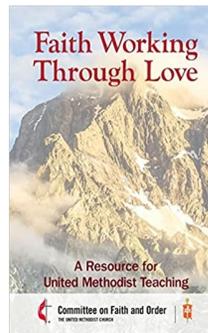


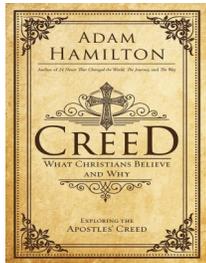
read the reflection and prayer. You may want to make a note in the book if it seems relevant to you that day. I underline things that seem important to me. On Tuesday evening we will gather and discuss how God has been present to us in the readings, if you were nudged to take some action (phone call, text), or if a Scripture verse was especially meaningful to you. In just 5 to 10 minutes a day, you can become familiar with your Bible over a year's time and you will have been inspired by thought-provoking meditations. Then coming together on Tuesday evenings, we share our insights with each other and get to know our church family. Please contact the church office if you would like to join me. Michelle will order a Disciplines book for you. This will definitely bring peace and joy to your life.

### WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY CLASS OFFERINGS

Pastor Sam will be teaching a class on a UMC Teaching Resource: **Faith Working Through Love**. The book teaches the 12 basic biblical themes or doctrines from a Methodist perspective and a Wesleyan understanding of them. The book offers biblical references and Wesleyan hymns and quotes. Participants will read, reflect, and discuss the prescribed questions and grow in their faith by understanding the biblical and Wesleyan perspectives. All are welcome to join the class. Classes will be offered on Wednesdays in person at 10:30 am and Thursdays via Zoom at 6:00 pm beginning **January 11** for the Wednesday class and **January 12** for the Thursday Zoom class. Purchase of the book is optional. Please call the church office to register.



**LOOKING AHEAD:** This year's Congregational Lenten Book Study will focus on Adam Hamilton's book: **CREED**. This book explores what Christians believe, why they believe, and why it matters. We're all searching. Sometimes the search is easy. But sometimes our questions are complicated, and the answers are difficult to see and harder to articulate. How do we discover and examine the truths that give meaning and purpose to life? Adam Hamilton believes that some powerful answers are contained in the Apostles' Creed. In this six-week Lenten study, Hamilton considers important questions of life, reality, and truth.



## Adult Education

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH, WEST ALLIS**  
**2023 ADULT CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION**  
**WINTER/SPRING CLASSES**

**BEGIN January 8, 2023**  
**(9:30-10:30 AM)**

**VISION STATEMENT: God cares about you and so do we.**

**MISSION STATEMENT: Teach the way of God in Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible.**

### SUNDAY CLASS OFFERINGS

#### Disciple Bible Study

**Title: Jesus in the Gospels**

**by Leander E. Kech**

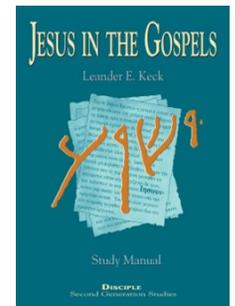
**Facilitator: Tom Bolton**

**Location: Confirmation Room**

**Description: This is Generation 2 of Disciple Bible Studies. It has 30 lessons and we may spread some out. We may finish in January 2024. Some of our staff led this study at UWM before Covid.**

The first session will be introductory. The overarching aim is to deepen discipleship through a better understanding of the biblical texts and their message. The study helps group members understand that Jesus is rooted in Judaism and the Scriptures of Judaism and that Christianity and the New Testament are rooted in the Scriptures of Judaism-our Old Testament. The Study Manual guides daily study and preparation for the weekly group meeting. The main elements in the format are designated by scriptural phrases. Accompanying each day's Scripture reading assignments are suggestions of things to look for that take the reader deeper into Scripture. As readers become aware of detail in Scripture, they might ask themselves repeatedly, what am I to make of this? The study manual provides space for writing notes on insights, observations, and questions related to the Scripture, and for putting into words personal perceptions of Jesus from the week's Scripture.

