or to volunteer.

Program Year: Adult bible study/Sunday morning study leaders: most groups rotate leadership as volunteers express willingness to lead a week or two at a time.

The Children’s and Youth Ministries always welcome volunteers for Sunday Morning teachers, as well. You must be “cleared” through the child-abuse-prevention team to volunteer in either VBS or these youth or children’s areas, as a matter of course.

Hospitality Team: Men or Women who volunteer to be “on call” to help in the kitchen during funeral luncheons or other events where such help is needed; to provide food for events such as Church Information Classes (☺), for people who are ill or recovering from surgeries in their homes, or taking meals to shut-ins on an occasional basis.

Transportation Team: Men or Women who volunteer to drive those in need of transportation to medical appointments, to get groceries, to church activities or Sunday services. You must provide your driver’s license # and have adequate auto insurance for this service, for your own protection.

MUSIC: Both the Praise Team (*11:00 service; rehearsals – 10:00 a.m. Saturdays*) and the Chancel Choir (*9:00 service; rehearsals – 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays*) will gladly welcome new members. If you play an instrument or like to sing, see MM Melendy for an introduction to one of the music group leaders!

Office Volunteers: The church secretary and some of the ministry directors often have clerical or sorting jobs, some of which need to be done on a regular basis and some on an occasional basis. If you’re looking to fill some hours in a week or a month and give service to the church, call Karen in the office or one of the ministry directors.

Become a Liturgist: If you would like to be on the Liturgist rotation for first service, let MMM know; you will have a minimal training session, and be given information as to duties: i.e., expressing welcome to the congregation, reading Calls to Worship, Offertory prayers, etc.,

SUGGEST AN ACTIVITY YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE OCCUR HERE AT FPC!

We welcome new ideas!