

Grace Groups

Growing in Grace and Watching Over One Another in Love
McPherson First United Methodist Church · Summer 2026



This week in worship. Our church is in a worship series called *Passing the Flame*. This week we ask what is actually worth holding onto. Come join us this Sunday, July 19, though your group works great on its own. Worship is at 8:30 and 10:15 AM, or online at mcphersonfirst.org.

What Is a Grace Group?

A Grace Group is a small group of six to eight people who meet about an hour each week. We come to grow in faith and care for one another. There is no homework and nothing to get ready. We just talk honestly, ask a few questions, and pray. You don't need to have it all figured out. You don't need any church background either. You only need to show up and be honest. Everyone is welcome.

A Methodist Way of Making Disciples

Grace Groups are not new. They are one of the oldest Methodist practices. Almost three hundred years ago, John Wesley put the early Methodists into small weekly groups called "class meetings." About a dozen people met, led by regular church members, not pastors. They asked each other, "How is it with your soul?" and watched over one another in love. These small groups were how the first Methodists grew as followers of Jesus.

Our church's mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. From the start, the small group has been the Methodist way to do that. A Grace Group is that same way, brought back for today. When you sit in this circle, you join something Methodists have done for almost three hundred years.

Want to read more about this way of making disciples?

The Class Meeting by Kevin Watson, and Calling on Fire by Ashley Boggan and Chris Heckert.

The Five Promises

When we join this church, we make five promises to God and to each other. They are also a simple way to look at our faith journey, five good things to talk about as we grow:

- **Prayers:** connecting with God through prayer, scripture, and listening
- **Presence:** showing up for worship and the life of the church
- **Gifts:** giving to support the church's mission
- **Service:** finding where you are called to serve
- **Witness:** sharing your faith in word and action

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Your Hour Together

*Everything for your hour together, from the first prayer to the last.
The times are a guide, not a rule.*

Our Covenant

0-2 min

We say yes to these together each time we meet.

Show up. Come each week. The group needs you.

Be honest. This is a place to be real, not to put on a show.

Keep it private. What is said here stays here. That makes honesty safe.

Give everyone space. Don't take all the time. Let everyone share.

We Begin

2-5 min

Start with a moment of quiet. Then pray, together or with one person leading.

Gracious God, you have brought us here, and you know each of us by name. Open our hearts to be honest and our ears to listen well. As we watch over one another in love, meet us in this hour. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Getting to Know One Another

5-10 min

Go around the circle. Share your name, then pick one to answer:

- What is your favorite dessert?
- What is a movie or show you can watch over and over?

The Three Questions

These are the heart of every meeting. Ask them in order, and give everyone a turn. The smaller questions are just to help. There are no wrong answers.

Soul Tending. How is your faith journey going?

10-25 min

- When have you felt close to God lately? When have you felt far away?
- What has helped your faith lately? What has made it harder?

God Sightings. Where do you see God at work in your life?

25-40 min

- Where did you see God this week, even in something small?
- Who has shown you God's love lately?

Growing in Grace. What challenge are you giving to God?

40-55 min

- What is weighing on you that you could give to God?
- Where do you feel God nudging you to take a step?

We Close

55-60 min

Pray for one another before you go, together or with one person leading.

Faithful God, thank you for this time and for everyone here. Hold what we have shared. Send us into this week. Help us pray for one another, grow in grace, and trust that your love goes ahead of us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.