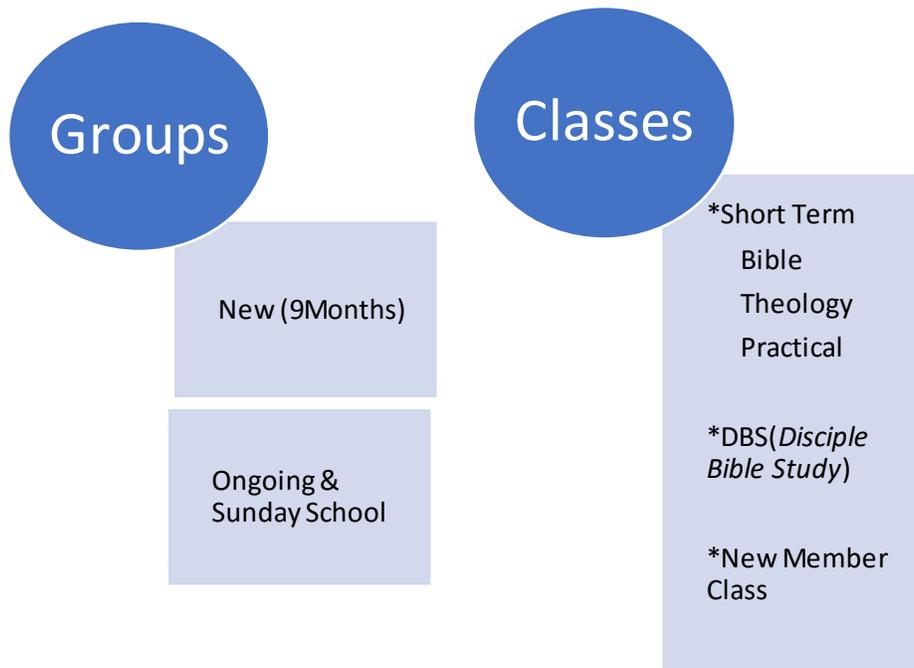


Small Groups

at Hyde Park United Methodist Church

Both classes and groups are a part of “Small Group Ministry” but each play a different role in discipleship.

- ❖ **Classes are a great place to start.** They meet for a specific amount of time and are based solely on the curriculum being used. You can grow in your understanding of God, life skills, the Bible, spiritual practices and even expand your theological understanding in specific areas.
- ❖ **Ongoing groups** can help us form relationships with others as we grown in our faith on the discipleship pathway. We can learn from each other, support one another and share life together. These groups focus on a shared connection of accountability and growth together.



The Bible testifies to the value of community and the dangers of attempting to do life on our own. As Jim Harnish notes in *The Disciple's Path*, "There is no such thing as a solitary Christian" (38). In his discussion on worship and small groups, Harnish also describes the importance of community for growing our faith.

At Hyde Park United Methodist, we believe small groups are a vital part of growing faith. They are a place where authentic community is experienced and where accountability takes place. We already have a strong presence of groups meeting on campus and even a few off-campus groups meeting in people's homes. Over the next year, we hope to continue to begin more groups around on both campus' and in our community that meet for twelve to eighteen months.

We believe groups are important because groups...

Bridge the gap between information and application:

In small groups we have the opportunity to begin applying the lessons learned on Sunday morning or private study into our everyday lives.

Encourage accountability:

As we build relationships in groups, we have fellow Christians to hold us accountable to the application of truths. We practice transparency and openness with one another. Small groups also provide a vital support system when we go through hard times.

Small Group and Community Lay Team Mission

Small Groups create a foundation in Christian community for adults to study, grow in discipleship, and serve through faith. To this end, we...

- Provide small groups, classes, workshops, and resources to nurture people in their life of discipleship
- Sustain Christian community through learning, covenant relationships, and spiritual practices
- Lead disciples to participate in God's healing of the city and the world through service