

Grace Groups

Growing in Grace and Watching Over One Another in Love
McPherson First United Methodist Church · Sunday, August 16, 2026

This week in worship: *The Good Life. Your group works great on its own, and you are always welcome Sunday at 8:30 or 10:15 AM.*

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.

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

THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE · 10 OF 25 · PRESENCE

Hospitality. Hospitality is welcoming others the way God welcomes us. It is not the same as entertaining. Entertaining is about impressing people; hospitality is about receiving them. The food does not have to be fancy.

- Notice who is new or alone, and walk over
- Invite someone over for a simple meal, even leftovers

Bring it to Soul Tending. *Share one person you welcomed this week and one person you sense God is asking you to welcome next.*

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. Make this a priority. Your presence matters.

Be honest. You can say the true thing here. No performance needed.

Keep it private. Hold what you hear with care. Privacy allows honesty.

Give everyone space. Share, then make room. Listen as much as you talk.

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, you are nearer than we usually notice. Open our eyes to that nearness, and make this hour a place of honesty. 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 have you been praying about without much to show for it?
- Where do you feel most yourself with God?

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

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

25 min

- Where has God met you in something ordinary?
- Who has been Christ to you recently?

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 afraid to hope for?
- What is one thing you could hand over 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 ears that listened and words that were true. Tend what we planted here through the week ahead. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.