



First Presbyterian  
MIDLAND

# GET IN THE RACE

HEBREWS 12:1



# RUN?

ADULT OPPORTUNITY GUIDE | FALL 2015

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**HEAR CARL MEDEARIS IN WORSHIP AT 8:15 & 11:00  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 23**



Special speaker Carl Medearis, author of several books including *Speaking of Jesus*, will be with us at 8:15 and 11:00 in the Sanctuary. Carl spends much of his time working with leaders both in the West and in the Arab world with the hope of seeing the Arab Middle East and the West experience full and fruitful relationships through the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth.

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# RUN?

GET IN THE RACE TAKE THE FPC 6 WEEK CHALLENGE

8.23.15 | LYNN HALL | 9:15

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## HEBREWS 12:1

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“THEREFORE, SINCE WE ARE SURROUNDED BY SUCH A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES, LET US THROW OFF EVERYTHING THAT HINDERS AND THE SIN THAT SO EASILY ENTANGLES. AND LET US RUN WITH PERSEVERANCE THE RACE MARKED OUT FOR US...”

Our lives have a great purpose – to run the race marked out for us by Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Fall kick-off has a purpose, too – to help you start off this year’s leg of your race on the right foot by taking the FPC 6 Week Challenge. R.U.N.? From 9:15-10:45 in Lynn Hall on August 23 you’ll have the opportunity to go around the track as many times as you like meeting teachers and koin group leaders, deacons and elders, mission partners and musicians as you discover many different ways for you and your whole family to grow in faith through the ministries of FPC. After you’ve discovered the things that seem to tug at your heart, each member of the family will have the chance to fill out a Challenge Card with your own customized 6 week challenge. From Fall Kick-Off until November 1, we’ll be cheering each other on as we complete our challenge. November 1 will be a big day of celebration as we cross the finish line and celebrate how far we’ve come together and how faithful God has been to us. That’s more than enough reward, but we’re throwing in some grand prizes just for fun.

Some of us don’t run too fast anymore (and some of us never did!). Some of us feel entangled in the mess of life. As a church community it’s been hard not to feel hindered by the challenge of discernment. But we can always catch a second wind. It’s a new school year; it’s the perfect time to hear Jesus inviting us to get in the race like never before. And all of those saints who’ve gone before us on this journey of faith, our great cloud of witnesses, are cheering for us to run with perseverance the path God has laid out for us in Jesus Christ. I’m in! R.U.N.?

Questions about any of these opportunities?

Contact Pastor Shannon Weisenfels, 684-7821 or [sweisenfels@fpcmid.org](mailto:sweisenfels@fpcmid.org)

# SUNDAY . . . MORNINGS

ALL CLASSES MEET FROM 9:30-10:30 AM BEGINNING AUGUST 30

## COMPASS

9:30-10:30 AM / THE KOINONIA ROOM

*The Present Word.* We are a community of senior adults who will be discussing the topic *The Christian Community Comes Alive: A Study of the Book of Acts in The Present Word Bible study.* Facilitated by KC Blacketter, Jim Blischke, Carol Hughes and Jim Longstreet.

## COVENANT

9:30-10:30 AM / ROOM 216

Genesis. The Covenant Class is a group of mostly (but not exclusively) empty nesters who welcome all. We will be studying the book of Genesis this fall. Join us as we seek to find our place in God's story from the beginning. Facilitated by Pastor Walter Thompson.

## G.I.F.T. (GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER)

9:30-10:30 AM / COMMONS COMMUNITY ROOM

*The Good and Beautiful God.* GIFT is a nice mix of both recently married and young families Sunday school class that meets weekly for coffee, fellowship, and practical application of God's word to our daily life. The class is led by Karen Winkler, Jill Spannaus, and Chad Cooksey. During the fall and winter we will be falling more in love with the God Jesus knows, as we move through the short book, *The Good and Beautiful God.* We hope you'll join us at our new location between the Child Development Center and the new chapel.

## DISCOVER FIRST

9:30-10:30 AM / THE PARLOR

Classes begin Sunday, September 13, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Parlor for guests, new members, and those who may be interested in joining First Presbyterian Church. Please join us to learn more about the variety of ministries and mission opportunities at First Presbyterian Church. Facilitated by Steve Schorr.

## LOGOS

9:30-10:30 AM / ROOM 228

*The Red Letters.* This study will focus on the words of Jesus. What did he actually say and mean? While we recognize the context of the ongoing story playing out all around Jesus, our spotlight will be focused on him. We will work to understand what he said and who he was and what all that means for us who strive to follow him in the 21st century. Facilitated by Dan Hart and Steve Schorr.

