

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SMALL GROUPS?**

Please print.

# Small Groups

WINTER/SPRING 2023

**My name is:**

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**I can be reached at:**

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**I am interested in the following small groups and wish to be contacted about them:**

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**I would be interested in a group about:**

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**I would be interested in leading a group about:**

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**Please turn this into the Church Office  
or at the welcome center in  
Westminster Hall.**



## First Presbyterian Church

The heartbeat of First Presbyterian Church is in its small groups. Friendships are formed, Christian journeys are challenged and supported, and perspectives are broadened through honest caring and sharing.

In small groups, we are encouraged and enabled to be serious followers of Jesus Christ.

Our variety of groups offers something for everyone. But if you don't see a group that speaks to you, start a new one and invite others to join! We have people who can help you get started.

For more information, please contact our church office at [info@firstpres.church](mailto:info@firstpres.church) or 217-356-7238



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

[www.firstpres.church](http://www.firstpres.church)

# STUDY GROUPS

## Classic Book Group

Tuesdays 12 noon

Mae Chapin Parlor and Zoom

Although we have retained the group's original name, we have evolved into a more inclusive book group, using any Christian book that develops our knowledge of the faith and spiritual growth. We will focus on *Talking With God* by Henry Baron. As a bonus, we have a time to share in each other's joys and difficulties. We would love to have you join us!

## Easy English Fellowship

Sundays 10-11 AM

Christian Education Building room 204

English learners gather for Christian fellowship. We read scripture and bible stories, sing and pray together using easy English materials.

## Education as Path to Peace

(Pakistan Study Group)

Second and fourth Wednesdays, 1:15 PM

Mae Chapin Parlor and Zoom

We are going in a little different direction. We believe understanding and building connections with different religions is very important to building a peaceful, supportive world.

We will continue to focus on supporting the work of the Presbyterian Sangla Hill School in the Punjab region of Pakistan. Bible study leadership is shared among members of the group. Reading *The Faith Club* by Ranya Idligy, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner. Expectation: to expand your knowledge of Pakistani culture, other religions and Presbyterian Schools.

## Friday Night Lights

Fridays 7:30 PM

Zoom

We're a group of couples and singles who gather to study God's word, pray together, support each other, and have fun.

## History of the Church

Starting soon

Learn more about those who came before us. Tour the church and see where the bells are rung plus many other interesting things.

## Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays 8 AM

Zoom

When safe, we will resume breakfasts in the church kitchen (Centennial Hall). We meet to study the Old and New Testament over coffee and donuts. We are currently meeting via Zoom. Various members of the group share leadership with the help of study guides. Our current focus is *Simon Peter* by Adam Hamilton. New participants are always welcome.

## Spiritual Formation Team

Adult education events Sundays 10:15–11 AM

September through May

Our Adult Spiritual Formation Team works together to offer Sunday morning study opportunities for anyone that wishes to participate. They create programs from Bible studies with the pastors to lecture series, roundtable discussions of the day's sermon, or book studies on faith topics or even relevant social justice issues. Check the banner in Westminster Hall or the projected announcements during worship for details about the adult education programs they are offering.

## Women's Bible Study Monday Afternoon

First and third Mondays September–May, 1:30 PM

Mae Chapin Parlor

Christmas break and once a month summer get togethers.

Our studies vary, focusing on a particular Bible topic, book, or character, and are led by different members of the group (on a voluntary basis). We also participate in mission outreach activities. Our main focus is corresponding with prisoners and building ongoing friendships. New people are always welcome.

## **Women's Bible Study Thursday Morning**

Thursdays January 12-April 6 9–10:15 AM  
Mae Chapin Parlor and Zoom

We are an ecumenical group of “life-experienced ladies” of all ages, focused primarily on Bible study and prayer, with occasional book studies and mission support opportunities. We will continue studying *Living Unafraid* by Adam Hamilton. We are always open to new members, so come join us!

## **SERVICE OR MINISTRY GROUPS**

### **Bell Choir**

Thursdays 6:15 PM

Looking for a way to become active in music at First Pres? Can you read music like you did when you took piano as a kid? Join our bell choir, a group of 6–12 individuals who enjoy the camaraderie of music-making in a small group.

### **Chancel Choir**

Thursdays 7:30-8:30 PM; Sundays 8:15 AM rehearsal; 9 AM Service

Chancel Choir sings weekly in our Sunday morning services. It provides support for congregational hymn singing and strives to enhance the total worship experience. If you have sung before or are an enthusiastic participant in the congregation and would like to sing with us, contact Joe Grant. Rehearsals resume September 8 at 7:30 PM in the choir room.

### **Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministry Team (CPJMT)**

Second and fourth Wednesdays 6:30-8 PM  
Zoom

We aspire to be disciples of action, working through the Presbyterian Church (USA) and focusing on our congregation's commitments to fulfill the messages in Micah 6:8 and Isaiah 6:8. We study the Bible and additional materials to learn about conflicts between social norms and biblical values. Our current focus is on our PC-USA Matthew 25 congregational initiative – dismantling structural racism, welcoming people in the LGBTQIA+ community and strengthening interfaith relationships.

