



DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

Know God. Love God. Serve God.



EXPLORING FAITH



Psalm 100:1-2
"Make a joyful
noise to the Lord,
all the earth.
Worship the Lord
with gladness;
come into
his presence
with singing."

I worship several times a year. I have questions about what takes place during the service, such as baptism, communion, confirmation, scripture reading, mission moments, offering and prayer.

Next steps: Attend worship at all campuses to explore which style helps you connect most fully with God. Increase your worship attendance; make plans to worship at least monthly.

GROWING IN FAITH

I attend worship several times a month. I feel comfortable participating in worship. I may participate in worship leadership as a host, liturgist, usher, or as part of the choir, bell choir, praise band, or tech team.

Next steps: Get baptized, confirmed, become a member. Strive to worship each week, take sermon notes, read the scripture lesson(s) at home, invite people to worship.

LEADING IN FAITH

I worship weekly, unless I am sick or out of town, then I worship online. I invite others to worship. I look for people who may be sitting alone, and ask if we may worship together. I can answer questions and help visitors and people new to the faith understand the various elements of worship so they may feel more comfortable and included.

Next steps: Lead in worship by taking classes to become a Lay Servant or Lay Speaker. Participate in worship by sharing your faith story. Invite someone to worship, including those who have not been in worship recently or have never attended this church.



Psalm 119:105
"Your word is a
lamp to my feet
and a light to my
path."

I would like to learn more about Jesus. I am curious about the United Methodist denomination, and its history and beliefs. I would like to learn more about the Bible. I read scripture when I am in worship, and occasionally at home.

Next Steps: Join the New Member class. Learn about spiritual disciplines and daily devotions. Purchase a study Bible or download a Bible app. Look up the scripture passage(s) in worship to follow along. Read the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John to discover the stories of Jesus.

I read scripture and Christian literature several times a week. I participate in a small group or class. I look for opportunities to apply the teaching of Jesus to my daily life.

Next Steps: Participate in Disciple Bible Study. Challenge yourself to read scripture and devotionals each day. Read the New Testament and Psalms. Co-lead a small group or class.

I read scripture and devotionals daily. I have made a personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ, and I seek to follow him as my Lord and Savior. I look for opportunities to disciple others and share my faith in Jesus. I feel comfortable talking about my faith.

Next Steps: Lead Disciple Bible Study or another small group or class. Read through the entire Bible.

EXPLORING FAITH

I'm not sure how to pray; I would like to learn.

Next Steps: Take a Prayer class. Memorize the Lord's Prayer. Begin praying before meals, and in the morning or at bedtime.

GROWING IN FAITH

I pray several times a week. I know a variety of prayer practices, and I know the Lord's Prayer by memory. I ask other people how I may pray for them.

Next Steps: Keep a prayer journal. Join a prayer group. Look for opportunities to pray with other people.

LEADING IN FAITH

I pray throughout my day. I feel comfortable praying out loud with other people. I stop and pray with people when they share a prayer request.

Next Steps: Begin a prayer group. Teach a class on prayer. Lead the congregational prayer time during worship. Share with others how God is answering prayer in your life.



Philippians 4:6
"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

I want to serve and make a difference in the world. I am unsure how I might help, and what opportunities exist. I need guidance to share my gifts of time and talent.

Next Steps: Take a Spiritual Gifts class. Learn how to use your gifts in serving God and neighbor. Learn about the missions and social justice ministries at First UMC. Discover opportunities to meet immediate needs of the community (charity), and to work toward long-term solutions (justice). Participate in a short-term mission project or justice ministry project. Take a class on the Social Principles.

I participate in missions and social justice ministry several times a year. I am growing in my journey of loving and serving God's people. I follow the Greatest Commandment from Jesus (Matthew 22:37-39). I honor my baptismal vow to "Resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves."

Next Steps: Deepen your understanding of why faith calls us to serve God and neighbor. Participate in a new mission project or social justice ministry. Attend a Church & Society sponsored class. Go on a mission trip—locally, nationally or abroad.

I regularly serve God in missions in our community and around the world. I participate in peace and justice efforts locally and globally. I invite others to serve, and I feel comfortable sharing why my faith calls me to serve God and neighbor.

Next Steps: Lead a Spiritual Gifts class, and encourage others to use their gifts. Join the Mission Committee leadership team or the Church & Society leadership team. Look for new opportunities to serve God and neighbor through mission and justice.



1 Peter 4:10
"God has given each of you a gift. Use it to help each other. This will show God's loving favor."

EXPLORING FAITH

GROWING IN FAITH

LEADING IN FAITH



*Matthew 28:19-20
"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you..."*

I have not practiced inviting someone to church or talking about my faith. It could be helpful to learn different ways to share my faith, and to consider comfortable ways to invite others to church.

Next Steps: Participate in a Faith Sharing class. Invite someone to worship with you on Christmas Eve, Easter, and Sunday mornings. Share with a friend or family member what you appreciate about your church. Extend an invite for kids to attend Vacation Bible School, the Easter Egg Hunt or Trunk-Or-Treat. Welcome a teen to attend Youth Group.

My close friends and family know that I participate in church activities. I have also shared with them about my faith in Jesus, and how God is working in my life. I have invited them to attend worship and other ministry events, and I welcome their questions about faith.

Next Steps: Invite someone to worship with you who does not currently have a church home. Practice sharing your faith story with church friends so that it becomes more comfortable sharing it with non-church family and friends.

I invite people to worship and church activities regularly. I am comfortable talking about my faith in Jesus Christ, and I look for opportunities to share with others about God's love and grace through my words and actions.

Next Steps: Continue inviting people to worship and church activities. Be a part of leading a Faith Sharing class. Look for opportunities to be present in the community, sharing the love of Jesus in word and action.



*Acts 20:35
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

I occasionally give when I'm in worship. I notice others giving, and wonder how I might begin this spiritual practice, too.

Next Steps: Consider making a regular financial contribution to First UMC. Learn about financial generosity, and consider growing in personal financial management by taking *Saving Grace*.

I am looking for opportunities to be more generous with my financial gifts. I completed an Estimate of Giving card, and I make a regular financial contribution to First UMC.

Next Steps: Give a specific percentage of your income, moving toward a 10% biblical tithe. Consider giving to specific ministries and missions of your choice, including the Endowment.

I consistently live a joyfully generous life. I tithe 10% or more to First UMC, and I respond with generosity to additional ministry and mission needs.

Next Steps: Continue to be open to God's calling toward faithful generosity and stewardship.



*1 Corinthians 16:14
"Let all that you do be done with love."*

I am looking for a community where I may belong and grow in my faith.

Next Steps: Participate in worship on Sunday morning. Stop by the Visitor Center to receive a gift from the congregation—we are glad you are here! Visit with the Friendly Links and clergy.

I worship on Sunday mornings, but I have not gotten involved in other ministries. I am curious how I might get more connected and get to know other people in the congregation.

Next Steps: Join the New Member class. Take the Spiritual Gifts class. Join a class, mission or ministry. Challenge yourself to try something beyond Sunday worship.

I regularly attend worship and I am involved in other ministries and missions at First UMC.

Next Steps: Introduce yourself to visitors and new members, and invite them to join you for worship and other church activities. Look for opportunities to include others, meet new people, build friendships, and create space for all to belong.