

FALL 2024 WEDNESDAY NIGHT

SMALL GROUPS

TO SIGN UP FOR A SMALL GROUP, CLICK [HERE](#)

TABLE TALK

IN THE LARGE DINING ROOM

Sometimes the group offerings don't engage everyone. And that's okay! We want those who are still seeking connection and conversation after a long day to have a place to do so. During Table Talk, there will be an opportunity to catch up with folks and hear how life is going. There will also be some questions provided on the table to mix it up if you so choose.

MANNA & MERCY

Led by Stephanie York Arnold and Katie Gilbert

IN THE SALT CLASSROOM

(BOTTOM FLOOR OF THE EDUCATION BUILDING)

Come explore the Bible through the lifegiving, contextual lens of Manna and Mercy. We will begin walking through the Old Testament scriptures and learning about the context of the original audience for our biblical stories, as well as the intended purposes for the text. Manna and Mercy typically is a weekend retreat that is offered once a year at First Church, however, in this small group we will take a slower exploration through the material to sink deep into the opportunities it provides for theological reflection. In the group there will be guided teaching by First Church clergy along with video clips and group discussion each week.

CONVERGE

Led by Jonathan Goss

IN THE PARLOR

(BOTTOM FLOOR OF THE OFFICE BUILDING)

Converge Midweek is an ongoing small group for young adults at First Church that is open and welcoming. We begin each meeting by checking in with one another and then have guided conversation on a variety of topics. Conversations can focus on books of the Bible, a video series, or a book series. There is no "homework" that needs to be done before attending. Just show up and know that you belong.

OPEN TABLE

Led by Jacob White

IN THE IRL CLASSROOM

(2ND FLOOR OF THE EDUCATION BUILDING)

Open Table is a group open to all that centers LGBTQ+ perspectives on a wide range of topics including religion, culture, and current events. Join us this fall as we take a multimedia look at queer history. With books, short videos, poetry, and more we will explore the long and important history of our 2SLGBTQIA+, which is new language identifying our ever expanding community.

WRITING

Led by Mary Evelyn Holloway

IN THE LIBRARY

(1ST FLOOR OF THE EDUCATION BUILDING)

Come together and learn different ways to write as a form of prayerful reflection. Led by Mary Evelyn Holloway, we will discover how writing can become a ritualistic practice that brings us closer to God, closer together, and closer to learning more about ourselves.

SANCTUARY CHOIR

Led by Patrick Evans

IN THE CHOIR ROOM

Have you ever heard the glorious music on Sunday mornings and wanted to be a part of it? Join your sanctuary choir for rehearsals on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm! For any additional questions, email Patrick@firstchurchbhm.com.

KIDS & YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Led by Ashley Hess

CITYKIDS WING

(2ND FLOOR OF THE EDUCATION BUILDING)

Join our City Kids and students as they learn to worship, grow, and serve together! We'll have activities for any age and exciting programming planned this fall. If you have any questions, please email Ashley@firstchurchbhm.com.

SMALL GROUPS ON WEDNESDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

HOW GREAT THOU ART

Led by Katie Justice, Jon Andrew Castleberry, Shelby Reese, and Caleb Clark

IN THE ECCLESIA-WINGARD CLASSROOM

Join us each Wednesday in September for an art activity led by an artist in our congregation! From self-portraits to jewelry making to DIY illustrations, there is sure to be something for everyone. Any experience level is welcome and most (if not all) materials will be provided. Those who sign up will be emailed every week to let them know what activity to prepare for and what to bring with them, therefore registrations for this group are highly encouraged.

SMALL GROUPS ON WEDNESDAYS IN OCTOBER

YOGA

Led by Joanna Hardy-West

IN THE COURTYARD

Join us for some much-needed movement and relaxation amidst a busy season! Bring your own mat or towel and comfortable clothing. Weather permitting, we'll gather in the courtyard after dinner. Otherwise, we'll be in a classroom on the second floor of the Office building. All ages and skill levels are welcome. If you have any questions, feel free to email Joanna at jkathardy@gmail.com.

BOOK STUDY & CONVERSATION

based on *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt

Led by Katie Gilbert

IN THE ECCLESIA-WINGARD CLASSROOM

Parenting in 2024 inevitably means thinking about how to approach technology and social media with our children. Using social psychologist Jonathan Haidt's most recent book, *The Anxious Generation*, we will explore the impact of these influences on the neurological development of children and teens as well as cultivate space for conversations around how to parent in the age of technology. While reading the book is not required to participate, doing so (or listening to a podcast or two) will greatly enhance your understanding.

SMALL GROUPS ON THURSDAYS IN OCTOBER

BREWS & BROS “FELLA-SHIP” GROUP

Led by Rev. Jonathan Goss

BACK FORTY BEER COMPANY

***THURSDAY EVENINGS* AT 6:00PM**

We live in a culture that at times promotes a form of masculinity that is seen as tough, powerful, and emotionless. At First Church, we believe strength is shown by those that are willing to be vulnerable, share their feelings, and participate in a community that supports one another. In the small group Brews & Bros, we will create an intentional space for those male-identifying persons to share with one another and explore how God is calling us to redefine masculinity in today's world. Our discussion topics will range from how you grew up to your understanding of femininity and masculinity. The idea is to gradually ease into heavier conversations as we get to know one another while sharing a drink together around a table at a local brewery. At Carrigan's, they serve good food and both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. We are choosing this location so that anyone who drinks or does not drink alcohol will feel welcome. This group is intended for and welcomes all male-identifying persons.

SMALL GROUPS ON WEDNESDAYS IN NOVEMBER

MARY MAGDALENE

Apostle to the Apostles

Led by Jay Jesse

IN THE ECCLESIA-WINGARD CLASSROOM

Who was Mary Magdalene? Why is she so often left out of discussions of Jesus's main disciples? What does knowing more about her do to our understanding of the Gospel and our understanding of our own relationship to the Christ? This small group will consider some of these questions from Cynthia Bourgeault's course "Mary Magdalene: Apostle to Our Own Times" and her book, *The Meaning of Mary Magdalene: Discovering the Woman at the Heart of Christianity*. Having better answers to these questions, Bourgeault argues, invites us to rebuild our trust in the ministry of love that is core to becoming more "fully human." Familiarity with the course and the book are not required for our discussions.
