

Groups and Classes with Shared Interests

Home Improvement

Coordinator: Sarah Greenspan
Sunday mornings, through the school year
Beginning August 16
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Room G2
A Sunday morning experience especially for parents interested in building stronger Christian families, nurturing children in the traditions of faith, celebrating the joys of fellowship and relationships, and service and outreach to others. Topics include: marriage, parenting, faith development.

Job Search Techniques: Insights and Strategy

Leaders: Richard Fincher and Diane Taylor
Sunday morning, November 1
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Room G2
Are you out of work? Are you employed but looking for more challenge? Are you employed but unhappy with your current situation? You are invited to this interactive workshop to explore basic job search strategies and techniques, including targeting employers, resumes, networking, internet job search, interviewing and evaluating job offers. Please bring your resume so your workshop leaders can suggest improvements.

New Member Orientation

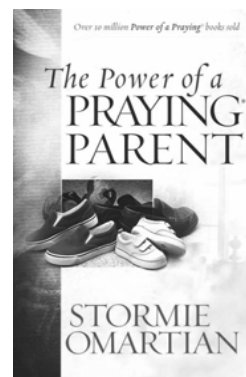
Leader: Karen McFarland
**Sunday, September 20
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Room G2
Joining September 27 @ 9:30 a.m.
**Sunday, November 15
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Room G2
Joining November 22 @ 9:30 a.m.
PVUMC invites you to become a member of our faith community. If you would like to learn more, contact Karen McFarland, Lay Ministries, 602-840-8360, x135.

PVUMC Book Club

Leader: Fran Clark
First Monday afternoon of each month
Ongoing, year-round
12:15 - 1:15 p.m., Room G2
Spirited discussions of selected works by contemporary authors. Join us, and bring your lunch if you like. Check the bulletin inserts and The *Desert Scroll* for a list of this year's book picks.

Power of a Praying Parent

Leader: Tammy McLeod
Monday evenings,
October 26 - November 23
6:30 - 8:00 p.m., Room F8
You are invited to join this group, which will read and discuss Stormie Omartian's easy-to-read book about the power of praying for your children. In the book she shares how you can pray through each stage of your child's life from early childhood through adulthood, and learn to place the details in God's loving hands.



Separation And Divorce Group

Leaders: Helen Stiles, M.C., C.P.C.
Tuesday evenings,
September 15 - November 17
6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Room A2
When you are hurting after a divorce, you need a supportive step-by-step program for putting the pieces of your life back together. This course looks at the rebuilding blocks, some of which are denial, fear, loneliness, guilt and rejection, letting go, trust, purpose, and freedom. For more information, contact Tawn Watkins in the church office. The \$25 cost includes book and workbook.

Saguaros

Leader: Jack Jones
Third Thursday morning of each month
Meets throughout the school year
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Room F1
Join us at our monthly potluck. We're 55+, PVUMC members, members of other area churches, winter visitors, friends of current Saguaro participants, and you! Current activities include monthly potluck with entertainment, fabulous food, fellowship and fun, surprise outings, day trips, extended overnights and lasting friendships.

 **Paradise Valley
United Methodist Church**
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Join us in belonging, believing, becoming, and building community through Adult Learning



Fall 2009

As we seek to fulfill PVUMC's mission/vision, you are invited to join us in creating community in a diverse world where God's love is manifested through action. The Adult Learning Team hopes you will be able to participate in one or more of the offerings listed here. Each class or group is an opportunity to be in friendship with others, explore the diversity of God's people, and be active in learning more about the love and grace of God.

~~Paula Rugen, Chairperson, paula-smiles@cox.net
~~Pastor Kathleen Athey, 480-840-8360, kathey@PVUMC.org

To register:

Website: pvumc.org (Click on Calendar)
Church Office: 602-840-8360
Worship Bulletin: Indicate interest in the reservation section
Childcare: 602-840-8360 ext. 134

New Bible Study Offerings

Disciple I: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

Leader: Pastor Kelly Bender
September 17 - Mid May
Thursday mornings,
9:30-11:30 a.m., G2

Disciple I will provide a solid foundation of Biblical knowledge. 80+% of the Bible will be read in the course. You will learn and understand biblical perspectives on God, how God has moved in the lives of people, and how God moves in your life today. Regular attendance and reading the assignments is expected. Cost: \$35 for purchase of course material. There is no prerequisite.



Online Disciple Bible Study

New this year is the option to participate online with others around the country in a Disciple I study led by a capable instructor living in another state. This is a wonderful option for those who travel or who cannot come to a class. It is recommended that you plan to devote one hour in your daily schedule for completing assignments in the online workshop. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Kathleen for more information.



Short-Term Disciple: Invitation to the Old Testament

Leader: Robin Kreuzberg
September 29 - November 24
Tuesday Evenings
6:30 - 8:00 p.m., Room H5

Join others in this video-based program led by a knowledgeable student of the Bible. Explore the Old Testament's story of God and God's calling of the people of Israel through the many "voices" of the biblical text. Participants gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Old Testament as an integral part of the Christian Bible and a renewed discovery of our identity in God and God's vision for all things. Cost: \$10 for class materials. There is no prerequisite.

