

El Dorado First United Methodist Church

“Beginning the Good Work”

A Building Plan for Intentional Adult Ministry

“And the people said, ‘Let us start rebuilding.’ So they began this good work.” Neh.2:18

The Design

Our mission is to love God, to grow in God’s love, and to share God’s love.

Our goal is to help all people:

- love God by being involved in worship at least once each week.
- grow in God’s love by being involved in a fellowship or study group at least once each week.
- share God’s love by being involved in a meaningful ministry or mission each week.

We are committed to helping all people grow in their level of spiritual maturity. Together these three components are the foundation of our plan for intentional growth and ministry.

Our Core Beliefs

- We believe that the Bible is the authoritative standard for life.
- We believe that salvation by grace is God’s gift to all who believe, and the starting point for a life in fellowship with God.
- We believe the key tenets of faith as outlined in the Apostle’s Creed.
- We believe that the proper relationship with our Lord and with one another is described by the words of the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40)
- We believe that the great mission and task of the Church is to live out Christ’s Great Commission. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- We believe that the power of the Church comes from serious devotion to prayer, as described by the Lord’s Prayer. (Matthew 6:9-13)
- We believe that as disciples of Christ we must constantly seek to discern and do God’s will, not our own. Our works of faith must follow God’s will for our lives to be supported by the Spirit.

Our Core Values

- We value prayer as the lifeblood of the church, keeping us in touch with God.
- We value the family of God - the Church - as the place where we can experience the love and care of God.
- We value biblically-centered preaching and teaching, and inspiring worship.
- We value God’s grace and unconditional love toward us, and see it as a model of how we should relate to others with openness and acceptance.
- We value our heritage as United Methodists and our long history of ministry in El Dorado.
- We value community involvement by the church.

The Blueprint

“For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.” Hebrews 3:4

LOVING GOD: Building the Wall

“You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood...” 1 Peter 2:5

We understand that worship is the entry point to church life for most adults today, and in our congregation it is where we find most of our first-time guests. Worship is where people can meet God, find salvation, and become part of God’s Church - all through God’s grace! For that reason we place worship - loving God - as the starting point for building a life of spiritual maturity.

Recruitment:

- ▶ Advertisement
- ▶ Word of Mouth
- ▶ Invite-A-Friend Sundays
- ▶ Class 101: “Membership” - offered March, July, October
- ▶ Special sermon series
- ▶ Greeter program, visitation committee

Loving God Opportunities:

- Sunday Morning Worship
- Christmas and Easter Special Services
- Revivals and McFarlane Services
- Choir and Music programs

Measurements:

- ◆ Weekly worship attendance totals
- ◆ Individual weekly worship attendance record
- ◆ Special service attendance totals
- ◆ Yearly professions of faith
- ◆ Yearly adult baptisms

GROWING IN GOD’S LOVE: Strengthening the Wall

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” Colossians 2:6-7

While loving God - worship - is the first step for building a life of spiritual maturity for most adults, it is only the beginning. We must keep working to grow stronger. As people find God’s salvation and join the church, we will intentionally encourage people to continue to grow in God’s love by getting involved in small-group fellowship and study opportunities.

Hand-offs:

- ▶ 40-Day Fall emphases
- ▶ Short-term classes and Bible studies
- ▶ New Member Recognition Services
- ▶ Church ministry packets
- ▶ Class 201: “Maturity” - offered yearly in January

- ▶ McFarlane lectures, services, or programs

Growth Opportunities:

- Adult Sunday School classes
- Sunday Night Home Group Meetings
- Wednesday Night Live adult activities
- Men's Fraternity
- Weekday Noon Video Studies
- Prayer Ministry
- Weekday senior adult fellowship activities

Measurements:

- ◆ Weekly Sunday School attendance
- ◆ Weekly Home group attendance
- ◆ Weekly Bible study attendance

SHARING GOD'S LOVE: Extending the Wall

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:11-13

With spiritual growth comes responsibility. The more we grow in God's love, the more we realize the need to share that love with one another, our community and the world. In so doing we are extending the reach of God's love. We will intentionally encourage people to continue building their lives by offering opportunities to get involved in meaningful ministry and mission.

Hand-offs:

- ▶ Regular bulletin and newsletter announcements
- ▶ Yearly teacher and leader training
- ▶ Class 301: "Ministry and Mission" - offered yearly in February
- ▶ Yearly Ministry and Mission Fair - February

Sharing Opportunities:

- Short-term mission trips for adults and youth
- Home Repair Ministry
- Hillsboro Activity Center Partnership
- Project SOUTH
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Wednesday Workers
- Fellowship of the Sent
- Interfaith Help Service (IHS)
- Visitation Ministry
- Greeter Program
- Red Cross support
- Salvation Army support

Measurements:

- ◆ Quarterly ministry and mission totals and visitation records

The Plan

Our mission is to love God, to grow in God's love, and to share God's love. Below is a simple plan to help you as you work to strengthen and rebuild your spiritual life:

Step 1: Love God through Worship

- a. Make God and His church a priority in your life.
- b. Communicate with God through regular, daily prayer and Bible reading.
- c. Worship God weekly. We know you have a busy schedule, but worship attendance on Sunday should be a priority for every Christian!

Step 2: Grow in Love through Study and Fellowship

- a. Join one of the many small groups in our church: a Sunday School class, UMW Circle, UMY, Bible Study group, Home Fellowship Group, Men's Fraternity, etc. You will get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ *and* grow in your faith.

Step 3: Share God's Love through Service and Mission

- a. **Share God's love by serving others in your church.** Here are a few ideas:
 - 1) Join the fellowship of the Sent to serve a meal once a month to home bound members.
 - 2) Join the Bereavement committee to help serve a meal to families who have lost a family member.
 - 3) Join the church maintenance team to help with small repair jobs or painting tasks in our church as the need occurs.
 - 4) Join the Prayer Shawl Ministry if you can knit or crochet.
- b. **Share God's love by serving others in our community.** Here are a few ideas:
 - 1) Join the Hospice team to prepare and serve a meal occasionally at the local Hospice House.
 - 2) Join the Interfaith team to help distribute food monthly at the Interfaith Help facility.
 - 3) Join the Home Repair Committee to assist in local repair projects for needy residents.
 - 4) Participate in the local Salvation Army projects such as serving in the soup kitchen or making sandwiches for needy school kids during spring break.
 - 5) Volunteer through Project SOUTH to help support the families of area service men and women who are on deployment.
 - 6) Participate in local Red Cross activities as needed with other church members.
- c. **Share God's love by serving others in the world.** Here are a few ideas:
 - 1) Participate in the annual Ozark Mission Project (OMP) which sends local teams on repair missions to selected locations in Arkansas each summer.
 - 2) Join our Missions Committee which plans missions activities each year.
 - 3) Participate in at least one mission trip offered by the Missions Committee each year, whether in state or abroad.

