

Living Our Vision

***We are a nurturing, beloved community.
We are growing in authentic Christian faith.
We are Living Christ-Inspired Action.***

Groups meet at the church unless otherwise noted (* means "of the month")

Group	Description	Meeting Times*	Contact Person
We are a nurturing, beloved community.			
Church Council	The governing body acting on behalf of the congregation	4 th Monday* 7:00 p.m.	Scott Ward
Membership Board	Supports members connecting within the church	First Tuesday* 5:00 pm	Jim Hollander
Trustees Board	Responsible for the well-being of the church building, grounds, & finances	2 nd Monday* 5:30-7 pm	Jill York Lyz Staman
Bridge 141	Temporary committee of Council supporting the congregation in discerning living into our vision	Varies	Scott Ward
Communications Board	Publicize special church events through print and online media.	On as-needed basis.	David Fayram
Building Community	Welcome Desk: Reach out to help visitors connect with the church.		Tina Anderson
	Coffee Hour: Help prepare for & clean up from after-church socializing.		Gabe Araujo
Barkley Walking Group	Walking for health, conversation and fellowship. – Barkley Pond	Mondays 10:00am	Judy Wahlborg
Called to Care: Support the health and emotional and spiritual care of our church community.	Parish Visitors: visit with homebound members		Tena Hilton Karen Lauckhardt
	Health Ministers: support healthcare questions of members		Martha Serven
	Meal Ministry: Provide meals when a household is in need, e.g. due to illness/emergency		Tina Anderson
	Stephen Ministry: Confidential, listening, one on one supervised ministry		Kathleen McGuinness
Create & Connect	For artists of all kinds to share fellowship and projects	1st Saturday* 10:00 am-12:00 noon	Patti Williams
Game Night	Meet to play all kinds of board games. Fun for all ages	3rd Friday*	Tina Anderson
Glee Club	A chance to sing American Folk favorites. All levels are welcome.	Wednesdays at 5:00 pm	Tena Hilton
Good Grief Group	A confidential group providing support and learning for those experiencing grief. Fireplace Room	4th Tuesday* 3:00 pm	Cheryl Smith
Grandparents Support Group	Facilitates discussions focused on the struggles of grandparenting		Deanna Murray
Church Library	A revolving library of resources for the congregation	Any time available	Ted Huffman
Men's Breakfast	A men's conversation and fellowship group. Bellingham Country Club	1st Thursday* 9:00	Dick Anderson
Poetry Group	A group that reads and writes poetry together on Zoom.	1 st & 3rd Mondays*	Amelia Bacon
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Creates prayer shawls for those in need of comfort	Bags in Sanctuary	Patti Williams
Spirit Group	A women's group studying how we can live into our faith. Following Worship in Fireplace Room	1st Sunday*	Paula McGrath
Book Club	Fellowship through reading and discussing contemporary literature	1st Tuesday* 9:30 am	Kathleen McGuinness
20-Something Peer Philosophy Group	Fellowship and thoughtful conversation. - Fireplace Room or Gruff Brewing (alternate weeks)	Thursdays 7:00 pm	Monique Stefens

We are growing authentic Christian faith.

Arts in Worship Board	Encourage & inspire creativity in worship primarily through art in the sanctuary & support of music. Arts Room (downstairs)	2 nd Monday* 1:00 pm	Mary Chaney
Faith Formation Board	Nurture lifelong learning and growth through various groups and activities	First Tuesday* at 4:30 pm	Renne Archer
Worship Volunteers	Liturgists: (read scripture/prayers)	Sundays	Stacy Malone-Miller
	Communion Servers (bread and drink)	First Sunday*	Lyz Staman
	Time with Children: Lead a 5-minute lesson with the children during the service.	Sundays	Anne Campbell
	Flowers for the Sanctuary	Sundays	
	Greeters and Ushers	Sundays	Lyz Staman
Centering Prayer	Meditative prayer, with readings from <i>Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening</i> by Cynthia Bourgeault.	Saturdays, 11:00 am Chapel	Janet Gaff
Contemporary Book Group	Read and discuss contemporary texts to deepen our faith and guide our action	1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays* 7:00 pm	Joy Brown
Fall Bible Study	Jesus shared puns, irony, profundities and the preposterous to edify, enlighten and even tweak his listeners. Intrigued?	Wednesdays, 7-8 pm Oct. 2-23	Rev. Robert Rieke
One Accord	A select, acapella choir that shares music in worship	Sundays 11:15	Scott Ward
Unbroken Circle	A bluegrass group that shares music in worship	Sundays that vary	Craig Jennings
Preaching Workshop	Interested in exploring a call to share your voice in worship? Pastor Sharon is hoping to offer a 6-8-week class on preparing sermons and is wondering who might be interested.		Sharon Benton
Children's Chapel	For ages 0-4-ish and their adults. 1 st , 3 rd , 5 th Tuesdays at First Congregational Church. 2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays at Christ the Servant Lutheran		Kelsey Beebe

We are living Christ-inspired action.

Mission and Justice Board	Empower all in our church to make a difference & support them in that pursuit.	2 nd Monday* Time TBD	Dana Lehn
100% Voter Registration Congregation	Acting on our faith to make sure we and others are registered to vote	Ongoing	Sharon Camblin
Birchwood Food Desert Fighters	Ongoing support for a neighborhood without access to fresh food	Varies	Kate Eifrig
Dental Van	Providing routine dental care for people experiencing homelessness	Monthly	Bill Liddicoet
Fresh Start: A project of Pilgrim Circle	Fresh Start helps meet the needs of families transitioning out of homelessness with everyday household items. Donations accepted ongoing.	2 nd Tuesday* at noon.	Barbara Green
Garden View Village Tiny Homes Meals	Prepare and deliver meals for those who've come out of homelessness (55+)	Last Wednesday*	Kate Eifrig
Green Team	Bringing Creation Care to the forefront of our work as a congregation	2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays* 7:00 p.m.	Ted Huffman
The Ground Floor	Services for youth experiencing homelessness	Varies	Monique Stefens
Gun Responsibility Group	Raising the issues around gun responsibility	Varies	Liz Hjelmseth
Holiday Joy	Empower families in need through a Christmas shopping opportunity	December 12-14 Planning Team this fall	Diane Cooper-Schick
Interfaith Coalition	Working with other faith-based groups to meet the needs of our neighbors		Johann Neem
Open and Affirming Celebration	Celebrating 25 th Anniversary of becoming an Open and Affirming congregation including a new Open and Affirming Statement Stacy Malone-Miller, Megan Crouse and Ryan Douglas	Varies (Celebration October 20 in Worship)	

We are living Christ-inspired action. (cont.)

Pet Vaccines	Helping care for the pets of those experiencing homelessness	Varies	Kris Johnson
Poor People's Campaign	State and national efforts to address the needs of the poor	Ongoing	Pat Gillham
Warm Coat Drive	Support for Interfaith efforts	Fall	Chair needed
Undo Injustice	Active participation by members of the church in efforts to undo injustice of all kinds.	Fall Planning	Sharon Camblin
Simple Supper with Neighbors	Prepare and host a simple monthly congregational supper with our neighbors outside of our congregation.	Planning Process	Buzz Durham Bill Liddicoet
Finish a home for family to return to	Help occupants of a home that was flooded in the Sumas flood to return to their home. The scope of work on this particular home would emphasize outside work on siding, painting and either repairing or constructing a deck. All materials would be provided. A joint project with Garden Street United Methodist.	Expected time commitment would be 4 work days, which could be 4 week days, or 4 Saturdays.	Scott Wiley