

## Coming This Summer:

### **Read big. Read real. Read together. The Community Bible Experience.**

First United Methodist Church is excited to announce a church-wide effort called **The Community Bible Experience** launching on August 20, 2017. The Community Bible Experience is a program that will involve reading the Bible as it was meant to be read—whole books, in community. This experience is NOT a Bible Study. It is NOT a set of readings to be completed on your own. It is a chance to read together, meet together, have fun together, and hopefully learn together. I encourage you and your family to join this unforgettable journey to reignite your passion for the Scriptures.

#### **Here's the basic plan:**

The CBE takes place in two steps: participants read from the book *The Books of the Bible* five days a week for eight weeks, then meet with a group of friends to have conversation around what they've read during the previous week... think book club, not Bible study. There will be community groups that meet throughout the week: mornings, afternoons, evenings, weekends- you will be able to find one that matches your schedule.

*The Books of the Bible* is the New Testament, but presented in a different order and without the chapter and verse markers that you're used to. It's designed to feel more like reading the original. Copies of the book will be available at the church, or you can use an electronic format. Instructions for downloading an e-book to your Kindle or the Community Bible Experience App for your phone will be available in August.

#### **Why Are We Participating in the Community Bible Experience?**

The purpose of the Community Bible Experience is to build a sense of connection and community around our defining book: the Bible. The community groups are an essential part of building this connection. That's where we'll get a chance to share our excitement and ask our questions. That's where we'll be challenged and encouraged on the journey. By the time we're finished, we'll not only have a better understanding of Scripture, but we will have built Christ-centered connections with each other, too!

#### **Opportunities to Serve:**

If you would like to help with this "building project," here's a way for you to get involved:

1. Host a community group, either at your home or at a location of your choice- the church, a coffee shop, McDonalds... wherever you feel at home. Your only tasks would be to gather enough chairs for 6-10 group members, and to make them feel welcome when they arrive.
2. Facilitate a group. Every group needs someone to keep the conversation on track. The CBE comes with a very simple guide for facilitators- no advance preparation needed; just a list of five questions to get people talking.

Please contact Pastor Lori as soon as possible if you would like to host/facilitate a community group. She will provide a brief orientation session for those who choose to serve. That orientation will be on Sunday, August 6 following worship. Please let her know if you are unable to attend so that other arrangements can be made.