



**First United
Methodist Church**

601 Veda Drive, Redwood Falls, MN
(507) 644-2000

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



**connect
groups**

Winter/Spring 2017

Come and See!

Spend time together and grow in your faith, celebrating joy and sharing with others.

We encourage everyone at First United Methodist Church to be a part of a Connect Group. Why? Because we believe that life is not meant to be lived alone. God designed us to be in community with others. Connect Groups are a great way to meet people, make friends, learn more about God and find real answers for life's questions. We have a group for you!

Our Connect Groups run on 4-13 week sessions throughout the year. We have a wide variety of topics, something offered almost every day of the week. Groups meet in homes or at the church. Throughout the year, you will have the opportunity to try out different groups. We know you will find a Connect Group to fit your schedule.

Our winter/spring session starts on February 1. Don't miss out on getting connected to a life-giving Connect Group. Register by January 29, 2017 in the church lobby, online at www.redwoodfallsumc.org or complete a form from the bulletin!



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How to use this guide to connect to the right group for you:

1. Ask God where He's going in your life and how He wants to grow you. Is He pointing out a specific area where He wants to lead you?
2. Use the guide below to locate the general area God is leading you. The color-coded boxes show under which category the class falls.
3. Find a group that works for you and then register for the class by January 29. Sign in with a Connect Group member in the church lobby, register online, or complete a registration form and leave it in the offering plate or church office.

Life Group

Spiritual Growth

Mission & Service

Fellowship

Life Group

Get training and equipping in specific or broad areas of our lives, so we can be more like Jesus in real life practical ways

1 Financial Peace University

February 12-April 9, 2017, (9 weeks)

Hosts: Randy & Sandy Koppen

Location: Friendship Rm.

Day: Sunday evenings

Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$113.95 per family (Each family orders materials and has them shipped to themselves.)

Financial Peace University is a local nine-week class that teaches people the seven Baby Steps to dump debt, spend wisely, save for the future, and give generously. It is taught by financial expert, radio host and best-selling author, Dave Ramsey.

Intentional Parenting by Doug & Cathy Fields

2 February 5-March 5 (5 sessions)

Host: Gail Bielen

Location: Chapel

Day: Sunday

Time: 6:30-8 p.m.

Every parent has dreams and good intentions for their children. At some point though, we move from DREAMS to DUCT TAPE and hope that each day everything will just stick together. Raising kids in today's culture is a difficult challenge and it requires a plan. Without a plan, parents usually default to Quick-Fix-Parenting. To be an exceptional parent, you need to be an intentional parent. But, don't worry! You're not alone. Veteran parents, Doug & Cathy Fields, will help you move from Quick-Fix to Intentional Parenting.

3 The Daniel Plan

March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8 (6 weeks)

Host: Cori Lecy

Location: Chapel

Day: Saturday mornings

Time: 8:30-10:00 a.m.

This small group study offers an innovative approach to creating a healthy lifestyle rooted and framed by five life areas: faith, food, fitness, focus and friends. The Daniel Plan focuses on an abundance of healthy choices giving you encouragement and inspiration. Each participant will keep a journal during the six weeks. Research shows that tracking your food and exercise greatly contributes to your long-term success when making health-impacting changes to your life. The Daniel Plan journal will help you maximize your momentum by exploring and charting your journey through the five key essentials – faith, food, fitness, focus and friends. The journal provides encouraging reminders about your health, daily scripture, inspiration and motivation.

Spiritual Growth

Helping one another grow in our knowledge of the Bible and living out our faith

4 Your Divine Design

February 13-April 3, (8 weeks)

Hosts: Karen Boots

Location: Chapel

Day: Monday evenings

Time: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

If I asked you what your primary spiritual gift is, would you know how to answer? If you do, has knowing made any difference in your life?

God has gifted each one of us in the building up of the Church of Jesus Christ. Do you know what part you were meant to do? This study looks at Bible passages about spiritual gifts and offers a framework and deeper understanding of this subject and how it works in our lives. When we know our primary gift and begin to operate in it, we have fulfillment, energy, purpose, and discernment. That is an exciting way to live!

5 Improving with Age: God's Plan for Getting Older and Better

January 29-February 24, 2017 (6 weeks)

Host: Jan Ellingworth

Location: Church

Day: Sunday mornings

Time: 9:00-10:15 a.m.

This study celebrates the uniqueness of experience, ideas, and energy that aging believers bring to ministry. It encourages the mature believer and tackles issues such as fear and isolation that often come with the aging process. Study includes real-life strategies and reflection questions that will help mature Christians, embrace their present life stage and use their wisdom and gifts for the glory of God.

