



Inquirers Class - Spring 2025

First United Methodist Church of Evanston is a community of Christians inviting all people to grow in their relationship with God and live their faith in the world. -- Mission statement

Class meets Sundays after worship from 11:35-1:30pm in Glenna Hall. Lunch is provided.

Schedule (subject to change)

Gatherings in italics are optional and encouraged.

Sunday, April 27

What brings us here? How did our faith journeys begin?

Led by Pastor Grace Imathiu and Mary Taylor-Johnson.

Sunday, May 4

How is First Church structured? What's the big deal about grace?

Led by Pastor Grace, Mary, and Church Council leaders Jessica Chadwick and Matt Moy Johnson

Wednesday, May 7: First Wednesday Potluck, 6-7pm in dining room. Casual! Main dish provided.

Sunday, May 11

First Church Structure Part 2 and our Connection to The United Methodist Church

Download and Access Realm via the Realm Connect App

Saturday, May 17

Morning of Service: Diaper Packing followed by lunch, 10:30-1:00pm. Please do your best to participate on this date. [Sign up online.](#)

Sunday, May 18

How do companions and opportunities impact our faith journeys?

Led by Pastor Grace, Mary, and current church members.

Thursday, May 22

Inquirers cooking and serving supper for Soup Kitchen. [Sign up](#) for one of three shifts: 4:00-6:15pm (cooking/meal prep); 4:15-5:30pm (sack lunch making) 5:45-7:45pm (serving and cleanup). All welcome for "family dinner" at 5:30pm before we begin serving.

Sunday, June 1

What do I need to continue on my faith journey? What do the membership vows mean and how might they look for me?

Led by Pastor Grace and Mary.

Invite someone to join us for lunch today.

How might you continue to (1) “grow in your relationship with God; and (2) “live your faith in the world” after Inquirers?

Membership vows include the promise to support the congregation with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. What might membership look like for you?

Sunday, June 8

New members received during 10:30am Worship

You are invited to take membership vows if you wish. We will talk about what this entails. Please plan to arrive early that morning to walk through the new member liturgy, and to stay after worship for community hour in honor of our new members.

We take your feedback seriously. Later in the summer you will be contacted and asked to comment on your Inquirers experience.

Please feel free to contact us anytime.

Mary Taylor-Johnson (847) 864-6181 x214, mary@faithatfirst.com

Pastor Grace Imathiu (331) 575-4158, grace@faithatfirst.com

4/24/25



The Membership Process at First Church

Step 1: Attend worship as a visitor and develop a general feel for this faith community, its people and ministries. You might begin to participate in some activities outside of worship, like the First Church Ministry Tour, perhaps an architectural tour of the building or a tour with Children's Ministry staff of the nursery and children's spaces.

Step 2: Participate in the Inquirers Class. The class is an opportunity to further "inquire" about your faith journey, this faith community, its people and ministries. This inquiry process includes the following components.

- *Christian Faith and Practices* – We will reflect on our individual and collective experiences and how to nurture our relationship with God. At First Church we *expect and respect* questions about faith and beliefs.
- *The United Methodist Church* – We will consider our denomination's history, structure, theology and beliefs, and current issues, and reflect on what this all means for us.
- *First Church's people and ministries* – We will get acquainted with church staff and leaders and learn about ministries and opportunities to live out our faith.
- *Building Community* – We will build relationships with each other, forming a smaller community within this large congregation.
- *First Friends* – We will gather and talk with church members who will help Inquirers make connections within the faith community during and after the Inquirers process.
- *Survey: Where Is God Calling You?* We will use this tool to identify Inquirers' gifts and passions and then will reflect on how those line up with opportunities in and through this congregation.

Step 3: Reception into the Church. *We invite your discernment on if/when you wish to take this step.* After the Inquirers Class, you may choose to take membership vows during 10:30am worship on June 8. You may be transferring your membership from another church, joining a church for the first time, or reconnecting after a long hiatus. The membership liturgy includes baptism or renewal of baptismal vows. This is a big step; feel free to take some time to discern if you want to take it.

Step 4: Integration. New members (and those who continue "inquiring") are encouraged to connect with opportunities for ongoing faith formation, service, and fellowship. We can't overemphasize the importance of finding a place to connect (in addition to worship) in this faith community.