## **Congregational Care Deacons**

First Thursdays 2:30 PM  
Mae Chapin Parlor and Zoom

Congregational Care Deacons is an outreach ministry of the First Presbyterian Church. Our Deacons are nominated and ordained by the church for a 3-year term. We reach out to congregational members of the church who are no longer able to regularly attend worship services. This ministry can be through an in-person visit, phone call or mail depending on the needs of the care receiver. Besides contacting our care receivers, we meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month at 2:30 PM to report on our people and provide support for each other. If this is a ministry in which you would like to participate, please let the nominating committee know in the Fall.

## **Community Mission Deacons**

Third Tuesdays 4:30 PM  
Mae Chapin Parlor and Zoom

We are committed to the community around us. Our Community Mission Deacons are elected and ordained by the congregation to serve as liaisons to local agencies, keeping us informed of their missions and needs, and involved with their programs and activities. Members who are passionate about these agencies will minister alongside the deacons building relationships with our local agencies.

These agencies feed the hungry, provide clothing and shelter to the homeless, abused and others in need. The emphasis is not just on emergency assistance, but on empowering people long term. A number of our congregational members serve on the boards of these organizations. We review our mission commitments on a regular basis to make sure we are serving in ways that truly allow us to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Agencies we currently support include but are not limited to:

Canaan S.A.F.E. House; DREAAM;  
The Refugee Center; Jesus is the Way Prison Ministry; Salt and Light; Restoration Urban Ministry; CU at Home; empty tomb, Inc.; Habitat for Humanity.

### **Cuba Steering Committee**

Fourth Wednesdays 9–10:30 AM

Zoom

Elected by the Cuba Partners of First Presbyterian Church, Champaign, the Cuba Steering Committee works to fulfill our covenant relationship with our sister church, the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Cuba at Luyanó. Guests are welcome.

### **Environmental Stewardship Committee**

Third Mondays 3:30 PM

Mae Chapin Parlor and Zoom

This church has been designated as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Church USA.

Its activities relate to recycling, environmental stewardship and environmental education. The committee works closely with Faith in Place. New members and guests are welcome.

### **Knifty Knitters**

Second and fourth Mondays 1-3 PM

Mae Chapin Parlor and Zoom

September through May except Holidays.

Summer meetings vary.

We knit and crochet together in fellowship. Our yearly projects are hats and scarves for the children at Kemmerer Village and prayer shawls for our Care Deacons to give to those dealing with transitions or loss. We have also made gifts to send to our sister church in Cuba and we are currently making baby hats for Carle NICU. There is no requirement to join. We create what we would like. We pray as we knit and bless every item to be given. New members are always welcome.

### **Men's Prayer Group**

Mondays 8:30 AM

Zoom

Men of the church meet weekly to praise God and to pray for our world, nation, city, and congregation, as well as for individuals in need of prayer support. We pray in turn, in a way that is comfortable for each participant.

### **Prayer Ministry Team**

Second Mondays 1–2 PM

Church Library

In response to Mark 11:17, "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations," we provide church-wide prayer support by: meeting monthly for group prayer; praying for one week for each family in the church directory; maintaining an email line for confidential prayer requests and providing articles on prayer for the church newsletter.

### **Presbyterian Women**

Fourth Thursdays of each month

9 AM, 1 PM or 7 PM September through May

Mae Chapin Parlor and Zoom

Plus gatherings for all members and guests three times each year

Presbyterian Women are integral to the life of the church, providing ministry, support for mission projects, leadership training, education, fellowship and service locally, regionally and internationally. Circles and gatherings are always open to new members. Additional information is available on the church website.

### **Small Groups Support Group**

First Tuesdays 9 AM

Mae Chapin Parlor and Zoom

We believe that small groups are a very important part of the life of the church. We are here to help launch, coordinate, promote, and provide resources for small groups. We would love to have you (and your skills) join us as we grow.

### **World Mission**

Fourth Tuesdays 4:30-6 PM

Mae Chapin Parlor and Zoom

World Mission is made up of individuals who are passionate about sharing God's love into the regional and world geographic areas. This includes supporting our PC(USA) mission coworkers in areas of the country that we have a personal interest in this congregation as well as other mission partners throughout the world including regional entities in Illinois, Indonesia, Cuba and the Caribbean, Mexico, Pakistan, Africa and areas

identified by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Our purpose is “sharing God’s love and message of salvation with people in need around the globe through support, empowerment, education and relationships.” Members are involved in educating each other and the congregation on the work of these regional and global ministries.

### **Worship Team**

Second Tuesdays 7 PM  
Mae Chapin Parlor and Zoom

The Worship Team ponders the worship experience and reports to Session. We welcome new members and fresh ideas. It assists with many aspects of worship such as greeting people, caring for the pew pads, and other worship related tasks.

## **SOCIAL GROUPS**

### **Dinners for One**

Lunch – First Wednesdays at 11:30 – Centennial Hall order lunch from Michael’s  
Dinner – Starting in April...Third Wednesdays at 5:30 PM – Locations to be announced.

Does eating alone give you trepidations? Come join us for a meal with laughter, comradery and fun without feeling uneasy.

### **Monday Munchers**

Mondays, 5 PM

Popular among Mission Possible members as well as their guests, Monday Munchers meets at a rotating selection of restaurants, including Italian, Chinese, Mexican, barbecue, and, of course, Free Pie Day at Perkins.