Ongoing Bible Study

Adult Bible Study

Facilitator: Lee Steers

Team Teachers: Kent and Cindy Heltne and Larry and Jeanette Irwin

Sunday mornings,
ongoing year-round

8:00 - 9:00 a.m., Room A2

Gather with others for a discussion-based study, based on the traditional Sunday School class model. The class will use Cokesbury's Adult Bible Study series, the most widely used study curriculum in United Methodist churches across the country.

Caring Bible Study

Leader: Audrey Alderson

Tuesday mornings,
ongoing year-round

10:30 a.m. - Noon, Room A2

This is a small group setting for women who are interested in learning more about how the Bible impacts their everyday life. We study a chapter of the Bible each week and share insights with each other. Previous study of the Bible is not required. We pray for one another as we share our joys and our concerns.

Men's Breakfast/Bible Study

Leader: Jon Hearn

Thursday mornings, ongoing year-round
6:30 a.m. breakfast,

7:00 a.m. Bible Study, Room F5/6

The PVUMC Men's Group meets every Thursday morning at 6:30 a.m. in room F5/6 for breakfast and sharing each week. The group studies verses picked randomly each week. They also support different mission projects throughout the year. For more information about this group, contact Jon Hearn at jonhome4@yahoo.com or 480-948-5306, or just show up for breakfast. There's always plenty of food.

Pastor's Bible Study

Leader: Pastor Kelly Bender

Wednesday mornings
during the school year
Beginning September 16

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.,
Room F8.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come study the Bible with our senior pastor, Pastor Kelly Bender. This is for all age groups, men and women, and a great place to meet people. You are invited to come 1/2 hour early to share in fellowship.

Susanna Circle

Leader: Jami Godshall

Wednesday mornings
during the school year
Beginning September 9

9:30 - 11:45 a.m., Room A2

This is a group of women in fellowship studying different subjects, as the spirit leads.

Mustard Seed Bible Study

Leaders: Sara Bollman-Pratt and Judy Mallory

Monday mornings

On-going through the school year

Mondays, 9:00-11:00 a.m., Room A2

You are invited to join this group of women as they study God's Word, grow in Christian discipleship and support each other in prayer.



Spiritual Growth & Direction

Sojourners: Companions in Christ

Leaders: Paige Harris and Vicky Rankin

Wednesday afternoons,

August 26 - May 19

4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Room G2

Are you yearning for a deeper experience of God and meaningful connection with Christian community? Through Companions in Christ you will learn more about who God created you to be, explore the fullness of life in Christ, and receive the grace and guidance of the Spirit in community. Using the Bible and classical spiritual practices, Companions in Christ is a powerfully transforming experience which will enrich your life and spiritual journey.

Wesley Sunday School Group

Coordinators: Kent and Cindy Heltne

Sunday mornings, during the school year
Beginning September 13

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Room F5/6

Following the emphasis of John Wesley on the power of small group meetings, this Sunday group explores and shares different aspects of being disciples of Christ.

Enough: Discovering Joy through Financial Simplicity and Generosity

Leader: Pastor Kathleen Athey

Wednesday evenings,

September 16 - October 14

6:30 - 8:00 p.m., Room H5

Money has great power in our lives.

Used wisely, it is one key to accomplishing our goals, providing for our needs, and fulfilling our lives' purpose. In recent years however, many have ignored the Bible's wisdom when it comes to financial practices, and we are in an economic crisis. This group will discuss the material in a small book about biblical keys to contentment, overcoming fear, and discovering joy through financial simplicity and generosity. Cost: \$7.00 for the book.



Core Longings - What are they?

Sunday mornings,

September 20th and 27th

9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Room H5

What is it that we are missing in life that would make it more complete and provide us with hope? Your "life longings" or "core longings" have a developmental function in providing direction for your life. We were created to live an authentic life, to have purpose and meaning.

Plan to join our discussions. For more information, call Tawn Watkins, at 602-840-8360, x132.

Spirituality, Gifts, & More: Pathways to God

Leader: Pastor Kathleen Athey

Wednesday evenings,

October 28 - November 11

6:30 - 8:00 p.m., Room G2

How do you draw near to God? What kinds of spiritual practices seem to connect you more closely with God than others? Why is it that your spouse or best friend prefers one type of Christian worship or music while you prefer another? Each of us is given a particular kind of spirituality for relating to God. And, each of us is given spiritual gifts for living out God's call to us. You are invited to come to this 3-week exploration of your spirituality and your spiritual gifts.

NOOMA Discussion Group

Leaders: Devin Shaffer and Polly VanRensburg

Wednesday evenings,

November 18 - December 16

6:30 - 8:00, Room H5

In today's world, we are often accustomed to getting what we want, when we want it. At the same time, we seek spiritual connection and direction, which doesn't come that neatly packaged. NOOMA is a series of short films on real-life situations presented by Rob Bell, who weaves together Christian values first articulated some 2,000 years ago into the pace of today's culture. Each film is realistic, sometimes humorous, and always meaningful. Join us to discuss each film and our varying viewpoints.

I am a creature of a day. I am a spirit come from God, and returning to God. I want to know one thing: the way to heaven. God himself has condescended to teach me the way. He has written it down in a book. Oh, give me that book! At any price give me the book of God. Let me be a man of one book.

-John Wesley