



Love God, love others and serve the world.

Resources for Growing Disciples



The Journey is a path of teaching, resources, tools and options here at First Methodist Mansfield designed to help you grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ who will love God, love others and serve the world. Through *The Journey* we learn to:

Love God and connect with him daily.

To continue growing in our love for God, we need to connect with God daily. We offer GPS, our Grow Pray Study resources designed to take your weekend worship experience to a deeper level through daily scripture reading, reflection and prayer. We also offer short-term classes and other resources to help you grow in your love for God and understand more about his will for your life.

Love others and develop healthy relationships.

To grow in our love for others, we need opportunities to connect with others in meaningful relationships. Group Life and Community Life each provide unique opportunities for life to be experienced in relationship with others. Group Life is experienced through small group Bible studies and Sunday School classes. Community Life is experienced through events and gatherings for Men, Women, Married Couples, Young Adults, Single Adults, Senior Adults and individuals interested in Sports and Health. We also offer short-term classes and resources to help you dig deeper and learn more about healthy relationships.

Serve the church, our neighbors and the world.

To grow in our desire to be a blessing in God's world, we need to be intentional about serving our church, our neighbors and the world. We offer a wide variety of serving opportunities, both inside and outside the walls of the church. We also offer short-term classes and resources that will help you dig deeper and prepare you to live out the purposes God has in mind for you.

***The Journey* provides tools and communicates resources.**

The Journey provides a Spiritual Growth Assessment tool that will help you evaluate where you have grown so that you can plan your next step for further growth. It also provides Journey Resources designed to help you keep growing.

The Journey Team is here to help you.

We have an amazing team of people available to help you explore your next steps toward spiritual growth. You will find members of the Journey Team listed on the back of this brochure.



Here for you — to help you explore resources and take the next step toward spiritual growth.

Spiritual Growth Assessment



Jana Hall, First Connections & Group Life

Jana welcomes newcomers and new members into the life of First Methodist Mansfield. She also leads Group Life and can help you find the perfect small group Bible study or Sunday School class.

Contact Jana at janah@fmcm.org.



Leslie Waldson, Community Life

Leslie is here to help you connect with Community Life, gatherings where you can build relationships with people who have similar interests and needs as your own. She can help you find events for Men, Women, Married Couples, Young Adults, Single Adults, Senior Adults and sports and health interests.

Contact Leslie at lesliew@fmcm.org.



Susan Luttrell, Serving and Outreach

Susan can help you discover just the right place to serve our church, our neighbors or the world. Susan also leads our outreach ministries.

Contact Susan at susanl@fmcm.org.



Tina Schramme, Children and Family Ministries

Tina leads our ministry to children and their families and has tools, knowledge and experience to guide both children and parents in pathways for spiritual growth.

Contact Tina at tinas@fmcm.org.



Johnny Brower, Student Ministries

Johnny leads our ministry to students, middle school to college-age, and their parents. Johnny offers teaching, leadership and relationships that will help guide individuals on their journey as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Contact Johnny at johnnyb@fmcm.org.



Teresa Sherwood, Mission Ministries

Teresa offers mission trips and mission experiences in the U.S., Haiti, Mexico and Africa. She develops our mission partnerships throughout the globe such as ZOE Ministry. She also guides the ministry of our Wesley Mission Center.

Contact Teresa at teresas@fmcm.org.



Rev. Sharon Reid, Discipleship/Executive Pastor

Sharon leads the Journey Team and guides our discipleship ministries. She also serves as chief strategist to lead the church and staff in accomplishing the mission of the church — to make disciples of Jesus Christ who will love God, love others and serve the world.

Contact Sharon at sharonr@fmcm.org.

Which of the following statements best describe where you are in your spiritual life? (select one)

- I have a solid relationship with Jesus that makes a difference in my life.
- I consider myself a Christian even though my faith is not a significant part of my life.
- My relationship with Jesus is the most important one in my life.
- I believe in God, but I've not crossed over the line into a personal relationship with Jesus.
- I've definitely crossed over the line into a personal relationship with Jesus.
- I am just beginning to explore how to grow spiritually.
- I have an intimate relationship with Jesus that influences my daily life.

How would you best describe the current pace of your spiritual growth? (select one)

- I am experiencing a season of rapid spiritual growth.
- I am growing at a moderate but not rapid rate of spiritual growth.
- I am growing at a slow but steady rate of spiritual growth.
- I am content with staying right where I am spiritually.
- I am stalled spiritually.

