

## Growth Groups at Monroe Community Church, Fall 2019

We are doing things differently this year! Growth groups, our revamped version of Life Groups (small groups) are opportunities to connect at Monroe Community Church and to grow deeper in our relationships with each other and God. We are all at different stages in our lives, so there are now multiple opportunities to meet you right where you are at! Please free to invite others outside of MCC to join with you. Most groups (unless noted) will meet every other week (bi-weekly) and will start the week of September 22. Please feel free to join more than one, if you are able.

### Growth Group Opportunities:

**Alpha:** A low key, fun, safe place to explore the basics of Christianity and ask all those big questions about Life, Faith, and Meaning. Designed for those who don't usually go to church, or people just getting started. *Wednesdays, 7 pm, weekly for 10 weeks at MCC, childcare upon request.* Explore More - #TryAlpha - [mccgr.org/alpha](http://mccgr.org/alpha)

**Foundations:** We will explore key lessons for growth in faith and life. Do you want to know more about Christ? The Holy Spirit? The Bible? The teachings of the Church? Do you desire to deepen your faith? Foundations will involve a variety of lessons, discussions, and exercises, that will help you grow deeper in Christ. *Leader: Pastor Jim Boer, bi-weekly, will set a time that fits everyone best, at MCC, childcare upon request.*

**In the Dust of the Rabbi:** Utilizing the video series by Ray Vander Laan, this group will experience Jesus' life up close and personal and discover unique insights into Scripture as the cultural and historical context is better understood. There will be lots of time for food, fellowship, and prayer. *Leaders: Ron & Judi Sjoerdsma, bi-weekly, Thursdays at 7 pm, 6271 Santiago Ct SE (Cascade).*

**Our Planet:** For centuries Christian mystics have seen God in the leaping, swimming, flying, creeping creatures of the earth. These faces of God have been magnificently photographed in the new BBC series, "Our Planet." Each 50-minute video presents not only the amazing beauty of these creatures, but also the peril they face today on our planet. After watching an episode together, we'll consider specific things we can do to care for the wild beauty God has given us. *Leader: Gayle Boss, 8 consecutive weeks, Thursdays, 7 pm, 1909 Observatory SE, children ages 9 and over welcome.*

**Parenthood:** There's no playbook to being a winning parent, but having a team with you along the way helps! This Growth Group is specifically for parents and primary caregivers to explore how families can grow in faith together amidst the joys and struggles of parenthood. We welcome parents of kids of all ages in the hope that we can share and learn together across experiences. We'll wrap up each gathering with a light family style meal. *Leader: Derek Atkins, one Sunday a month starting in October, 4 pm, at MCC, childcare and potluck style family meal included.*

**Online Group - Haiku Bible Study:** Looking for a different approach to scripture study? Enjoy poetry or creative writing? Struggling to find time to join a Growth Group that meets in-person? This online/digital Growth Group will help you dive deeper into scripture by using weekly lectionary readings as prompts for creative output. Participants will be asked to set aside time each week to read select scripture passages then write a haiku based on the common theme. Each week everyone will have the option to share the haiku online in a closed Facebook group. All ages are welcome!

**Men's Bible Study:** The group is very informal and we decide together our study topics which are wide ranging, sometimes straight from scripture readings and sometimes from books. Guys are welcome to jump in and out whenever it works best for them. *Leader: John Smilde, bi-weekly Wednesdays, 7 am, at Field & Fire, 820 Monroe NW.*

**Gospel Community:** A group of 20 somethings who come together and discuss life topics. The first hour is dinner where we catch up with each other and share life. The second hour tends to be a more focused discussion on a specific topic. There isn't a curriculum that we follow, it's whatever is on everyone's hearts. Sometimes we dive into a passage, sometimes we dive into a topic. Come as you are, come when you can. *Leader: Jess Koster, every Tuesday, 7 pm, 423 Madison Ave SE.*

**Spiritual Direction:** Group Spiritual Direction is companionship aimed at helping us pay attention to the divine presence, grow in intimacy with God, and live out that relationship in a journey with one another. You will be talking in-depth with others about what is taking place in your spiritual walk and seeking, with their assistance, God's leading in your life as well as experiencing various spiritual disciplines. *Leaders: Bob Ritzema and Kristine Van Noord, bi-weekly, will set a time that fits everyone best, Kristine's condo at 940 Monroe Ave NW #432B.*

Questions? Email Derek Atkins at [atkinsda@gmail.com](mailto:atkinsda@gmail.com) or Kristine Van Noord at [kristinevn@gmail.com](mailto:kristinevn@gmail.com). Sign-up online through the link in the announcements or via a paper form in the warehouse.