6 Bookworms

February 2, March 16, April 27 (3 sessions)

Host: Cori Lecy

Location: 904 Sunrise Blvd.

Day: Thursday

Time: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

This discussion group, based on the UMW Reading Program, encourages members to think critically about current issues through a selection of member-reviewed books. At the first meeting, you will review the wide variety of available books and choose what you would like to read. At the following meetings, we will discuss the books read. You are encouraged to read at least one book before each discussion meeting.

Seamless

7 February 5-March 26

Host: Gail Bielen

Location: Church

Day: Sunday

Time: 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Seamless covers the people, places and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture. Participants will gain an overarching understanding of the fundamental layout and meaning of God's Word. *Seamless* helps replace insecurity that holds participants back with clarity and helping them move forward with confidence in their understanding of Scripture. Each week of study features key information that ties all of scripture together into the seamless truth of the gospel message and is accompanied by maps, general Bible facts, and word studies.

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Fellowship

Connections with others and sharing our passions in the pursuit of lasting relationships

8 Agape Circle

Jan. 17, Feb. 21, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 16

Group Leader: Berneda Hawton

Location: Members' homes or Friendship Room

Day: 3rd Tuesday of month

Time: 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Learn, discuss and apply what the Bible teaches about God's strength and how we access it in our daily lives, using a study written by Karen Boots. Food and fellowship are a part of each gathering too!

9 Joy-Us Circle

Feb. 21, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 16

Group Leader: Lynn Wigton

Location: Members' homes or Friendship Room

Day: 3rd Tuesday of month

Time: 7:00-9:00 p.m.

A women's Bible study group that meets monthly to grow in faith and encourage one another.

10 Mary Circle

Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 15, Apr. 19, May 17, June 21

Group Leader: Sue Lussenden

Location: Garnette Gardens Activity Room

Day: 3rd Wednesday of month

Time: 2:00 p.m.

All the women of the church are invited to a Bible study focused on "Studies on the Life of Christ," followed by fellowship. Bible study will be led by Connie Heffelfinger and Sue Lussenden. Garnette Gardens provides the room and the snack for each meeting. You are welcome to participate even if you can only come now and then as it fits your schedule.

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Mission & Service

Willing hearts serve together to help others

11 Potluck Group

Dates: One day/month, February - May

Host: Berneda Hawton

Location: Homes or church

Day: To be determined by group

Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Whether you are a new or seasoned member of our church, a potluck group will connect you with three other families in a lasting and special way. Enjoy the invisible beauty and blessings of fellowshiping around food, while you laugh, share favorite recipes, and build camaraderie. Each family, children included, will host one of the meals. Each family supplies one food item for each meal.

12 Potluck Group

Dates: One day/month, February - May

Host: Marlene Ramey

Location: Homes or church

Day: To be determined by group

Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Whether you are a new or seasoned member of our church, a potluck group will connect you with three other families in a lasting and special way. Enjoy the invisible beauty and blessings of fellowshiping around food, while you laugh, share favorite recipes, and build camaraderie. Each family, children included, will host one of the meals. Each family supplies one food item for each meal.

Mission & Service

Willing hearts serve together to help others

13 Mission Makers

February 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8 (Wednesdays)

Host: Teri Kratz

Location: Johnson Park Place

Day: Wednesday

Time: 2-4 p.m.

Make knitted, crocheted or quilted blankets with objects on them for people with dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Blankets will be given to both nursing homes and assisted living centers. People will be needed to sew on buttons and other items.

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Mission Minded

January 29, Opening Session. Rest of the schedule will be determined by the group and by projects chosen.

Host: Jim Boots and Karl Ramey

Location: Fellowship Hall

Day: Sunday

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Want to put your faith into action? This group will be focused on mission projects in February, March and April. We will meet as a group to discuss which projects we want to take on. Some examples could include: Feed my Starving Children, putting together health kits for Methodist Mission, working at Ruby's Pantry, or something near and dear to a group member's heart. We will also be working with the Reede Gray food bag ministry each month.

Interested in leading a future Connect Group?

It's a whole lot of fun to be in the midst of leading a group of people whose lives are being positively changed by Jesus and community. We believe there's room for so much more of this to happen. Maybe God has already given you an idea for a certain type of group you'd like to lead or perhaps just the vision of gathering people to connect grabs you. We'd love to equip you to begin and lead a group.

Contact a Connect Groups planning member with your ideas: Karen Boots, Gail Bielen, Berneda Hawton, Donalee Josephson, Cori Lecy.