## RELEVANT

9:30-10:30 AM / ROOM 227

*Vanishing Grace.* Join us as we seek to live the Gospel story in our daily lives. We'll meet each week to study, find community and seek Christ together. This fall we'll begin with a study of Philip Yancey's *Vanishing Grace* which explores the question, "What's so good about the good news?" Our world has a desperate need for grace. Join us as we grow in grace together and seek to engage the world around us with the grace of Jesus. Facilitated by Jeff and Robin Darr, Luke and Lori Morrow, Jena and Phillip Carey, and Shannon Weisenfels.

## PARENTING A NEW GENERATION/WIN FOR YOUTH AND PARENTS

YOUTH ROOM

Honestly, the most important thing you may do this fall is take the six week "youth challenge" to attend Sunday School together, as a family. I can already hear the questions, "Do I have to go?", "Will you be in the same room as me?". These are the easy questions. There is a critical underlying question that I hope you can talk about with your kids and that is "How do we as a family follow Jesus?". Hopefully part of that answer is commitment to your faith community. Your kids know you battle for the things that are really important and this is your opportunity to fight for the faith your children will inherit.

Parents, you will spend time with other parents using a DVD-based study called "Parenting a New Generation" by Chap Clark and Reggie Joiner.

Your teens will start with a curriculum that will help them WIN at life. They will focus in the book of Proverbs on five verses that can set them up to be more successful in school, with money, their future, and their friends.

• **COMMON GROUND  
GRAND OPENING** • •

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

• • **5:30-7:30 PM** • •

**DINNER AND FESTIVITIES  
FOR ALL AGES**

# THE . . . . GATHERING

THE GATHERING CLASSES BEGIN WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 6:30-7:30 PM

## ADVENTURES IN SAYING YES: A JOURNEY FROM FEAR TO FAITH 6:30-7:30 PM / ROOM 227

"This is the story of a normal family of five living a very unusual life. The Medearis family has faced Middle Eastern prisons, death threats, being kicked out of a country two times, and war. It hasn't always been easy, but in the midst of it all, the invitation of Jesus to follow and not be afraid has won the day. But this is more than just their story. It's also a guide to help you step out in bold faith. Whether the call of Jesus for you means international intrigue, giving up all you have for the poor, or simply being the suburban neighbor you were always meant to be, it's time to begin your own adventure! To live a life where fear takes a backseat and God takes the wheel."

Join us as we seek together to live in faith, not fear through our discussion of this compelling story and the stories of Jesus who says to us over and over, "Don't be afraid." Facilitated by the Invite Ministry.

## DIVORCECARE 6:00-7:30 PM / THE PARLOR

DivorceCare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Don't go through separation or divorce alone. If you're separated, in the midst of divorce, or still dealing with the effects of divorce, join us for this 13 week video series and small group support, facilitated by Stephen Ministers LE Sawyer and Julie Edwards. If you'd like more info about the DivorceCare ministry, you can watch sample videos and view topics at [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org). DivorceCare will begin September 2.

## DC4K (DIVORCECARE FOR KIDS) 6:00-7:30 PM / THE KOINONIA ROOM

DC4K (DivorceCare for Kids) is a program for kids ages 5 to 12 who are hurting and confused about the divorce of their parents. It complements the DivorceCare program for the parents held at the same time. The Christ-centered ministry is led by caring lay adults Vicki Jay, Suzy Boldrick and Cathey Graves. Weekly topics parallel those of the parents and are presented by videos, music, games, activity books, read aloud story books and age appropriate discussions. Begins September 2.

**PART ONE: EXPLORING FAITH THROUGH FICTION / SEPTEMBER 16-OCTOBER 14**

Stories have power. They illustrate life. Stories can sober us. Stories can inspire us. Every culture is built on great stories. Jesus was a master storyteller. We'll be talking about five popular stories in the genre of young adult fiction including *Harry Potter*, *The Giver* and *Divergent*. What common ground do these stories have with the Gospel story? Is there a way by engaging these stories through a lens of faith, we can better engage the people who read and love them? All of the books are also movies if you're more of a watcher than a reader. Join us for some great discussions facilitated by some of Midland's favorite English majors and teachers.

**PART TWO: SAYING IS BELIEVING: THE NECESSITY OF TESTIMONY IN SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT / OCTOBER 21-NOVEMBER 18**

*"We do not testify to anything radically new; rather, our words are a continuation of what has been testified to in the past. Our words keep moving the story forward through the guidance of the Holy Spirit."* - Amanda Hontz Drury

How do we move the greatest story ever told forward from generation to generation? By telling our stories, our testimonies of how God is present and at work in us today. Join us as we explore the role of testimony in our own spiritual development, and it's significance in raising up faithful disciples in younger generations.

