Small Groups

2026 FALL

THE CHURCH IN AURORA

Why Join a Small Group?

This year, our theme for the program year is “Cultivate.” It’s a reminder that the life of faith grows when it is tended with care, patience, and purpose. One of the best ways we can cultivate deeper faith is by learning and growing alongside others.

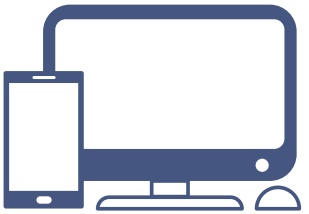
That is why I hope you will consider signing up for one of our small groups this season.

Small groups give us something that Sunday mornings cannot always provide: time to ask questions, listen to different perspectives, explore Scripture more deeply, and get to know one another beyond a quick conversation.

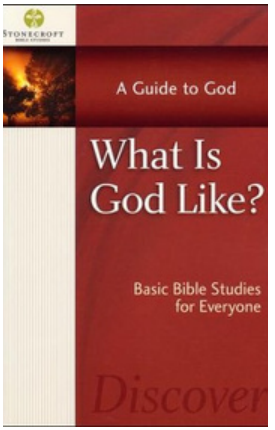
So, consider this an invitation to cultivate your curiosity. Join a small group. Meet some new people. Ask a question you have been carrying. Listen to someone whose perspective may be different from your own. You never know what God might grow from the seeds we plant together.

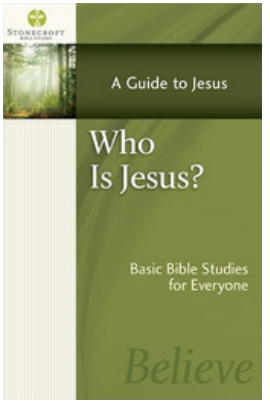
Peace,
Pastor Derek

Register for Small Groups



+ Scan the QR Codes
+ Call the church office at 330.562.8266
+ Online: www.thechurchinaurora.org
+ On the Connection Card during worship





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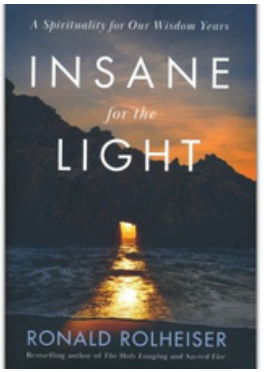
WHAT IS GOD LIKE?
WHO IS JESUS?

Led by Nancy Gallik

When: Thursdays, Sept. 10 - Dec. 3, 10-11:30a
Where: Room 6; Group size limited to 14

We will cover two books in this twelve-week study. First, "What is God Like?" will allow us to discover the God who is interested in knowing us. We should know Him just as well. This book includes Bible verses to help us investigate what God is like and how He interacts with us. The second book, "Who is Jesus?" will help us to learn more about our Savior, the life He lived and what He promises to us. This book also includes specific Bible verses that will get us investigating the person who came to us with authority in word and action.



CULTIVATION AND GENERATIVITY IN OUR WISDOM YEARS

Led by Daryl Koning

When: Sundays, Sept. 13 - Oct. 11, 5:30-7p
Where: Room 6; Group size limited to 14

We have a word that names and defines the stage in life between childhood and adulthood. We call it adolescence. But we have no such word to name and define the stage between initial retirement and that final stage in life (perhaps as much as twenty-five or thirty years later) when, because of failing health, failing energy and circumstance, we face marginalization, isolation, assisted living, dementia, palliative care, hospice, and death. We are developing a vocabulary for that stage in life, but it is still a work in progress.

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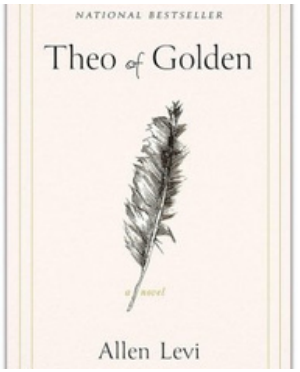
Ronald Rolheiser recently published his final work in his wonderful trilogy about the stages of spirituality. Join us for five Sunday evenings as we explore these ideas together. Perfect for those in their final third of life, and interested others.



