

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*. Come join us this Sunday, July 26, 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 six to eight people who meet about an hour each week to grow in faith and care for one another. There is no homework and nothing to prepare. We talk honestly, ask a few questions, and pray. You only need to show up and be honest, and everyone is welcome.

A Methodist Way of Making Disciples

Grace Groups recover one of the oldest Methodist practices. Almost three hundred years ago, John Wesley gathered Methodists into small weekly groups that asked one another, "How is it with your soul?" and watched over one another in love. A Grace Group is that same way of making disciples, brought back for today.

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

Our five membership promises are also a simple way to talk about our faith journey:

- **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

Your Hour Together

Everything for your hour together. The times are a guide, not a rule.

Our Covenant

0 min

Each time we meet, we say yes to these together. (then read the four below)

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.

Turn over to continue your hour together →

We Begin

2 min

We'll begin with a moment of quiet, and then we'll pray together. (pause, then pray)

Gracious God, the faith we carry was alive in others before it was ours, and you have gathered us here. Rekindle what is already in us, and open our hearts to be honest and our ears to listen well this hour. As we watch over one another in love, meet us here. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Getting to Know One Another

5 min

We'll go around the circle. Share your name, then pick one of these to answer.

- What is a song you always turn up when it comes on?
- What is a place near here you love to go?

The Three Questions

These three questions are the heart of our time. We'll move through them in order, and everyone gets a turn. The smaller questions underneath are just to help, and there are no wrong answers.

Soul Tending. How is your faith journey going?

10 min

- What is your prayer life like right now?
- Where are you growing, and where are you stuck?

Now we'll notice where God has been showing up.

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

25 min

- What prayer are you watching right now, answered or not?
- Where is God showing up at work, home, or in your neighborhood?

Now we'll name what we want to hand to God.

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

40 min

- What are you wrestling with or deciding?
- Where do you need courage this week?

Connect Back (optional, only if time allows): anyone may briefly name something they heard today that stayed with them. Keep it short, for connection, not advice.

We Close

55 min

We'll keep a few moments of quiet now, space to allow what you shared and heard, and how God has been speaking, to settle in your soul, so you can carry it into the days ahead.

. . . a few moments of silence . . .

Faithful God, thank you for this time and for everyone here. Hold what we have shared. Send us into this week grateful for the ones who handed us the flame, and ready to tend it for someone else. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.