



Have you ever gotten stuck when trying to explain what you believe as a Christian?

This fall, we are going back to Square One, taking a look at the basic building blocks of our faith with fresh eyes. Our goal is to equip you to articulate your faith more clearly.

Come back to **Square One** with FUMC this fall as we **Reframe the Basics of Faith!**

SQUARE ONE DISCIPLESHIP

BIBLE DISCIPLE FAST TRACK

Offers a new twist on the classic Disciple Bible Study, which is an excellent overview of entire Bible. Meeting for a total of 24 weeks, 12 weeks in the fall and 12 weeks in the spring, this study is for anyone ready to commit and delve deeper. Cost is \$30 and registration is required.

August 31-November 16, Thursdays
7:00-8:30 p.m., Room 104, Family Life Center
Pastor Taylor Fuerst, leader
September 11-November 27, Mondays
7:00-8:30 p.m., Room 104, Family Life Center
Pastor Cathy Stone, leader

FAITH CREED: WHAT WE BELIEVE AND WHY

A six-week study of Adam Hamilton's *Creed: What Christians Believe and Why*. Hamilton considers important questions of life, reality, and truth. He explores not only what Christians believe, but also why they believe it and why it matters.

August 20-September 24, Sundays
10:00 a.m., Wesley Hall
Pastor Cathy Stone, leader

METHODISM WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE CALLED METHODISTS?

What does it mean that we are called Methodists? This study explores both our Methodist origins in England and the development of Methodism in the United States. In the process, we will discuss the challenges facing Methodism today, and how we are called to move forward.

September 17 and 24, Sundays
5:00-7:00 p.m., Room 104, Family Life Center
Mark Morris, leader

SOCIAL JUSTICE JUST MERCY: A STORY OF JUSTICE AND REDEMPTION

Provides an introduction and opportunity to explore justice issues of race, poverty, and mass incarceration. This accessible book shares true stories of the potential for mercy to redeem us as well as a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice.

August 27-September 24, Sundays
10:00 a.m., Room 210, Sanctuary Building
Caroline Jones and Kathy Morales, leaders
September 12-October 3, Tuesdays
6:30-8:00 p.m., Home of Pastor Michael Mumme
Michael Mumme and Kathy Tullos, leaders

SQUARE ONE IN WORSHIP

AUGUST 20
11th Sunday after Pentecost
Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst
Hebrews 11:1-3,6
Sermon: "God: Behind it All"

AUGUST 27
12th Sunday after Pentecost
Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst
Colossians 1:15-23
Sermon: "Jesus: More Than A Man"

SEPTEMBER 3
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Preacher: Reverend Michael Mumme
John 14:18-26 and Acts 1:1-9
Sermon: "Holy Spirit: God on the Move"

SEPTEMBER 10
14th Sunday after Pentecost
Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst
Genesis 1:24-31 and Psalm 139:13-16
Sermon: "We The People: Humanity"

SEPTEMBER 17
15th Sunday after Pentecost
Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst
Matthew 16:13-20
Sermon: "Being Church"

SEPTEMBER 24
16th Sunday after Pentecost
Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst
Psalm 96
Sermon: "For the Beauty: Creation"

OCTOBER 1
17th Sunday after Pentecost
Preacher: Reverend Taylor Fuerst
1 Corinthians 15:19-28
Sermon: "The End Game: The Reign of God"

REGISTER FOR ALL CLASSES AT
fumcaustin.org/squareone

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017: OUR EXPERIENCES IN CORPUS CHRISTI



The Rio Texas Conference met June 7-10, with Bishop Robert Schnase presiding. This year's theme was "Focus on Fruitfulness." The Conference discussed and approved moving forward with a new Child, Youth and Vulnerable Adults Safety Policy, effective June 2018; adopted the 2018 budget; approved nominations to conference committees; and was challenged by outstanding preachers and teachers. Two clergy, Reverend Taylor Fuerst and Reverend Cathy Stone, attended. Our lay delegates were Davis Covin, Teresa Edwards, and Sandy Wilder serving as FUMC delegates and Penny Appleby, Noble Doss, Susan Griffith, and Rick Ortiz serving as Capital District delegates.

NOBLE DOSS

I was somewhat surprised when invited to attend my *first* ever Annual Conference as an "At Large" delegate from our Capital District. With excellent guidance from Sandy Wilder, I decided to attend and "see how sausage is made." I had been forewarned that these meetings were often contentious and, occasionally, provincial if not downright petty.

Nothing could have been further from the truth! What I experienced over the three days was not only enlightening but spiritual in every sense of the word. I witnessed excellent teaching from Reverend Adam Hamilton and benefitted tremendously from experiencing our Bishop Schnase in action as a leader, teacher, and serious man of God. We are fortunate in every respect to have him! Yes, there were some times where I wandered around the Convention Center to daydream and see other delegates and there was "administrative tedium," as expected from the "business" aspects of the meeting. I also found the worship services to be quite wonderful, with excellent music, passionate preaching, and solemn communion.

Most of all, I truly enjoyed my compadres, ministerial and lay folks. We laughed, cried (yeah, grown men do that), and generally shared a most memorable time together. As United Methodists, we do face momentous decisions going forward. As Rio Texas Conference United Methodists, we have challenges that must be addressed. But I am confident, leaving this Annual Conference, that the United Methodist church has so much to offer our community, our nation, and our world that we cannot, and we must not, fail. And I am even *more* confident that we won't!

PENNY APPLEBY

The organization and handling of the Conference business sessions was well planned and executed. During the first day the attendees heard the preliminary reports from the various ministry areas. In addition, many of the groups had staffed tables in the exhibit area where delegates could get additional information prior to voting. This resulted in the conference concluding action on the agenda items very quickly.

SUSAN GRIFFITH

Thank you for the opportunity to represent FUMC as a delegate to the Rio Texas Annual Conference. It was a wonderful experience to understand more about our church beyond the local congregation. Somehow, I had never focused on the fact that in 2015 our conference, the Southwest Texas Conference (which had been defined geographically) and the Rio Grande Conference (Spanish speaking) had merged.

Opening worship was led by Bishop Robert Schnase, who speaks Spanish fluently and easily transitions between languages. The Reverend Lupina Villalpando Stewart gave the opening worship sermon, which was spiritual, funny, and presented in both languages. It made me extremely proud to be part of a dual-culture conference that in such a short time seems to be unifying. The successful merging of cultures is a microcosm of what we might hope for the world.

Teaching sessions led by Adam Hamilton were held twice a day and were very inspirational. He reminded us that growth requires changing the way we do things in our local churches. People are hungry to experience God in the world and to learn more about Him through intentional discipleship. One afternoon I attended a workshop led by Reverend Javier Leyva, who explored what it means to be in ministry *with* the poor as opposed to ministry *to/for* the poor. Being in relationship with those in need enables both of us to grow. This was truly an enlightening experience for me. My hope is that more people from our congregation are able to go in the future.

DAVIS COVIN

We had the opportunity to listen to Reverend Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, speak about a variety of topics that appealed to laity and clergy. This year's theme focused on "Fruitfulness" and most of the topics centered on leadership, true Christian values, and focusing outwardly on the broader community. Improving these aspects should lead to a more fruitful congregation and denomination. I believe everyone sitting in his teaching sessions could find something that would be applicable and useful in their home churches.