THEO OF GOLDEN: A SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB FOR WOMEN

Led by Pastor Katie and Karen Mitchell

When: Mondays, Sept. 14 - Nov. 2, 10-11:15a
Where: Room 6; Group size limited to 14

What might change if we slowed down long enough to truly see one another? Theo of Golden is a tender and surprising novel about the stories hidden behind ordinary faces and the quiet ways attention, beauty, and generosity can transform a community. We will read the novel alongside selected scripture passages and explore its themes through conversation, storytelling, and creative experiences. Because Theo is from Portugal, we will also weave in some Portuguese cultural elements.

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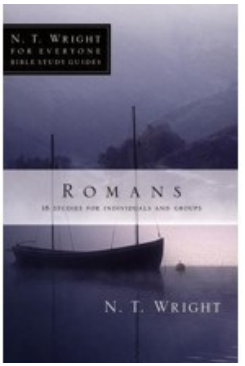
Mondays, 5 sessions: September 14 and 28; October 5 and 19; November 2

Self-Study Option for the Busy Woman

When: Thursday, Nov. 5, 7-8:30p
Where: Room 6; Group size limited to 14

Want to read and discuss Theo but only have an evening available? We got you! Read along with us starting in September, at your own pace, and then join us for a one-night discussion of the entire book.



THE BOOK OF ROMANS - A WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Led by Susan Smith

When: Tuesdays, Sept. 15 - Nov. 17, 10-11:30a
Where: Room 6

Join us as we study Paul's letter to the Romans. This study will focus on sin, salvation, growth and service. We will be reflecting on practical and personal implications of the passages.

No previous Bible study is necessary. No particular version of the Bible is required. Come join us as we pursue a deeper relationship with Christ and let our lives be transformed.

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POVERTY, BY AMERICA

Led by Liz Sutter

When: Tuesdays, Sept. 15 - Oct. 6, 6:30-7:30p
Where: Room 6

Why does the richest nation on earth have more poverty than any other advanced democracy? Join us to explore Poverty, by America by acclaimed sociologist Matthew Desmond. Together, we will examine how our social systems, housing markets, and economic choices impact poverty—and explore what it means to become active "poverty abolitionists" in our own communities.

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BOOK OF ACTS BIBLE STUDY

Led by Rev. Gwen Young

When: Wednesdays, Sept. 16 - Nov. 18, 10:30a-12p
Where: Church Library

This is not a lecture—it's an activity. Reverend Gwendolyn Young, an ordained UCC minister, invites you to bring your unique interest or expertise that will help us explore the text in depth. We will search together for truth, meaning, relevancy and especially for practicality for daily living. It will be enlightening!

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CULTIVATING WONDER: FINDING GOD IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Led by Kyla Errington

When: Thursdays, Sept. 17 - Oct. 15, 10-11:30a
Where: Church Library

What if God is already speaking through the ordinary moments of your life—and we're simply moving too quickly to notice? Join us for five weeks of practicing the art of paying attention. Through Scripture and the poetry and spiritual reflections of Frederick Buechner, Tracey Lind, and Mary Oliver we'll explore where God might be found in the lives we're already living.

This isn't a traditional book study. Come with curiosity, an open mind, and a willingness to notice.

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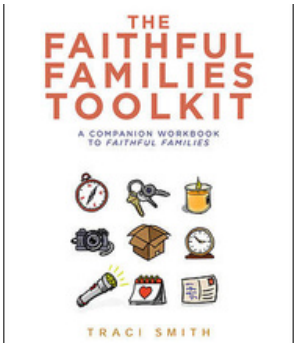

FAITHFUL FAMILIES: PRACTICES FOR GROWING FAITH

Led by Pastor Derek and Jenna Hickman

When: Sundays, Sept. 27 - Oct. 25, 5-7p
Where: Fellowship Hall

How can families make faith a natural part of everyday life? Join Pastor Derek and Jenna for a five-week small group exploring practical, creative ideas from Traci Smith's Faithful Family Toolkit. Together, we'll discover simple practices that help families pray, connect, celebrate, and grow in faith —without adding more stress to the schedule.

