



# Winter Gatherings

Gatherings are groups of 10 to 20 people who meet to focus on a specific topic. Sign ups are TODAY in the Fellowship Hall after both of the morning worship services. Everyone is welcome and all adults are encouraged to sign up!

## Grief 101 Gathering

Thursdays, 6:30pm-8:30pm January 26 - March 8

Once God teaches us to grieve well, we face every challenge with greater courage and peace. *Grieving is one of the ways God gave us to resolve some of the most difficult issues in our lives; especially those involving the loss of someone or something that was very important to us.*

Unfortunately, few of us really know how to grieve well. Come learn more about this important process and the freedom that it brings. You will benefit from this class if you are: tired of being told to just “get over it”, overwhelmed by painful losses, paralyzed by guilt or depression following a loss, wanting relief from pain of any loss, experiencing change of any kind (even good), or trying to make sense of senseless losses.

⇒ Books for a suggested donation of \$10.00. Scholarships available.

Location: Fireside Room Leader: Karolyn Merriman, MSW

## Christianity 101 Gathering

Wednesdays, 6pm - 7:30pm February 15 - March 28

This class is for anyone from “I’m not sure if I’m a Christian” to “I’ve been a Christian my whole life and I have all the answers.” We will explore the core ideas of the Christian faith. This is not a Systematic Theology course, rather, we will discuss our knowledge of God and how we live it out.

Topics will include: Who’s Jesus & What’s a Christian?; The Hebrew People; The Kingdom of God (Jesus’ primary message); The Church (Who needs it?!); Habits (Spiritual Disciplines for the non-monk); and Evangelism (Not for the pros).

⇒ This is a “no prerequisites class”, but if you want to be ahead of the curve, suggested reading is N.T. Wright’s *Simply Christian*. Many have called this work the *Mere Christianity* (C.S. Lewis) for the 21st century.

Location: Fellowship Hall Leader: Robby Olson

## Advocacy & Accompaniment Gathering

Thursdays, 6pm-8:30pm January 26 - March 1

As followers of Jesus we need to learn how to go out from our areas of comfort, security, and familiarity in order to follow Jesus’ example in being a “friend of sinners” by coming alongside and advocating for people. It is through these challenging relationships that bridge economic, social, racial, and spiritual divides, that we find both our personal transformation and the transformation of the people with whom we’re working.

**Topics include:** What is Advocacy and Accompaniment?; Jesus’ ministry to the Poor and Mutual Liberation; Addiction and Recovery; Advocacy by the Holy Spirit; Boundaries and Self-Care; and hearing from local front-line ministries. *Come get to know each other as we learn to step out in this ministry of Jesus together with Mike Neelley, Zach Joy, Art McKinnon, and others from Tierra Nueva in Burlington.*

⇒ In addition to our weekly meetings we will have one Saturday morning meeting on February 18 to take a tour of the locations and systems that people in need must navigate in Bellingham.

Location: Worship Office Leader: Mike Neelley

## Science & Faith Gathering

Mondays, 6pm - 8pm January 30 - March 26

Science and faith don’t work together, or so we are told...but what is reality? What if these elements are not so far apart as we’ve been told? Join us as we explore the various issues that creep up around science and faith. We will be joined by local scientists in our community and hear how they live out their faith amongst their science. No previous scientific experience needed. Open to all ages. No previous scientific experience needed. Open to all ages.

Location: Fireside Room Leader: Doug Bunnell

*Sign ups for Gatherings are on a first come, first served basis. Numbers are limited due to facility space and the need to keep groups interactive.*

**For more information on Gatherings, contact Tracy Johnson at 714.8839 or [tracyj@fpcbellingham.org](mailto:tracyj@fpcbellingham.org).**