



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF EDMOND

FIRST LOOK

MAY 2021

FEATURE ARTICLE:
Core Practice #3:
READ & PRACTICE
SCRIPTURE

JESUS WINS: JUDE SERIES

Micro-Groups

Even Isabella Merkle, 6th grader, can form a micro-group by using FaceTime to connect with her friends



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT:
AT THE CORE PODCAST

**MAY
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Core Practice #3: READ & PRACTICE SCRIPTURE

Our Experience as a Micro-Group

By: Ken Rees

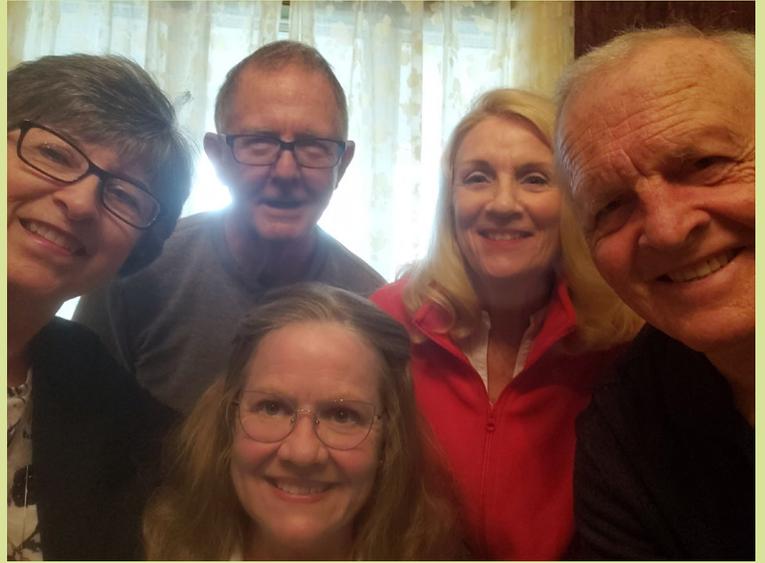
When Eric invited people to form small groups to study his sermons and began providing study material, I realized how that could be a great way to revive regular Bible study for me. I thought I would seek a few friends who were not currently involved in a study group and include some like me who are not part of a “couple”, since these folks sometimes don’t find themselves included in small groups. I called up my neighbors Brad and Vicky Windsor as well as Georgia Fiering, and Georgia reached out to Jeannie Witzel. I guess with five members our group should be called a minigroup instead of a microgroup.

We first met at my home on a Sunday afternoon - January 10. Since not all of us knew the others, after opening prayer we began with brief introductions. From there we looked at the study questions on the sermon and began our discussions with the question, “Was there something in the message that either strongly and positively engaged your mind and heart or that you strongly questioned?” We referenced scripture passages as well as personal experience during the lively discussion. After this we

went around the table inviting each to mention a situation or a person for whom daily prayer was needed. Then we closed with prayer. We all agreed we wished to continue this kind of study and set

a regular meeting time. After 14 weeks meeting regularly we celebrated with lunch together at Railyard and agreed to continue with Eric’s new series on Jude.

Our experience has helped us practice more faithfully several of the Core Practices, including Read and Practice Scripture, Share Who You Are, Care For One Another, and Pray Together. We have grown closer to each other and to God as we experienced answers to prayers. Brad has been strengthened after his recent Parkinson’s diagnosis by helpful medical care and new disability benefits. Vicky’s concerns about family members’ needs have been relieved as the rest of us have provided prayerful support. Jeannie’s concerns about a life-threatening illness of a family member have also been comforted by our daily prayer. I have been sustained during my decision and preparation to



Our microgroup clockwise from bottom, Jeannie Witzel, Vicky Windsor, Brad Windsor, Georgia Fiering, Ken Rees

move Gae to another residence. Georgia’s anxiety about transitioning to a part-time job after retirement from UCO has been alleviated by the encouragement of her prayer partners.

At the first we all had some doubts that we needed to make room for weekly gatherings for study and prayer. After three months, our microgroup sessions have become a priority. We look forward to experiencing each week whatever the Holy Spirit has in store for us – laughter, tears, heartfelt petitions, new understanding of scripture, faith-building answers from God. If you are not regularly immersed in group study and support, we all join in urging you to give microgroups a try.

JESUS
wins
MICRO-GROUPS



FPCE Courtyard Clean-up

Troop 78 & Troop 6078 are giving back to FPCE by cleaning up the courtyard on Monday, **May 10 & Monday, May 17** during their meeting time (6:30-8:30pm). They would like to have any extra help that they can get. Special thanks to Mark McCasland for spear-heading this project! For more information, contact Mark at mccaslandtx@yahoo.com.



