



SOUTHSIDE

MIDWEEK NEWSLETTER

9.2.20

Life Group Ministry – Barrett

We are a college church located on the “Southside” of the University of Kentucky campus. Also, we are a church family with many young families with school-aged children. Therefore, our church calendar is often influenced by both the local school calendars and the University of Kentucky calendar. For instance, our members know to never schedule a wedding on the weekend of a home football game. Probably the most prominent way we see this influence is with the planning of our life group ministry. Several years ago, the leadership team made the decision for our life group ministry to intentionally follow the school calendar. Therefore, our life group ministry begins on the weekend following Labor Day and ends on the weekend before Memorial Day. This schedule seems to work well with the majority of our members and it also gives all of our hospitable life group hosts a needed break for the summer.

We are excited to begin our life group ministry again this next Sunday, September 13. We currently have 14 life groups with each group made up of 15-40 people. In order to keep some continuity during these unusual circumstances, we are encouraging our members to remain in the same life groups they participated in this past school year. We would like to invite both members who did not participate in a life group last year and non-members who would like to participate in a life group to join one this school year. Our groups will be meeting primarily online through Zoom as we begin the fall semester. Some groups are willing to meet in-person with appropriate guidelines and other groups are wanting to creatively find ways to gather outdoors when the weather is good. If you are interested in being in a group, please email me at barrettcoffman@gmail.com. Along with your interest, let me know about your comfort level in meeting (whether you would be willing to meet in-person or just online). This will help me know which group to recommend to you.

Life groups are the best way to get connected at Southside. One of our core values states that “small groups foster authenticity, vulnerability, trust, belonging, and accountability. While they are practical, small groups also promote personal spiritual growth.” We believe that our life groups are the best way to strengthen relationships, provide care, coordinate ministry, and promote growth in our church family. During this time of social distancing, I am reminded that we were not created to do this life alone. Please consider joining a life group today.

**WE WEREN'T CREATED
TO DO LIFE ALONE**



Wednesday Night Bible Class – Kevin

As we move into the fall semester, we plan to offer a Bible class for adults on Wednesday nights. This class may not meet every week, but for immediate the future we are a go. We will begin Wednesday, September 16, at 6:45 pm. This starting time will make it convenient for our youth ministry parents since youth events begin at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays. We will meet in the sanctuary. Feel free to sit wherever you are comfortable sitting, respecting the person's space next to you. Please wear a mask. We will not be offering anything organized for children younger than 5th grade during this class time. You are free to stay as long as you'd like once class is finished. We will not be assigning seating so there is no need to let us know if you plan to attend.

I will be teaching the first series on 1 John. The plan is for this class to begin on September 16 and conclude on October 28. We will meet for :45 or less each night. We do not have plans to record nor stream this class. This is only an in-person event. The adult education team will be working on securing future classes beyond October, but for now this study on 1 John is all that is certain.

A Shepherd's Prayer – Chad

"I pledge allegiance to the" There are many things competing for our allegiance these days. Parties. Causes. Positions. We seem to be challenged with every ad, tweet, and post, to pick a side, like, or vote. The choice is presented as either this or that and everything is riding on the choice. We are either woke or asleep, right or left, enlightened or still in the cave. Your choice somehow establishes who you are as a person. Your identity is at stake.

Jesus was no stranger to this phenomenon. He was frequently challenged to take a side. Sadducee? Pharisee? Essene? And he experienced it publicly, face to face, not private, from some virtual space. As I read the Gospels, I find a word that helps me navigate. The word is kingdom. Jesus gently reminds me that his kingdom is not of this world. It is a kingdom that is not identified by party, race, or nation. In every story, Jesus politely turned the challenge back on the challenger to consider where his allegiance should be, whose image he bears, what is he seeking after. My submission to his reign is the choice and it transcends my earthy patriotisms and passions. I am not this or that. I am the citizen of a kingdom that is other-worldly.

Lord, fill us with your Spirit. Give us wisdom and discernment. Give us words to share, spoken in love. May we pledge our undivided allegiance to you.