How often do you engage in these spiritual practices? (circle one for each statement)

Frequently=several times a week; Occasionally=monthly; Rarely=a few times a year

I read the Bible.	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
I reflect on the meaning of scripture in my own life.	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
I write down my spiritual thoughts in a journal.	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
I thank God for who he is and what he's doing in my life.	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
I pray to seek guidance from God for my life.	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
I pray for the concerns of others and the world.	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
I set time aside to be in solitude and listen to God.	Daily	Frequently	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
I give an offering or tithe to honor God.		Weekly	Occasionally	Rarely	Never

Indicate with an X along the continuum to show how strongly you agree or disagree with each statement.

	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Agree
LOVE GOD		
I study the Bible to know God and find direction for my life.	<.....>	
I want following Jesus to be the priority for my life.	<.....>	
LOVE OTHERS		
I'm part of a small group that holds me accountable to grow.	<.....>	
I feel equipped to share my faith with my family and others.	<.....>	
SERVE THE WORLD		
I give my time to serve and help others in my community.	<.....>	
I use my spiritual gifts and abilities to fulfill God's purposes.	<.....>	

Overall, how satisfied are you with your spiritual growth? (select one)

- Extremely satisfied Very satisfied Satisfied Somewhat satisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Dissatisfied

The first three sections of this assessment primarily focus on growth in the area of "Loving God." The fourth section reveals growth in all three areas of focus — "Loving God," "Loving Others" and "Serving the World." Does your assessment reveal an area of needed growth for you? Review the Journey Resources and consider a next step found in the area you have identified.

The Journey is a path of teaching, resources, tools and options designed to help you grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ who will love God, love others and serve the world. These resources have no prerequisites, no check-off list and do not confine you to a linear path because we all begin *The Journey* at different places and with different needs. You may step into any section or choice that best fits you and your plan for growth. To register for any of the classes listed, go to www.firstmethodistmansfield.org and click on the “Events” tab in the upper right hand corner of the home page.

Love God

- **GPS: Grow Pray Study** – GPS [Grow, Pray, Study] is a daily devotion guide designed to help people engage scripture on a daily basis. This weekly guide also serves as a supplement to our weekend worship experience allowing participants to dig deeper into the themes and emphasis shared in worship. Go to www.growpraystudy.org to explore all the resources available through GPS.
- **First Connections Class** – A two-week course that will introduce you to First Methodist Mansfield, our history, our mission and what we believe, offered on Wednesdays, January 9/16, February 27/March 6, April 3/10 and May 1/8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Atrium. An introduction to *The Journey*, our discipleship teaching and resources, is included. Classes led by Senior Pastor Mike Ramsdell and Jana Hall, First Connections/Group Life Director. Childcare is provided. RSVP online.
- **Pause** – Pause is an informal experience of intimate worship designed to be a place to find quiet, to be still and reconnect with God. Led one Wednesday a month by Rev. David Alexander, Directing Pastor, and Rev. Sharon Reid, Executive Pastor, January 23, February 27, March 20, April 24 and May 22 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. No registration required; childcare is provided.
- **Walk to Emmaus Spiritual Retreat** – Emmaus weekends are once-in-a-lifetime experiences open to Christians who want to grow in their spiritual walk with Christ. The mission of these programs is to empower leaders to be the hands and feet of Christ within local churches and reaching out into the world. Women’s dates: March 7-10, April 18-21, May 16-19. Men’s dates: January 31–February 3, February 21–24. For more information, contact Leslie Waldson at lesliew@fmcm.org.
- **Ash Wednesday Service** – Our special Ash Wednesday Service marks the first day of Lent, the time we prepare for Easter as we focus on the beginning of the journey of Jesus Christ to the cross and the resurrection that followed, February 13, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Love Others

- **Group Life Connections** – Small groups are the best place for sustained life-change to occur. In a small group, people study God’s Word together, discuss the issues and challenges of life, pray together and care for one another. Our Group Life staff is happy to help you find a small group Bible Study or Sunday School class that is right for you, whether it’s a Women’s, Men’s, Singles or Couples group. You can join anytime. Pick up a copy of our *Get Connected to Group Life Spring 2013 Schedule* at Connection Central or go online to see a listing of open groups. Many groups will begin a brand new study in mid-January — a great time to join! Contact Jana Hall at janah@fmcm.org for questions about joining a group or if you are interested in starting your own group.
- **Refresh, Session 1** – A mid-week Bible study and worship experience for women led by Rev. Sharon Reid and Stephanie Gow to help restore, revive and refresh women’s souls. In this seven-week study, we will study the Gospel of Luke and experience Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season together with a special emphasis on the women who followed Jesus on the journey to the cross. Refresh meets Wednesdays beginning January 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in *The Loft*. RSVP online to reserve your spot. Childcare is provided; all are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch. There will be a one-time \$10 fee for supplies and materials.
- **Refresh, Session 2** – After Easter, a second session of Refresh will begin with both a daytime class on Wednesdays and a new evening class on Mondays. Rev. Sharon Reid and Stephanie Gow will lead this study of the book of Acts with a special emphasis placed on the presence and the role of women in the beginnings of the early Church. Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. beginning April 1, Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. beginning April 3 in *The Loft*. RSVP online to reserve your spot. Childcare is provided; all are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch/dinner. There will be a one-time \$10 fee for supplies and materials.

