

CATALOG OF

*Faith Formation  
Opportunities*



Spring and Summer 2024



# Short - Term

## **Pastors' Summer Book Club**

Join Pastor Laura and Pastor Laura Katherine for a summer book club featuring three fiction books: "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt, "The Women" by Kristin Hannah, and "Hannah Coulter" by Wendell Berry. You can participate in one, two, or all three book discussions.

*Remarkably Bright Creatures* with Pastor Laura

Wednesday, June 19 | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Fellowship Hall

*The Women* with Pastor Laura Katherine

Monday, July 22 | 10:00 - 11:30 am | Fellowship Hall

*Hannah Coulter* with Pastor Laura

Wednesday, August 7 | 6:30 - 8:00 pm | Fellowship Hall

## **Parables in the Vineyard**

Tuesdays, May 28 - June 18

5:00 - 6:30 pm | Cloer Vineyards (8624 Castleberry Rd, Apex, NC 27523)

Pastor Laura Johnson: [laura.johnson@apexumc.org](mailto:laura.johnson@apexumc.org)

Join Pastor Laura at Cloer Vineyards or a Bible study that will uncover the theological depths of Jesus' parables on vineyards and farming.

## **Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life A Zoom Class**

Thursdays, June 6 - 27

7:00 - 8:00 pm | Zoom

Rev. Kara Matthews: [mkbmatthews@gmail.com](mailto:mkbmatthews@gmail.com)

Join Kara Matthews for this study of Henri Nouwen's timeless book entitled *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*. In this study you'll learn about the move from loneliness to solitude, from hostility to hospitality, and from illusion to prayer, all the while growing in your relationship with God.

## **The Story of Women in American Christianity with Dr. Grant Wacker**

Sundays, August 11 - September 15

7:00 pm | Fellowship Hall

Pastor Laura Johnson: [laura.johnson@apexumc.org](mailto:laura.johnson@apexumc.org)

Join Dr. Grant Wacker for a look at influential women in American Christianity, exploring how women have influenced theology and the Church across the generations.

Register for all groups on the Church Center app or at [apexumc.churchcenter.com](http://apexumc.churchcenter.com)

# GIFT Groups

## Growing in Faith Together

### What are GIFT Groups?

GIFT is an acronym for Growing in Faith Together, and that is the best way to describe GIFT Groups. These small groups are designed to be the best part of a person's week!

If you join a GIFT Group, you will discover a welcoming community that will:

- 1) encourage you to grow deeper in your faith and relationship with Jesus by reflecting on the previous Sunday's Scripture and by praying together,
- 2) help you foster meaningful relationships with other participants in the group, and
- 3) inspire you to carry the love of Christ into the world.

GIFT Groups are different from Bible Studies or classes. There is no teaching session, no homework, no "expert" in the room. Instead, GIFT Groups provide opportunity for you to discover how Scripture speaks to your daily living and allows you to learn from the perspectives and insight of the others in your group.

During a GIFT Group gathering, your facilitator will lead you in a discussion on the Scripture passage from the previous Sunday's sermon, as well as provide opportunities for fostering friendships with group members through food, fellowship, and prayer.

### What is the Commitment?

GIFT groups meet once a week for 6 weeks. While we recognize that life happens and emergencies arrive, we ask that you commit to participating in at least 5 of the 6 sessions. This is important for fostering the kind of community and depth of conversation GIFT Groups create.

### Is Childcare Available?

Yes! With advanced registration, our nursery staff are available to provide childcare for all of our on-campus GIFT group meetings. You can indicate your need for childcare when you sign up for a group.

### How Do I Sign Up?

Look for the registration link on Church Center and in "Events."

If you cannot fit any of the offered groups into your schedule, join us for more GIFT groups in the spring (April 14-May 19).

