



SUNDAY SCHOOL

For ALL Ages

Adult Classes

Faithful Friends

Teresa Gilbert, Leader

Women of all ages; Christian books and Scripture studies relevant to women

Two class times, 8:00 a.m. or 10:10 a.m.

Room 204

Journeys

Jennifer O'Donnell, Leader

Men & Women, 30's - 80's

Study of God's Word and relating it to our lives

Room 108

Pathfinders

Matt Baughman & Terri Twenhafel, Leaders

Men & Women, Mid-Life & Beyond

Book & Bible Studies

Growing in Discipleship topics

Room 107

Passages

Randy Auxier, Leader

Men & Women of all ages; In-depth study of theological themes of the Christian church

Room 110 (Church Library)

Helping Hands

Donna Horniacek, Leader

Senior Men & Women

Traditional Bible Study class

Room 200C (just off the Sanctuary)

Upper Room

Rotating Leaders

Men & Women, Empty Nesters

Growing in Faith studies

Room 200D (just off the Sanctuary)

Adult Classes cont'd

Seekers

Susan Patterson, Leader

Mature Men & Women

Study of select Christian books

Room 109

Trailblazers

Scarlett & Rick Pierson, Leaders

Couples & Singles, 20's & 30's

A variety of topics

Room 202 (Chapel)

Children & Youth Classes

Nursery

Tania Cruz, Teacher

Room 201

Preschool

Kristi Miller & Kathy Blackwell, Teachers

Room 205

Grades Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd

Diane Schingel, Teacher

Room 203

Grades 3rd, 4th, 5th

Clara Kiser, Teacher

Room 106

Junior High

Julie Schaldemose & Stacey Ballard, Teachers

Room 102

Senior High

Paula Chapa & Scott Ballard, Teachers

Room 100

WHY CHURCH?

A Synopsis

Why do people go to church? The church may seem outdated and not relevant to social issues of today. Some think the church is stuck in the past, or with their hectic lives they are just too busy to attend church. Some people may have had a bad experience with a church in the past and don't wish to repeat that. "Churches today are as varied – and as flawed—as the people who inhabit them. But believe it or not, every one of them has value. Every Christ-centered church has a role to play and a divine purpose to fulfill." A little book by Outreach, Inc. offers 5 life-changing benefits why church is a good place to be.

1. Church can help one **explore**. Church is a place where we can explore God, Jesus, and the Bible without being judged or made to feel stupid. Church is a place where you can discover God, God's Word, and discover yourself.
2. Church is a place to **belong**. The church family is an open and ever-expanding circle receiving, accepting and growing with Jesus at the center. It is a place where people of all generations love each other and work together with unity and respect.
3. Church can help one make an **impact**. In the church, we can grow spiritually, find a place for meaningful service, and discern and enlist in what God is doing in the world. Through the church we can make a difference.
4. Church can be a place to **refresh**. From time to time, we all need to take a break from stress, fear, worry and sadness. At church, through study of the Bible, we can learn God's hopes and dreams for us, the peace of God's love, and his hope, glory and overwhelming love for us. The church can be a place where one can recoup and restore the rhythm to one's life. The church offers silent retreats, spiritual direction, spaces of silence in worship, classes on prayer, discernment, and even meditation. It can help people recover from addictions, and abuse. Church is a place of refuge where it is okay to turn off the cell phone.
5. Church is a place to **express** oneself. Humans can express themselves in music, dancing, writing, painting, building, cooking, gardening – in any number of ways. Members can express themselves artistically through Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Lifted Hands, and drama groups. One can share one's life by mentoring children or young mothers, by tutoring a student struggling in school, by sharing some business expertise, by helping in a Habitat For Humanity project, by helping with Our Neighbors Table, or leading a boy scout troop. There are no limits to how people can express themselves. The church can give you a way to say it, sing it, to share it.

So if someone asks you, "Why Church?" you can tell them just what church has to offer. Invite them to walk with members of the Murphysboro United Methodist Church on this spiritual journey we call The Trail. Be sure to share our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. And be sure to tell them why church is important to you – invite them to join you; and offer to sit with them and show them around!