

Faith Formation at Grace UMC

Where are you?

You're a neighbor who met someone from Grace, visited our website/campus, attended a Grace community event, or joined in a Grace ministry event.

You have participated in worship with the church (online or in person). You start to worship sporadically to discern if God is calling you to this church. You may or may not currently consider yourself a Christian.

You attend worship regularly or fairly often, and you are beginning to participate in the church beyond worship attendance. You are actively exploring Grace and/or your understanding of the gospel.

You are open to growing in new ways to follow Christ and practices of faith formation. You are engaged in regular worship, some faith practices, and some kind of small group connection for fellowship and support. You give to support the ministry of the church on occasion.

You have found faith, a trust in God. You have come to know the basics of the faith and have daily time with God. You are engaged in relationships with other Christians who support one another and practice their faith together. God's grace has influenced your life in your home and your neighborhood. You are generous in your giving to God for the ministry of the church. You serve regularly in ministry within the church and/or beyond it.

You are an influencer and leader in the church and beyond. You serve sacrificially. You share your faith with those outside the church in word and deed, you recognize God's call for your life, and how God has gifted you for ministry. You are seeking to grow in perfect love by God's grace.

Ways to grow further

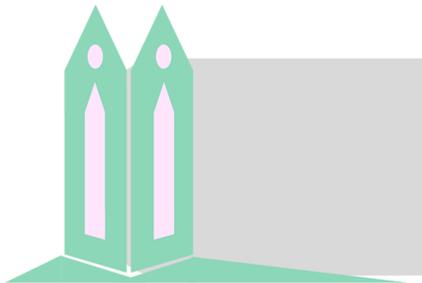
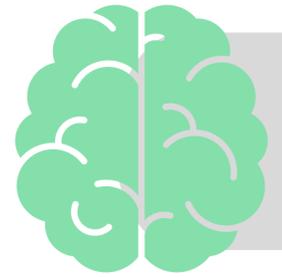
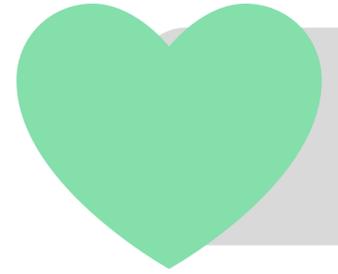
Pray to God and ask for guidance. Trust that God loves you and is actively at work for Good in the world. Consider attending worship, or asking a friend about Grace.

Engage in conversation with other believers, form friendships in the church and learn about the ministries of the church.

Explore Christian beliefs and make a commitment to Christ (baptism, confirmation, membership), explore regular faith practices, connect with other believers for fellowship and support, explore giving generously toward Grace's mission and ministry, and find a way to serve in the church.

Commit to encountering, engaging, and embracing God's grace. Develop regular faith practices that keep you in touch with the gospel. Make the formation of your faith a priority. Move toward tithing (giving 10%). Serve both in and beyond the church. Build relationships beyond the church to share grace with others. Become a member of the church to help Grace meet its mission.

Serve sacrificially in ministry. Continue to grow through faith practices, relationships with others, generosity, and service. Become a mentor or coach for newer believers. You understand a call to lead a ministry.



Encounter Engage Embrace

Adult Faith Formation

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:18-19

We are pleased to be growing in faith with you here at Grace UMC. Over the last couple of years, we have worked to develop a self-assessment tool for determining the ways in which we can continue to be formed in faith. It is our hope that you will be able to recognize all the ways you are already responding to God's love and that this tool will help give guidance to how you might grow further in relationship with God and our neighbor.

Our trust in God is to be increasing over our lifetime, expecting that the shape of our lives will become more Christ like. The words, breadth, length, height and depth in the prayer above from the Apostle Paul, suggest that our lives grow more cross-shaped as we grow in faith. Our faith journey is not linear but moves in ever widening circles, including more of our God-nature and less of our selfish natures.

The Holy Spirit seeks us out to bring us into right relationship with God and our neighbor. That is only the beginning, the Holy Spirit continues to nurture and sustain us through all of our experiences, both sacred and secular. Adult faith formation is ongoing because of God acting in our lives. Yet, we have the opportunity to put ourselves into deeper relationship with God by practicing our faith using our hearts, our heads and our hands.

Falling in love with God, using our hearts to practice our faith is something we can test, by putting ourselves in situations where forgiveness, generosity, and compassion increase as we act on the love in our hearts. We can practice our faith using our heads, growing in study of scripture, in worship and in holy conversations with our sisters and brothers in Christ, and with our neighbors. Using our minds to grow in Christ means that we begin to discern how God is acting and can come alongside God because of what we have learned. Putting our hands into practice will form our faith as we begin to realize, those we serve offer us a new experience of Christ. We don't serve others because we have something to give, we serve because that is where we encounter the Christ.

Grace UMC is here to support your growth and increasing trust in God found through the love of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Janet and your faith formation team:

Arleen Field, MaryLu Hertz, Chris Dixon, Sylvia and Don Bynum, Jen Woolard, Marion Soderberg, Marc Thompson, Fred Mentzel, Thom Feucht and Anne Young