- **Disciple II – *Into the Word, Into the World*** is the second study in a four-phase program and is available to all Disciple I graduates. This 32-week study proclaims the transforming power of scripture while teaching Bible study skills that take participants deeper into the word. A Disciple II study manual is required and can be purchased at Connection Central or online for \$37 with registration. The class will meet on Sundays beginning January 13 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in M-106. Childcare will be provided with reservation. For questions, contact Jana Hall at janah@fmcm.org.
- **Uncommon Marriage Conference** – This conference on February 15-16 in Dallas is an experience for married couples who have a desire to see their relationship be set apart in a world that is longing for a true picture of sacrificial love and commitment. Made up of main sessions, practical breakouts and a mix of creative teaching sessions, UNCOMMON will equip and encourage you to experience the richness of relationship that you long for. It would make a great Christmas or Valentine’s day gift! Conference hours are 7:00-9:00 p.m. on February 15 and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on February 16. The cost is \$100 for the conference only (includes lunch) or \$215 for the conference and hotel. Contact Tina Schramme at tinas@fmcm.org for more information about registration.
- **Chik-fil-A Leadercast** – Our lives are full of things that we think will grow our businesses and increase our influence. What if there was potential impact in simplifying our lives so our leadership could thrive? As we are “in the city for the city,” join us as we host the live broadcast of the Chick-fil-A Leadercast, *Simply Lead*, on Friday, May 10, beginning at 8:00 a.m. You can expect to be challenged, inspired and encouraged as you learn how to improve your own leadership skills and also have the opportunity to network with other leaders in our area. Contact Leslie Waldson at lesliew@fmcm.org to sponsor or register for this one-day event. More details to come.

Serve the World

- **Serving at First** – This one-hour class prepares you to serve and teaches the basics of our church’s mission, spiritual leadership and provides Safe Sanctuary training. Following the class, individuals seeking to find a place to serve will receive guidance for next steps. Classes led by Susan Luttrell, Serving and Outreach Director. Check the church calendar for upcoming classes. For more information, contact Susan at susanl@fmcm.org.
- **Jobs for Life** – This program helps our neighbors who are unemployed or underemployed find work and live successful lives. Volunteer to serve in our Spring semester, and you can make a real difference in someone’s life. Serving opportunities include being a Mentor to one of the students, being a Meal Sponsor to prepare or provide funds for a meal for 25 people or be a part of the Prayer Team. *Jobs for Life* classes meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, February 19 to April 23. An orientation for volunteers and students will be Thursday, February 12, at 6:30 p.m. in *The Loft*. For more information, contact Teresa Sherwood at teresas@fmcm.org.
- **Hands of Christ** – Hands of Christ is our local mission program that helps with minor home repairs for the elderly and disabled. Volunteers of all skill levels — from helping with hospitality to hands-on repair work — are needed to help on Saturdays, March 16, April 20 and May 18. RSVP online, or contact Susan Luttrell at susanl@fmcm.org with questions.
- **Serving others this Easter** – On Easter morning we will offer two worship services at the Mansfield ISD Center for the Performing Arts. This is an incredible opportunity for our church to share Christ with our community — *in the city for the city* — and you can be a part of it! Consider serving as a greeter or usher and help demonstrate the warm hospitality of First Methodist. A great number of volunteers will be needed for both services, and training will be provided. Contact Jana Hall at janah@fmcm.org for more details.
- **Sager Brown Mission Trip** – Looking ahead to fall, join a mission team traveling to Baldwin, Louisiana, on November 10-15 to serve at the UMCOR Sager Brown Distribution Center. Volunteers will live in UMCOR housing and work alongside volunteers from throughout the U.S. to prepare emergency relief supplies to be shipped around the world. You will be a part of all that the United Methodist Church is doing to care for the most vulnerable people in the world, including those affected by natural disaster, civil war and extreme poverty. This mission trip is appropriate for volunteers age 18 to 98! Team Leaders are Win and Ginny Hatt. Registration is now open; the deadline to sign up is September 1. Contact Teresa Sherwood at teresas@fmcm.org for more information.
- **Louisiana Mission Trip** – Participants on this trip will help with recovery from Hurricane Isaac, April 7-13, 2013. Team leaders are David Stanton and Brenda Scott. Deadline to register is February 15. Contact Teresa Sherwood at teresas@fmcm.org for more information.