Register for all classes on the Church Center app or at [apexumc.churchcenter.com](http://apexumc.churchcenter.com)

# GIFT Groups

## Spring & Summer 2024 GIFT Groups

### **SPRING | Tuesday Morning Women's GIFT Group**

Dates: April 16 - May 21  
Time: 10:00-11:30 am  
Location: Fellowship Hall and Parlor  
Leaders: Phyllis Stern: phyllisgstern@gmail.com  
Norma Keyes: bankeyes@bellsouth.net  
Jerilyn Hardaway: hrdwy@yahoo.com

### **SPRING | Thursday Afternoon GIFT Group**

Dates: April 18 - May 23  
Time: 2:00 - 3:30 pm  
Location: Parlor  
Leader: Valerie Sutton: vievie52@hotmail.com  
Pastor Laura Johnson: laura.johnson@apexumc.org

### **SUMMER | Tuesday Morning GIFT Group**

Dates: July 21 - August 14 (4 weeks only)  
Time: 10:30 am - 12 pm  
Location: Parlor  
Leaders: Zonna Harriett: zharriett@gmail.com  
Jerilyn Hardaway: hrdwy@yahoo.com



# ENCORE

## Learning, Fellowship, and Outings for Adults 55+

### **Trip to Duke Gardens and Duke Chapel**

May 16 | all day

### **BINGO Luncheon at Apex UMC**

June 20 | 11:30 am - 1 pm

### **Lunch at Craft Public House**

August 15 | 11:30 am - 1 pm

### **Trip to Temple Theater for Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat**

September 19 | 2 pm show

*Register for all Encore events on the Church Center app or at [apexumc.churchcenter.com](http://apexumc.churchcenter.com)*

# Sunday School Classes

## **A Shepherd's Journey**

Sundays, 9:35 am  
Discipleship Center (DC) #407  
Age: Varies

Contact:  
Jeff Babcock:  
babcock.jeff1@gmail.com

We seek to strengthen our spiritual walks through interactive studies based on Biblical principles. Alternate teaching responsibilities among several class members. Mission & social functions monthly. All adults are welcome.

## **Connected**

Sundays, 9:35 am  
Christian Life Center (CLC) #217  
Age: 30's and 40's

Contact:  
Mandi Stewart:  
mandijstewart@gmail.com  
Mendi Nieters: mendi.nieters@gmail.com

We seek connection to our faith, our church, and one another. We are parents of big and small kids, couples, and singles and we desire to grow as a community of fellowship, study, and connection. "That I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith."  
-Romans 1:12.

**Connected takes a break in the summer and will not meet May 26 - September 1.**

## **Ernest Workers**

Sundays, 9:35 am  
Fellowship Hall  
Age: Senior Adult/Varies

Contact:  
Tim Clapp: (919) 622-0284

This class is a community of diverse older adults (long-time and new members to Apex UMC from many parts of the country). The members love the Lord and share rich histories of their life experiences as they study God's Word using the Cokesbury Adult Bible Studies (ABS) curriculum. The class supports numerous outreach ministries and ministers to each other through regular communication and fellowship meals. The class welcomes all members and guests of Apex UMC to visit our class. Teachers: Michelle Windle, Bill Newman, Doug Meckes, and Tim Clapp.

## **Feasting on the Word**

Sundays, 9:35 am  
Fellowship Hall Parlor  
Age: Varies

Contact:  
Jim Adams: jradams204@gmail.com  
Neil Horton: hortonrn@hotmail.com

A group dedicated to the study of the Bible and other books to help understand and apply the contents to our daily lives. Also to love, care for and support each other. New members are always welcome.

# Sunday School Classes

## Mayberry

Sundays, 11 am  
Christian Life Center (CLC) #211  
Age: Varies

Contact:  
Dave Dunbar:  
drdunbar47@gmail.com

Comprised of families, couples, and singles. Variety of studies - books, DVDs, discussion. Each lesson stands alone. Opportunities for fun and fellowship.

## Pilgrims

Sundays, 9:35 am  
Christian Life Center (CLC) #214-215  
Age: Senior adults

Contact:  
John Davis: ncstate73@me.com

Senior adults, both single and couples. Active in other church areas. Class activities include dining out after class, pot luck dinners, cookouts, and Christmas dinner. Rotating teachers using Adult Bible Study series and other seasonal materials.

## SALT: Sharing All of Life Together

Sundays, 9:35 am  
Discipleship Center (DC) #409  
Age: 20's and 30's

Contact:  
Mac & Katie Forbes: forbesrm@gmail.com  
Brad Killebrew: bskilleb@gmail.com  
Roman Schwarz:  
rschwarz@alumni.duke.edu

Single, married, with and without children. This lively bible study is particularly relevant for twenty and thirty-somethings.

**SALT takes a break in the summer and will not meet May 26 - September 1.**

## Seekers

Sundays, 9:35 am  
Discipleship Center (DC) #402  
Age: 30's - 50's

Contact:  
Josey Snyder: josey.snyder@gmail.com

Members age from 30s-50s. Study topics include application of the Bible to our lives, relationships, social issues, missions, and faith growth. Studies typically use videos and books, leading to lively group discussion and fellowship in an energetic and informal atmosphere. Visitors are welcome!

