

Spring 2020 Journey Groups start back up in the New Year!

Welcome to the spring semester! Journey Groups offer a safe environment for growing Christ-followers to experience spiritual growth, relational support and lasting life change! There is a variety of topic options as well as range of locations and times to best fit your interest and schedule. Please take some time to review all the choices and join the Journey Group that's best for you.



Coordinator of Journey Groups
Deb Ellis

Spring 2020 Journey Group FAQ's

What is an adult Journey Group?

*Journey groups are made up of people who meet on a regular basis to **connect** relationally, **grow** spiritually, and **serve** collectively with one another.*

What kind of Journey Groups are available?

There are three types of Journey Groups; Sunday Morning groups who meet year-round. Ongoing Journey Groups who meet the fall and spring semesters, and short-term Journey Groups who meet the duration of a specific study. At the end of each session, you will have the choice of staying in the same group, trying a new group or even taking a break. Most groups do stay together throughout the entire year.

Why should I join a Journey Group?

We were designed by God to live in relationship with others. Positive life-change happens best when we are surrounded by friends who support, encourage and challenge us. Journey Groups will help you feel like you belong in the Troy UMC family.

When and where do Journey Groups meet?

We offer groups that meet at various days and times on our church campus and off site in homes throughout the region.

Who can attend?

Everyone! Members, attenders, Christ-followers and spiritual seekers! Most of our groups are mixed groups (open to men, women, married and single). We also have a men's group, a women's group and a young adult group.

What happens in a group?

In Journey Groups we build lasting friendships through a commitment to being 1) God-centered through some form of Bible study, 2) Authentic through sharing of the joys and concerns of life, and 3) Inclusive by welcoming everyone seeking godly community. Groups will often eat together, pray together and simply do life together.

Will I feel intimidated by my lack of Biblical knowledge?

Not at all! Our Journey Groups are designed to be a safe place for people who are taking steps to deepen their knowledge of God's Word. You can ask questions, share your opinions and experiences or just listen to others share.

Is childcare available?

Each group make their own arrangements for childcare based on the priorities of their group.

How can I get involved?

Before each semester begins, there are three ways to sign up for a group – online at troyumc.org/journeygroups, at our Sunday services, or by contacting a group leader. You can also reach out to Deb Ellis, our Journey Group Coordinator. She is happy to help you find the perfect fit. She can be reached at debsellis@sbcglobal.net.

GROW

Sunday Morning Journey Groups

Sunday morning Journey groups are ongoing and meet year-round. You are welcome to join any week.

Matters of Life & Faith

Leader: Rev. Kurt Stone, kurt@troyumc.org

Date: Sundays, 8:00 – 9:00am / *Ongoing study – join any time!*

Meeting Place: TUMC, Conference Room

Homework: Light

Study Length: Ongoing

Childcare: No

This class uses The Christian Century magazine for readings and conversations for “thinking critically and living faithfully”. Also included is a gospel text each week – so don’t forget your Bible. This class is ideal for 9:00am worship attendees!

Faith Links

Leader: Mike Loftus, mjlofty12@gmail.com

Date: Sundays, 9:00 – 10:00am / *Ongoing study – join any time!*

Meeting Place: TUMC, Conference Room

Homework: None

Study Length: Ongoing

Childcare: Yes

This class features the application of faith to major current events and life issues. It looks at background information and core Bible passages on the current topic, along with group activities and discussion questions. This is an ongoing class and all are welcome to join any week!

Generations

Leader: Jeff Johnson, jeffjane627@gmail.com, (618) 979-1267

Date: Sundays, 9:00 – 10:00am / *Ongoing study – join any time!*

Meeting Place: TUMC, Room 241

Homework: Light

Study Length: Ongoing

Childcare: Yes

This class is currently studying the Book of Romans. Bring your Bible and join any week!

Sermon Discussion Groups

Ever wanted to go deeper with the content of the Sunday Sermon? These groups will do just that! This study is based on the biblical principles of the sermon and discussion of practical ways to integrate them into daily living. These are ongoing discussion groups and all are welcome to join any week!

Discussion of Sunday's Message

Leaders: Jordan & Barb Buck, jordanandbarb@outlook.com, Jim & Julie Ford, jeford5@yahoo.com

Date: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:30pm / Begins January 28 – *open to join any time!*

Meeting Place: Rotates between participant's homes (Troy, Glen Carbon, Edwardsville)

Study Length: Semester/Ongoing Group

Homework: None

Childcare: No

Discussion of Sunday's Message

Leader: Wenifer Greer, wenifergreer@yahoo.com

Date: 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:00pm / Begins January 23rd – *open to join any time!*

Meeting Place: Home of Wenifer Greer, Glen Carbon

Homework: None

Study Length: Semester/Ongoing Group

Childcare: No

Ongoing Journey Groups

Ongoing Journey groups meet both fall and spring semesters. They usually offer new studies each semester. September and February are good jumping on points.

New Study! - Making Sense of the Bible – Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today by Adam Hamilton

Leader: [Dawn Lambert, dawn.burnett@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.burnett@gmail.com)

Date: Sundays, 6:00 – 7:30pm / Study begins January 12th

Suggested Donation: \$10.00 for study guide

Meeting Place: TUMC, Conference Room

Homework: Light

Study Length: Six Weeks

Childcare: No

Denominations from evangelical to mainline continue to experience deep divisions over universal social issues. The underlying debate isn't about a particular social issue, but instead it is about how we understand the nature of scripture and how we should interpret it. The world's bestselling, most-read, and most-loved book is also one of the most confusing. In *Making Sense of the Bible*, Adam Hamilton, one of the country's leading pastors and Christian authors, addresses the hot-button issues that plague the church and cultural debate, and answers many of the questions frequently asked by Christians and non-Christians alike.

