

Sunday School and Mid Week Class Offerings

Faith Village Sunday School goes virtually virtual!

Virtual classes for children begin on Sunday, September 20, in between morning worship services. From 10:15 until 10:45, we'll spend time with our Faith Villagers to hear some good Bible stories, think about our blessings, create some art, sing some songs and pray some prayers together. We're keeping it simple, we promise!

Pre K - Kindergarten children will learn Scripture and stories from The Beginner's Bible, with Ms Nancy (Bidlack) and friends leading the class, focusing on how much God loves us and how much we can love others.

Faith Villagers - Grades 1-5 will follow a similar route, using other story-based lessons, led by Ms Poppy (Orendorf) and friends, getting to know Jesus as a true and constant friend.

Please watch for your children's invitations to join us in Faith Village - we are SO eager to welcome our new and old villagers, even online!

Youth Sunday School

While virtual, we will use Open Life Church resources. Our first resource will be "Life in 6 Words." The Gospel is simple yet profound. Your young adult may know the Gospel well, but have they wrestled with the deeper truths represented by the acrostic message? Diving into the theology of the Gospel message, this study will challenge teenagers with biblical stories that have the power to transform their lives and enable them to explain God's great story to their friends more fully. We will then focus on "Grace: The Greatest Story Ever Told." This curriculum will focus on the most significant moment in history. The moment Jesus didn't stay dead. In this series, we will help students better understand the significance of that moment by exploring our need for Jesus and what He did for us. We will look into who Jesus was and what He did while he walked among us. We will think deeply about Easter and look at how the world is different because of the Easter miracle. We will conclude by talking about what that means for us as people living on this side of the resurrection.

Youth Group

Please follow the calendar on REALM and our website for meetings and dates. The plan is currently is to have at one in-person meeting or event per month and one zoom meeting. We will try to focus our missionary work virtually during the COVID crisis. We aim to create a welcoming space for all. The during our time together, we will share a short devotional, enjoy a meal (when in person), play a game(s), and enjoy the fellowship of being in "connected" in community with one another.

Please watch for your youth's invitation to join us!

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Adult Sunday School

Koinonia Sunday School: facilitated by Kelly-Ann Rayle

The Koinonia Class will begin its study together on September 20. The class will gather via Zoom at 9:45 am to work through "A Strength to Love," a book of sermons by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In the 15 sermons we have waiting for us, we will be studying his theology of being - "a belief in a divine, loving presence that binds all life," Coretta Scott King. Analogous to the times at hand, these sermons were penned in the heat of conflict and struggle, so we will hold the Biblical scriptures in tandem as journey together with the Holy Spirit to a deeper understand of what it means to love others in the name of Christ.

A.S.K. Sunday School: facilitated by Ann Massie

The ASK Class (Ask, Seek, Knock) is a group of lively and amiable folks who have usually met in Room 113. This year, the class will meet via Zoom for the foreseeable future. We have spent the past few years looking at video lessons from The Teaching Company, which we have found to be excellent and wonderful conversation-starters! Beginning September 13, we will be looking at "Understanding the Old Testament," taught by Professor Robert D. Miller II, Ordinary Professor of Old Testament at The Catholic University of America. Each video class is approximately 30 minutes, which leaves us another half-hour for discussion. The discs are accompanied by a "Course Guidebook," which convener Ann Massie will use to help answer questions or review the material. We would love to have new members -- Please join us!

Adult Mid-week Classes

Leah Circle: facilitated by Debbie Pollard

Please contact Debbie Pollard for meeting times

Lectio Bible Study: facilitated by Mary Ellena Ward

Tuesdays at 10:00am through Zoom

Jesus quoted the "first and the greatest" commandment from Deuteronomy 6:

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

But how often do we, as God's people, hear God? How often do we listen?

We live in an age when we are bombarded daily, hourly, minute by minute with noise and demands.

Cell phones seem permanently grafted to our ears.

We "relax" by watching "action programming" or competitive sports

As an old TV commercial said: "Minute Rice? Who has the time?"

But the Bible teaches that God doesn't speak in all this activity.

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Elijah, a prophet zealous for the Lord, learned this when he was driven away from his home into the wilderness. He hid in a cave on a desert mountain:

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind.

Earthquake and fire followed, and then *“after the fire came a gentle whisper.”*

It was more important to God for Elijah to listen than to be zealous.

Lectio Divina is our chance to set aside an hour a week, sit down, shut up, and listen for God’s whisper. Some of you are thinking: “What? You just sit and are silent for an hour? I couldn’t stand that!: No, it’s not that radical. So what do we do?

First we read a selected scripture – typically one of the Lectionary passages for the week. We each listen for a word or a phrase that stands out. A short silence follows in which each of us ponders that word or phrase to determine how God may be speaking in it.

After the silence we share (or not) what we have heard, or perhaps questions that have arisen. The same text affects each of us in different ways. Following the discussion, we read the text again from a different translation to provide a different view. Another time of silence follows wherein we continue to ponder the text and the additional insights from the first discussion. How is God speaking to me in this text in this room right now?

Another brief time of discussion follows.

This is where it comes together: We let go of our own words and let God’s Word soak in, we rest in God’s loving presence, we pray, we simply ARE.

Imagine it! Once a week you too can bathe in God’s love. It will become habit-forming.