**JUBILATE SINGERS****6:30-7:30 PM / THE CHOIR ROOM**

Do you like to Sing/Sang in high school/Sing in your car? This ensemble is for you! We rehearse each Wednesday at 6:30 in the choir room, and sing seasonally at 8:15 worship. The repertoire will be anthems that not only enhance our worship, but will optimize the use of your gifts in thanksgiving and praise to God. For more information, please contact Greg Pysh at [gpysh@fpcmid.org](mailto:gpysh@fpcmid.org) or 684-7821 x 139.

**GATHERING • SCHEDULE****EACH WEDNESDAY**

5:30	Dinner in Lynn Hall
5:55	5:55 Bible Club for 4 years to grade 6
6:00	Jr. High ELEMENT
6:30	Adult Classes and Children's Choir
7:00	Sr. High ELEMENT
7:30	Sanctuary Choir

Dinner is \$5 per person. Children 5 and under eat free! Nursery is provided for all children kindergarten and under beginning at 6 pm.

# OTHER WEEKDAY EQUIPPING • • • OPPORTUNITIES

PLEASE COME JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING EQUIPPING EVENTS

## SMALL GROUPS



Sign up Sunday, August 23 at The Koin Shop table at Fall Kick-Off!

“They devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching and to fellowship (koinonia), to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”  
Acts 2:42

The Koin Shop is a play on the Greek word Koinonia, meaning “fellowship” or “community”. The Koin Shop is designed to connect you to a small group with whom you can find rich fellowship through study and prayer. You’ll have a chance to meet the group facilitators and sign up for a group whose schedule works for you at Fall Kick-Off or by calling the church office at 684-7821.

## EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EFM) BIBLE STUDY AND CERTIFICATION COURSE

From the University of the South – Sewanee.

Orientation and Registration date: August 25, in the Parlor at 6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church!! Class begins September 1 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

For more information, please access the website:

<http://www.sewanee.edu/EFM/index.htm> or contact J'Lynn Wheeler, facilitator at 432-689-0382, Terry Jolliffe, facilitator at 432-210-6365 or Bridget Hyde, facilitator at 432-638-7224.

We will be happy to talk to you about EFM!

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S CIRCLES

Presbyterian Women’s Circles meet monthly for Bible study and fellowship. This year’s Horizons study is *Come to the Waters* by Judy Fletcher. For more information contact Shannon 684-7821 or [sweisenfels@pcmid.org](mailto:sweisenfels@pcmid.org).



## **MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

**10:00 AM / THE PARLOR**

Facilitated by Shannon Weisenfels, begins Monday September 14th at 10:00am in the Parlor. Everyone is welcome!

## **TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

**6:30 AM / THE KOINONIA ROOM**

Facilitated by Steve Schorr. Begins Tuesday, September 15th at 6:30am in the Koinonia Room. Everyone is welcome!

## **LOVING YOURSELF AS GOD LOVES YOU**

**11:30-1:00 PM / THE PARLOR**

Wednesdays, September 9-December 9. Facilitated by Ron Ellison

11:30-12:00 Lunch

12:00-1:00 Class and Discussion

## **BETH MOORE BIBLE STUDY**

**1:30 PM / ROOM 227**

Join us Wednesdays, September 9-November 11 to study Beth Moore's Children of the Day: 1st & 2nd Thessalonians. Facilitated by Carla Gotcher.

## **SANCTUARY CHOIR**

**7:30 PM / THE CHOIR ROOM**

The Sanctuary Choir is the principal ensemble for the 11:00 Traditional Worship service, and is open to all singers in grades 9 through adults of all musical experiences. The Choir, which rehearses each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the choir room, offers repertoire from many traditions accompanied by a variety of instrumental forces, and has presented works ranging from the Ninth Symphony of Beethoven to the Sacred Concert of Duke Ellington. Touring, the Sanctuary Choir has sung in Edinburgh's St. Giles Cathedral, Canterbury Cathedral, and New York's Carnegie Hall.

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**HEBREWS 12:1**

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All the opportunities you'll find in this booklet are designed to help you run the race marked out for you as a disciple of Jesus. Please join us this fall! We pray that at FPC you'll find community, joy and encouragement for whatever lies before you.

Questions about any of these opportunities?  
Contact Pastor Shannon Weisenfels, 684-7821 or [sweisenfels@fpcmid.org](mailto:sweisenfels@fpcmid.org)





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