Fear not if you get behind on the daily assignments, we will talk them through in class.



## **Adult Interest Group**

**Title: Video Series: Patterns of Evidence: The Red Sea Miracle**

**Facilitator: Ken Ilseman**

**Location: Fireside Room**

**Description:** How could thousands of feet of water be parted at the Red Sea? Or was the sea merely parted by the act of wind in nature, through a shallow Egyptian lake?

Filmmaker Mahoney investigates these locations to see if any have a pattern of evidence matching the Bible. People of faith will be inspired and skeptics will have much to think about as Mahoney reveals two decades of documentary research including if divers found the remains of Pharaoh's army on the seafloor. This cinematic journey leads him to inquire... "Do miracles still happen today?"



## **Justice in Everyday Life**

**Facilitator: Rev. Deacon Nancy Lanman and Others**

**Location: Lighthouse Room**

**Description:** Have you ever wondered how being a Methodist might influence how we look at our nation and the world today in the midst of its great suffering and brokenness? The Prophet Micah (6:8) admonished the people of Israel to think about "what the Lord requires of us: To do justice, to love and act with mercy, and to walk humbly with our God." Is there something in our faith tradition that might influence how we respond, both personally and as a congregation? Our founder, John Wesley, lived as a clergyman and pastor for the length of the eighteenth century in England. He developed a special reform movement within the Anglican church, centered around small study groups that met weekly in ordinary people's homes to enlarge their spiritual growth and practice, but most importantly, by learning to hold themselves accountable to alleviating the social ills rapidly growing in an industrializing nation. In this post-modern day small study group, we will explore the Social Principles of the Methodist Church that have long been a quadrennial-revised and updated set of ethical guidelines for each generation of Methodists seeking to live and act with justice and compassion where it is most critically needed. Not only will participants seek together to nurture their spiritual growth and understanding, but will translate this experience into ministries more effective in alleviating social ills. An expected part of this work will be to actually transform ourselves as well, into people more strongly bound together as a nurturing community. We would like a minimum of four participants in order to have a meaningful discussion and different points of view. John Wesley always

considered this our ever-present gift from God, grace, and forgiveness to always be able to be "going on to perfection!" Please register by calling the church office so that enough materials will be available. Please note this four week class will begin January 15 and run through February 5.

## **MONDAY CLASS OFFERINGS**

**What Does the Bible Say?** with Michael Odle. We will meet at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of each month. We will continue our in-depth, faith-building study in the book of Romans. New or returning members are always welcome. As an added bonus, we won't even have to leave our homes to join this Zoom-based study. Anyone can participate by using a desktop or laptop computer, tablet, smartphone, or even a traditional landline telephone! Simply contact Michael or the church office to let us know you want to join us and the Zoom information (and clear instructions) will be sent to you. The first class of the new year will be on January 9, 2023. So, grab your favorite Bible and join in!

**Book Discussion Group** will meet the third Monday of the month (except July, August and December) at 1:30 pm

**Facilitator: Val Holzman**

**Location: Bernice Nailen Memorial Library**

**Description:** This daytime group reads and discusses books recommended by the UWIF. Open to all who enjoy reading! The titles discussed will be publicized each month.

## **TUESDAY CLASS OFFERINGS**

### **Small Group Study of The Upper Room Disciplines with**

**Bonnie Chesky:** Matthew 6:33 Jesus said, "but seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Please join me in the daily reading of **The Upper Room Disciplines, a Book of Daily Devotions for 2023.** Then we will meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm on Zoom to discuss. Each day we have a Bible reading based on the Revised Common Lectionary which covers much of the Bible over a 3-year period. Reflections are written by various scholars and laypersons for a week based on a theme and expanding on the Scripture. Each person is asked to read the Bible verses for the day, (usually 5-6 verses), and

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