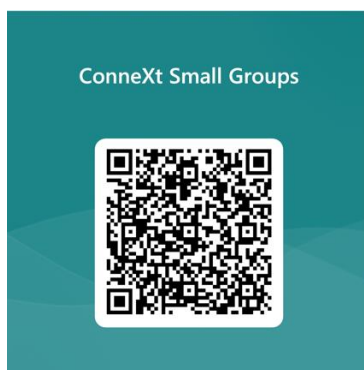


How Can I Join a ConneXt Group?

Anyone can join a ConneXt group! Members of groups do not even need to make FFMC their church home. Groups are open to all including those not members of any church and those who are not yet believers. ConneXt groups can be a pathway for some to discover faith in Jesus Christ.

Just scan the QR code here with your smartphone to be taken to the sign-up page:



LOVE **CONNECT** SERVE



ConneXt groups are part of the way we support people to live a life that follows in the footsteps of Jesus. Combined with prayer, study, service, and devotion, ConneXt groups provide a space to share the ways God is at work in your life with others. This is what the early Methodists called “Social Holiness.”

What Is a ConneXt Group?

ConneXt groups are small groups of people from 5-8 members. In a ConneXt group, members share how their spiritual life and discipleship are going. Groups may meet once a week or twice a month. Members of a ConneXt group learn how to share life together. Groups like ConneXt started in the early days of Methodism where its founder, Rev. John Wesley, said these types of groups are for the purpose of “watching over one another in love.”

What a ConneXt Group Is Not

ConneXt groups are not settings made for teaching or Bible study. While the Bible is an important part of our life together as Christians, ConneXt groups are not places where there is an “expert” who teaches about the scriptures. ConneXt groups are not prayer groups. Each ConneXt gathering begins and ends with prayer, but the group is not devoted to the sharing of prayer requests. ConneXt groups are not fellowship groups where the purpose is small-talk and catching up with friends.

What Happens During a ConneXt Group?

Each group has a designated leader whose purpose is to facilitate the group's time together. Groups never last longer than one hour. The group opens with prayer after which the leader offers up a question about discipleship. Group members are invited to share their responses to the question. The question or questions may change from week to week. It is hoped that every member of the group has a chance to share. As the hour nears its close, the leader will help the group close in prayer.

How do ConneXt Groups Meet?

ConneXt groups can gather in-person or online. While the church building is available for use by ConneXt groups, it is preferred that groups meet offsite in locations such as a local café, coffee shop, park, or even in a home. When groups meet online, they can gather from the comfort of their remote location. Groups meet at a time chosen by the group itself.

What Is Being in a ConneXt Group Like?

ConneXt groups are designed to be safe spaces for members to talk about their walk of faith. Group members are to carefully listen to each person as they share. Interrupting and correcting fellow group members is not appropriate. Engaging in attempts to analyze what others are saying or give suggestions or feedback is also not appropriate. Members are encouraged to actively listen and make themselves accountable to the group on their own terms. What is shared in a ConneXt group stays in the group.

What Benefit Is There from a ConneXt Group?

We believe that ConneXt groups are the most effective and time-tested way to help people grow in their walk with the Lord. By sharing with each other, God moves and speaks in remarkable ways. The goal is not to increase in knowledge or learn something in the Bible. The benefit is focused attention on one's own spiritual life and how we are each faithfully following Jesus.

Who Leads a ConneXt Group?

Leaders are selected and trained to lead ConneXt groups more as a facilitator than a leader. Leaders know that their best work is to help others share what is happening in their life of discipleship. Leaders are trained to not correct, interrupt, or disrupt the time of sharing in any ConneXt gathering. Leaders are also looking for others who might one day lead a ConneXt group themselves. The leader ensures that the meetings begin and end on time and that all of the members feel safe and open with one another.

Are There ConneXt Groups Already?

There are several ongoing groups and new ones which are starting. Groups typically covenant for a certain period of time to meet. At the end of that time, they decide to continue, disband, re-form, or recruit new people. These pauses allow for people in a group who wish to exit to do so. Groups are always seeking ways to multiply. These pauses also give the group a chance to consider splitting into two new groups.