**Seekers take a break in the summer and will not meet May 26 - September 1.**

# Ongoing Small Groups

## General Groups

### **LIFT: Living in Faith Together**

Mondays, 7:00 pm  
Memorial Garden or Classroom 104

Contact:  
Cathy Turner: cathyturner2016@gmail.com

We are a multigenerational, service-oriented, small group that explores Scripture, books, & studies finding ways to live out our faith together. We LIFT up our joys, challenges, and prayer requests supporting and encouraging each other along the way. No matter where you are on your faith journey, ALL are welcome. We hope you'll join us in person or online.

### **Next Chapters**

Tuesdays, 7:00 pm  
Christian Life Center (CLC) #217

Contact:  
Margaret Miller:  
mmiller201@hotmail.com

Largely comprised of people who are in life transitions such as empty nesters, newly retiring, and new grandparents, but all are welcome! We enjoy study with lots of discussion. Regular gatherings for fellowship and occasionally for missions.

### **Monday Morning Bible Study**

Mondays, 10:00 am  
Fellowship Hall

Contact:  
Pastor Laura Katherine:  
laura.katherine@apexumc.org

This in-depth Bible study led by the Senior Pastor invites conversation and reflection on how Scripture guides our daily living. This year, the class will focus on the second half of the Gospel of Matthew.

**Monday Morning Bible Study takes a break for the summer between Memorial Day and Labor Day.**



# Ongoing Small Groups

## Men's Groups

### Men's Christian Book Group

Tuesdays, 6:30 am  
Virtual

Contact:  
Lane Cloaninger:  
lane53cloaninger@gmail.com

A virtual Christian book reading group for men. Recent books include those written by the following authors: C.S. Lewis, Lee Strobel, Eugene Peterson, NT Wright, Gregory Boyle, and George Washington.

### Men's Tuesday Group

Tuesdays, 8:00 am  
IHOP at Beaver Creek

Contact:  
Larry Jordan: larry@lgjordanoil.com

Weekly meetings at IHOP at Beaver Creek for food, fellowship, a devotional, and discussion.

### Men's Friday Group

Fridays, 7:00 am  
IHOP at Beaver Creek

Contact:  
Wallace Harding  
wharding3@nc.rr.com

Weekly meetings at the IHOP in Holly Springs for breakfast, fellowship, and discussions about faith.

### United Methodist Men

1st Saturday of every month,  
8:00 am  
IHOP at Beaver Creek

Contact:  
Lane Cloaninger:  
lane53cloaninger@gmail.com

The mission of the UMM is to help men grow in Christ so others may know Christ. This group has monthly meetings for fellowship, study, and prayer, and supports many missions of the church through its annual barbecue.

# Ongoing Small Groups

## Women's Groups

### **Agape-Faith Circle**

4th Tuesday of every month,  
7-8:30 pm  
Location Varies

Contact:  
Eccle Blackwin  
eblackwin@yahoo.com

Become involved in mission and study while enjoying fellowship with other women.

### **Florence Holleman Circle**

1st Thursday of every month, 12pm  
Location varies

Contact:  
Jane Elmore  
jelmo0730@gmail.com

Lunch, fellowship, devotionals and support of various missions.

### **Joy Circle**

2nd Monday of every month, 11:15-  
12:30 pm  
Fellowship Hall

Contact:  
Sandra Johnson Lemon  
sandrajohnsonlemon@gmail.com

Meet up after Monday Morning Bible Study and enjoy a time together with other women. We have a variety of projects that we work on and there's always great fellowship!

### **Genesis Circle**

1st Tuesday of every month, 7-8:30 pm  
Location varies

Contact:  
Anne Helm  
helm2nc@gmail.com

Become involved in mission and study while enjoying fellowship with other women.

### **Sisters of the Spirit**

2nd Tuesday of every month, 7-8:30 pm  
Various members' homes

Contact:  
Charlotte Finch  
cfinchapex@earthlink.net

We are a diverse group of women who enjoy Christian Fellowship through missions, sharing prayer concerns, Bible Studies, and spiritual enlightenment.



View all Groups & Classes  
on Church Center



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Welcome All. Love All.



Serve All.

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