

2021 Discipleship Classes offered in the Greenbrier District



One of our focuses for the Greenbrier District is to provide opportunities for folks to grow in their relationship with the Lord and discover new ways to live out their faith as we seek to grow the kingdom. We are offering the classes listed below as a "means of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." These classes are open to anyone. Most classes will be offered virtually on Zoom and will range from five to six weeks. All classes will also be counted as Lay Servant classes for those needing credit. Contact the district office if you are interested and we can give you more details. 304.645.1357 or greenbriardistrict@suddenlinkmail.com

Afire With God Dates to be announced

Afire with God urges ministries and congregations to become stewards-in-action of all that God has entrusted to us. Spirited stewards go beyond financial commitments and become living examples of the gospel. Included in this text are examples for faithful stewardship of the earth, ways to reinvigorate stewardship in worship, long-range planning ideas, and plans for individual ministry growth.

The book's four chapters are simple and elegant:

- Chapter 1 addresses our mixed feelings about stewardship and uses the biblical image of the Hebrews as aliens in Egypt.
- Chapter 2 uses the experience of Moses at the burning bush as a way to explore foundations of stewardship in the Bible.
- Chapter 3 connects stewardship with the mysteries of faith and with John Wesley's understanding of the means of grace, exploring Wesley's life as a steward.
- Chapter 4 looks at practical approaches for becoming stewards-in-action.

Living Our Beliefs Tuesdays, August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 7:00 pm

You can believe anything and be a Methodist, just so long as you're sincere. Such a misperception has deep historical and cultural roots. In this class we will explore a basic explanation of the beliefs and practices of the United Methodist Church and uncover a deeper understanding and experience of Christian faith as you embrace the United Methodist way.

The study will invite us to both understand and live our beliefs. With deep understanding of Wesley's teaching, we will be inspired to practice what we preach. "Beliefs are to be lived; doctrine is to be practiced," writes Carder. "The authenticity of beliefs lie in their ability to shape people and communities into the image of Christ and to promote holiness and happiness. The important test of the validity of doctrines and beliefs for United Methodists is the kind of character they produce in individuals and communities and the actions they inspire in the world." Living Our Beliefs is an excellent opportunity for newer members as well as life-long members of the United Methodist church to better understand and renew their commitment to living their faith in transforming ways.

Entering the Psalms Dates to be announced

A six-week study opens the door to experience the Psalms in a new way! O taste and see that the Lord is good.- Psalm 34:8 This is a different Bible study from most. Entering the Psalms invites you to consider how a collection of poetic praises and laments dating from 1400 BC to 500 BC relate to your own life and experiences. Praying the psalms is praying life itself: the highs, the lows, the doubts, the fears. Through the psalms we're taught to "hide nothing from God but to bring all that is real into the only relationship that can bless the best and heal the worst in us. Psalms selected for this study represent six categories: * praise *petition * pilgrimage * royalty * wisdom * faith and trust. These give a glimpse of how the Psalms express the relationship between God and God's people to form and transform the community of faith.

Holy Places of Our Lives **Mondays, April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, Tuesday, June 1 at 7:00pm**

"You gave me a wide place for my steps under me, and my feet did not slip." —Psalm 18:36

Places are part of our personal story and can be important keys to understanding God's presence in our life. Whether the sacred place lies at the water's edge, in a quiet, small town or in pristine, high-country mountains, all have felt pulled and connected to a spot. Perhaps at the least likely moment you felt touched by God's presence just when you needed it most, even if it was in a mundane, public place. No matter how remote or ordinary your special place is, God was (and is) already there—waiting to touch your life.

"God not only gives us grace and divine presence but actively creates 'space' in our places and circumstances," writes the author Stroble. "The heightened sense we experience may be a gift from God or a way by which we're moved to seek God.

In our study we will explore the personal stories and sacred places of Hagar, Jacob, Paul, Christ, and other biblical figures. The readings and exercises are designed to help us identify where God's presence has "widened" (or made sacred) a place in our own lives. We'll explore ways God meets us in the places of our lives—guiding, alerting, inspiring, convicting, and providing insight, comfort and understanding."

Connect! Creating a Culture of Relationships that Matter **Tuesdays, Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12 at 7:00 pm**

This class will offer new processes of self-development, new ways of building relationships, and new ways of being church. We will dare to be bigger than we are! Connect will challenge us to put ourselves in the right places for person to person building of relationships, for heart to heart making of new friends, and for soul to soul sharing of our faith journeys. We discover how to better love our neighbor, increase our circle of influence, engage the community, and connect through service. We will learn how to better be the "Body of Christ."

Leadership 101 **Dates to be announced**

This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries and is an excellent training for all church leaders. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts **Wednesdays June 9,16,23,30, July 7,14 at 7 pm**

God gives every Christian certain spiritual gifts. Imagine what could happen if each Christian knew his or her gifts and used them for the glory of God and the good of the church. Those participating will discover their God given gifts through reflecting on your personal experiences, your personality traits, your passions, and what others of observed about your giftedness. Once you have discovered your gifts, you will be encouraged to explore ways in which you might use them in your local church setting. If you feel God is calling you to do more, this is the class for you!