Senior Sunday is May 16, and we would love to celebrate your graduating high school senior, if he/she would like to participate! Please email Alyssa Dees, our FPCE Director of Student Ministries, at adees@fpcedmond.org for further information. We would like to have a baby picture, a senior picture, and a short description of your senior's dreams and aspirations after graduation.



FPCE Small Groups

As we are starting to get "back to normal", we would like to update our small group roster. If you are the leader of a small group, please let us know what type of group (men, women, couples, new mothers, etc.) you are leading and the meeting details. This includes any micro-groups. Please let Sharon Boecking (sharebear429@gmail.com) or Veta Roberts (vetaroberts@gmail.com) know so that we can nurture those groups and encourage their growth.



FPCE Emerging Generations

Summer Plans: Watch for more information about opportunities for college age and young adults to gather this summer. Contact **Brett Hardy** at bhardy@fpcedmond.org or follow **fpce_thebloc** on Instagram for more info!



Pentecost Sunday is May 23

After 11:15am Worship on Sunday, May 23, we will have food and drinks available outside in the front parking lot in celebration of Pentecost. Make plans to stay and enjoy lunch outside!



Student Ministry Summer Camp 2021

We are going to **Orange Beach, Alabama June 28 - July 2**. Middle School & High School are going to the same camp location but will have unique experiences. Please text/email Alyssa Dees any questions that you might

have (307-797-0130 / adees@fpcedmond.org). Find more information on our feed of the Lift Fpce Facebook page. Registration is \$50 and deadline to secure a spot is **Wednesday, May 13th**. We want to make sure money is not the reason your student won't attend camp - please reach out to me if finances is a stretch or concern.



May Menus:

- 5/5 Mexican chicken casserole
- 5/12 Salad trio-chicken, pasta, spinach

May 12 will be our last Wednesday Night Gathering of the semester



Vacation Bible School 2021

VBS is back! Sign up to participate and volunteer! It will be **June 21st - 24th** from **9-11am**. 4years old through 4th grade will be participants and 5th grade to adults will be volunteers. Check out the website and app to sign up!

FIRST, BY THE NUMBERS

■ SERVE DAY NUMBERS:

- All together 84 volunteers
 - 20 bags of mulch
 - 94 Encouragement Notes to Central's staff
 - 15 bags of topsoil
 - 20 bags of mulch
 - 3 basketball goal nets replaced
 - 10 breakfast casseroles
 - 100% of tasks completed!
- 394 total Cook's Night Out Take-Out meals served so far in 2021

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

At The Core Podcast

by: Tyler Boren
Digital Media Coordinator

First Pres has been my church family pretty much my entire life. I was baptized as an infant here, participated in the youth group as a high schooler, volunteered as a youth leader in college, and now I'm employed here! Through all of my years here, I have met many of you; but I felt like I didn't really know much about you. This troubles me because if I call you a member of my church family, I believe that I should know you at a deeper level than a simple "Hello, how are you?" as we pass by each other.

I believe that we all have incredible stories of how the Holy Spirit is moving through our lives, and I want to hear them all!

Last fall as Pastor Eric was about to begin a new sermon series called "Life on the Rock," he challenged some of us on staff to come up with ideas on how to engage with our congregation mid-week. Because this conversation happened when it was September of 2020, connecting with our congregation was still a big ask as we were still following strict COVID guidelines.

By this time in my employment with the church, I had record-



ed some powerful testimonies from members of our congregation that we used for various events and publications. But I wanted to hear more. So I came up with an idea that during Eric's new sermon series we should record a podcast that went along with each of his sermons, but we would hear testimonies from members of our church family that tie into the theme of each sermon.

I didn't get a red light on my proposed podcast, so I went for it. I was blown away by the 11 conversations that I had with different people from our church family. I heard stories that I had never heard before. Heard testimonies on how God is faithful even through the darkest moments of our lives. Heard how God is using us to grow His church. Heard perspectives on scriptures that opened my eyes and ears to the power and love of Jesus.



We released the podcast every Wednesday during Pastor Eric's sermon series exclusively on our app and called it "At The Core." It served two purposes: 1.) It fulfilled a way for our congregation to connect midweek, and 2.) it served as a test run to see if a podcast is a platform that we could utilize more in the future.

Well, we believe that At The Core was a success! We are about to release a new series based on our 7 Core Practices. This time, we will hear peoples' testimonies and tie them back to one of our core practices.

We hope that you will take a listen as we hear stories from members of our church family, as we share who we are, and how the Holy Spirit is moving in our lives.

You can now find the podcast on our app, Spotify, Google, and Apple podcasts.