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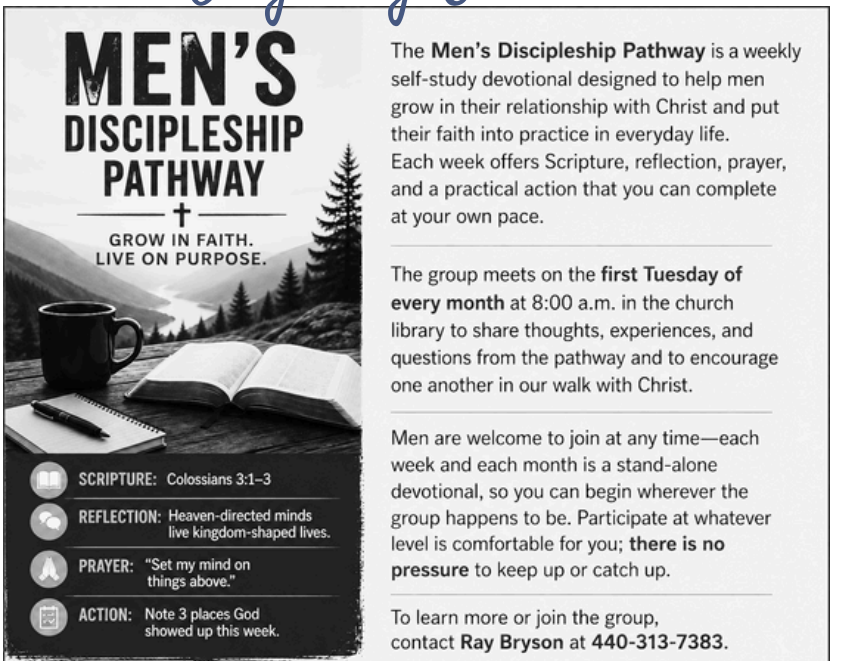
Dinner and childcare are provided. Bring your partner or bring yourself. All are welcome.

Ongoing Studies



MADE WITH MEANING - CHRISTMAS EDITION

Led by Pastor Katie and Audrey Winkler

A Holiday Crafting & Advent Reflection Group for Women

We loved gathering for Made with Meaning this spring, and we're bringing that same cozy chaos into the season of Advent. Join us as we slow down amid the holiday hustle to create with our hands and reflect with our hearts. Each session we'll make a Christmas-themed craft or handmade gift while reading and discussing short essays on Advent and all its meaning, waiting, and wonder. Come ready to make something beautiful (or beautiful-ish) and carry a little more peace, laughter, and fellowship into your Christmas season. Sign up for one session or all four. A $5 donation per class is suggested, if able, to help cover craft supplies.

For those of you who can't join on Monday morning, we plan to have a couple of Sunday post-worship sessions, date TBD, keep an eye out for an announcement in the Spire.

Scan QR Code to Register!

Monday, Nov. 16
10-11:30a

Monday, Nov. 30
10-11:30a

Monday, Dec. 7
10-11:30a

Monday, Dec. 14
10-11:30a

COMING SOON
THE CHOSEN: SEASON SIX

Take the opportunity this Fall to binge watch The Chosen, Seasons 1-5 on Amazon Prime and for free at https://www.thechosen.tv/en-us and on The Chosen mobile app. The Chosen has become a global phenomenon that shares the story and ministry of Jesus Christ through the lives of his followers and the chosen 12 disciples, plus Mary Magdalene and Mother Mary.

Then, join us for Season 6 this winter for our TCIA Tuesday evening small group led by Julie Krebs and Jimmy Eavenson. Season 6 captures the historic events of Jesus' final day through the lives of those who love Him—and those who condemn Him.

We'll watch seven episodes of Season 6, and then together as a group, we'll head to the theater to see Season 6 episode 8 and Season 7 episode 1 on the big screen, Spring 2027.

Sign ups will begin 12/20/26 for Winter Groups.