

# Getting to the Core

Are you looking to begin a Christian life? Do you need to brush up on the basics? Do you want to find your ministry? Who is Jesus and why did he die? Why and how should I pray? Who is the Holy Spirit and what does he do? Why and how can I share my faith? What about the church? Does God guide people today? The core classes of HUMC are designed to answer these basic questions about the meaning of life. As we make disciples, we want each one to have this firm foundation in their spiritual journey. Our core classes form the basis for the compassionate community we are building. They feed our mission.

**Class 101: Discover the Christian Life** is where the journey begins. The basic text is *The Faith-Sharing New Testament* along with materials that I have written. This class introduces the Gospel plan of salvation, Baptism, Holy Communion, and United Methodist beliefs and practices. Participants are prepared for baptism and reception into the covenant of membership. This is the beginning of a lifelong spiritual journey with Jesus Christ. We'll be offering this class three times each year. The next will be Sunday, September 17. It starts with lunch after church then the seminar.

**Class 201: Spiritual Maturity** focuses on Christian living and devotion. Through a deeper study of the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer, participants grasp the ethics of the faith: how we should act toward God and our neighbors. They learn to develop a daily Christian spirituality. The basic text is *Ten Words, Two Signs, and One Prayer: Core Practices of the Christian Faith* by Timothy C. Tennant. I have also written a study booklet for each session. This class lasts 4 weeks and will be offered twice yearly. Our next Class 201 will be

October 5, 12, 19, 26—Thursday nights from 7-8 PM. Mike Morley and I will lead this class.

**Class 301: Discover Your Spiritual Gifts.** Who is the Holy Spirit? What does he do? What are the fruits of the Spirit? How can I find my gifts and my ministry? Together we'll read and study *The Holy Spirit* by Billy Graham along with a Spiritual Gifts Inventory and a study guide that I have written. Everyone will gain a basic understanding of the ministry of the Holy Spirit and discover likely places God wants them to serve in the church and community. This class lasts 4 weeks and will be offered twice yearly. Our next class 301 will be November 2, 9, 16, 30. Thursdays from 10 AM to 11 AM. Glenn Betts and I will lead this class.

**Class 401 Discovering a Life That Matters.** How can I live an effective Christian life? A victorious life over sin and negative habits? How can I share my faith? How can we care for and nurture new Christians? This class prepares for a life of personal mission and witness in the church. The fruit of this mission will lead to filling up the next class 101 and our cycle will repeat. Our text is *Christian Life and Witness* an acclaimed training course developed by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. This class lasts 4 weeks and will be offered twice yearly. Our next class 401 will be January, details to be announced!

Every church needs to have an intentional process for developing attendees into fully-devoted followers of Christ. In the core classes, members will connect more deeply with Christ and his church; grow in knowledge and grace and be equipped to serve others. I hope to meet you in one this year!

Connect, Grow, Serve!

**Pastor Tom Anderson**