New Study! - 24 Hours That Changed the World by Adam Hamilton

Leader: Dawn Lambert, dawn.burnett@gmail.com

Date: Sundays, 6:00 – 7:30pm / Study begins February 23rd

Suggested Donation: \$10.00 for study guide

Meeting Place: TUMC, Conference Room

Homework: Light

Study Length: Seven Weeks

Childcare: No

One of the most innovative teaching pastors in the country, Adam Hamilton unpacks Jesus' last days on earth and how they turn upside down the conventional ideas about good and evil, justice and history, life and death. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, it portrays the Last Supper to Christ's victory over the grave.

New Study! - SISTERS in Christ - Women's Journey Group - God of Creation – A Study of Genesis 1-11 by Jen Wilkin

Leader: Deb Ellis, debsellis@sbcgloblal.net

Date: Mondays, 1:00 – 3:00pm / Study begins February 3rd

Suggested Donation: \$14.00 for Study Guide

Meeting Place: TUMC Sanctuary

Homework: Optional Light to Moderate

Study Length: Semester

Childcare: No

The opening lines and chapters of Genesis teach us fundamental truths about God. We watch Him bring light after darkness, order after chaos, and rest after toil—all through the power of His Word. Over 10 sessions of verse-by-verse study, dive into the first 11 chapters of Genesis by following three critical stages of understanding: comprehension, interpretation, and application. Revisit familiar stories and historical figures, challenge your basic knowledge, and discover deeper meanings in the text. As God reveals Himself through Scripture, we can only begin to understand ourselves when we first glimpse the character, attributes, and promises of our Creator. *All women are welcome!*



New Study! - Women's Journey Group - Trustworthy – A Study of 1 & 2 Kings by Lysa TerKeurst

Leaders: Sheila Hall, srhall1313@icloud.com, Barb Buck, jordanandbarb@outlook.com

Date: Mondays-biweekly, 6:00 - 8:00pm / Study begins February 17th

Suggested Donation: \$16.00 for study guide

Meeting Place: TUMC, Conference Room

Homework: Optional from Light to Heavy – at your own pace

Study Length: Semester

Childcare: No

When hard times come and it seems God is deviating from the plan we assume our life should follow, we're more likely to want to tame God, not trust Him. It's then that we begin to press into our ways and our own timing. No human can carry the weight of being their own god, but so many of us try. In this 6-session study of 1 & 2 Kings, join Lysa TerKeurst in Israel as she honestly reveals the places of distrust in her own heart while exploring the deeply applicable Scriptures that will teach us how to truly trust God. *All women are welcome!*

Young Adult Group – (designed for people age 18-30ish) - Multiply: Disciples Making Disciples by Francis Chan

Leader: Clint Benesh, clint@troyumc.org, (618) 210-5493

Date: Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:00pm / Study continues January 21st

Suggested Donation: \$12.00 for study guide

Meeting Place: Home of Clint & Tina Benesh, St. Jacob

Homework: Moderate

Study Length: Semester/Ongoing Group

Childcare: No

Jesus gave his followers a command: "Follow me." And a promise: "And I will equip you to find others to follow me." We were made to make disciples. Designed for use in discipleship relationships and other focused settings, Multiply will equip you to carry out Jesus's ministry. One plus one plus one. Every copy of Multiply is designed to do what Jesus did: make disciples who make disciples who make disciples....until the world knows the truth of Jesus Christ.

New Study! - Soul Detox by Craig Groeschel

Leader: Rick Lechner, ricklechnerjr@yahoo.com, (406) 799-3019

Date: Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45pm / Study begins February 19th

Suggested Donation: \$7.00 for study guide

Meeting Place: TUMC, Conference Room

Homework: Light

Study Length: Eight Weeks

Childcare: Will work with parents if needed

As standards of conduct continue to erode in our shock-proof world, we must fight the soul pollution threatening our health, our faith, and our witness to others. Without even knowing it, people willingly inhale second-hand toxins poisoning their relationship with God and stunting their spiritual growth. *Soul Detox* examines the toxins that assault us daily including: toxic influences, toxic emotions and toxic behaviors. Through concise teaching and honest humor, *Soul Detox* provides a source of inspiration and encouragement for a faith-filled lifestyle that will keep you free from spiritual toxins.

Men's Journey Group - Life Lessons: The Book of Romans by Max Lucado

Leaders: Jordan Buck, jordanandbarb@outlook.com, Carl Inman, cri2000@gmail.com, Rick Lechner, ricklechnerjr@yahoo.com

Date: Saturdays, 7:30-8:30am / Study continues January 4th

Suggested Donation: \$6.00 for study guide

Meeting Place: TUMC, Rehearsal Room

Homework: None

Study Length: Semester/Ongoing Group

Childcare: No

Max Lucado's *Life Lessons from Romans* is a 12-session study on Paul's letter to the Romans. He explores the wrong turns the Church was making and shows them the one correct solution to help them stop making wrong choices - Jesus Christ. *Men of all ages welcome! A great way to connect with other guys in the church!*