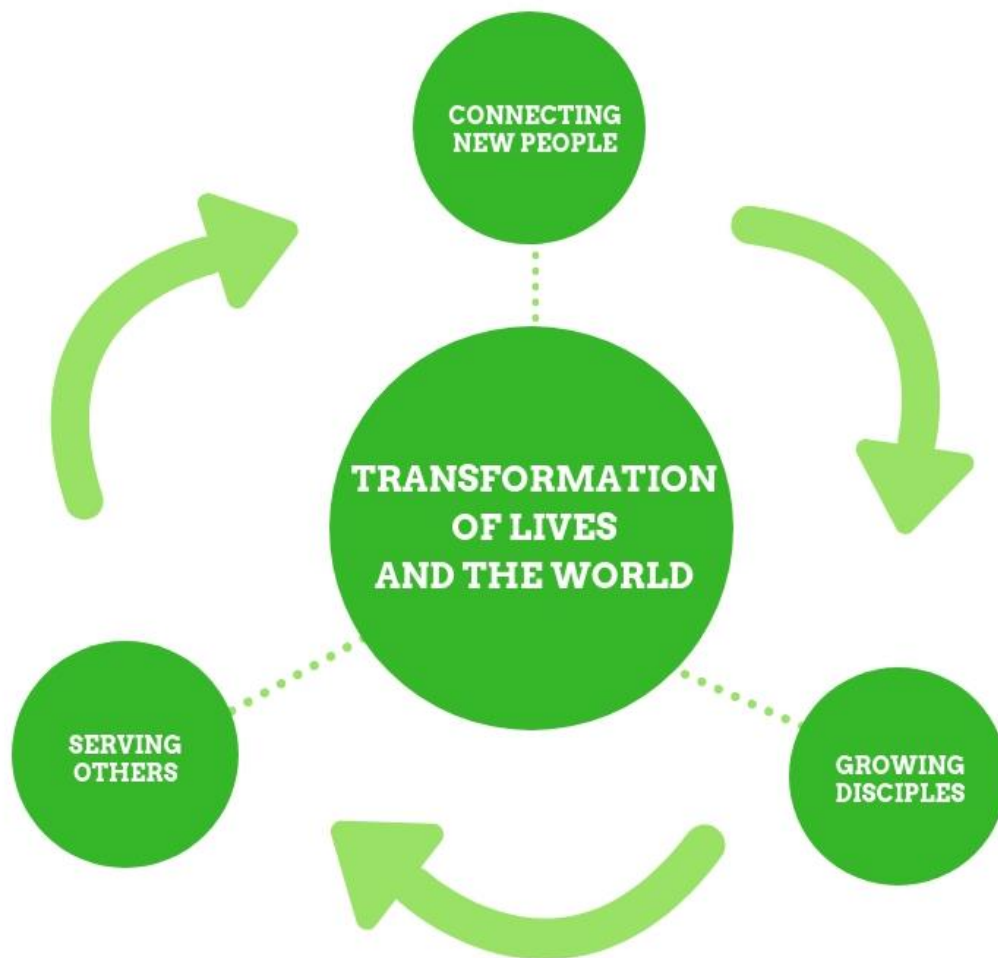


SSUMC Discipleship Pathway



As a United Methodist Church our mission is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” We hope to live this out in by embodying our vision of “Seeking to embrace everyone in deep meaningful connections to grow closer to God and transform lives.” It is our definition that a disciple is someone who “chooses to follow Christ and to lives as Christ’s love for and with others.” To accomplish the “making of disciples” and “transformed lives” we invite people to partner with us on an intentional discipleship pathway. Our simple understanding is most importantly, any pathway for discipleship must seek to partner with the movements of God's grace. It is only by grace that a person’s relationship with God can be deepened and their lives transformed. Thus, our pathway of Connect-Grow-Send, is based upon and partners with God’s movements of grace—prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying. In our connect ministries we seek to come a long side of God's prevenient grace to help connect people to God and the church. Our grow ministries look to partner with God's justifying grace to help people grow in their relationship so they will choose to follow Christ and be Christ's love in the world. Finally, our send ministries are those which partner with God's sanctifying grace to help people continue to connect and grow in their faith so they can help connect and grow others in their faith.

Connect Ministries

At SSUMC our connect ministries are those that seek to discover new people and help new people discover the church as they embrace a relationship with God. Our primary way of doing this is through Worship, during which our Hospitality team strives to create a welcoming environment to help new people feel at home, and our worship offers a diversity of ways to connect to God. Additionally, we use the following teams to help us connect with new people:

Hospitality: Fellowship Hour, Greeters, Ushers, Name Tags.
Community Event Participation
Small Wonders Christian Pre-School
Church Picnic
Trunk-or-Treat
Rummage and Garage Sales
Outside Group Building Use (AA, Girl Scouts, League of Women, Living Resources, etc..)
Christmas Events (Madrigal, Dickens, Fair, Oratorio)
Church Dinners
Golf League
Wesley Worship Services
Frobenius Concerts
Social Media (Facebook, Website, News Letter, E-news, Twitter.)
Third Thursday; potluck and programs
BOCES Job Training
VBS

Grow Ministries

It is our expectation that once new people have connected with our church and God they will participate in a grow ministry to deepen their relationship with God and the church. It is the intention of grow ministries to help individuals discover for themselves a call to discipleship and to prepare them to respond to that call. The primary way we engage in this process is through small groups. We believe that Christian fellowship, learning, and experience is best materialized in a small group setting and thus expect members of SSUMC to be involved in at least one small group for spiritual growth. Grow ministries that provide this experience include:

Sunday School (for Children)
Music Groups (Bells, Choirs, Jam Group etc...)
Book and Bible Studies (for adults)
Spiritual Accountability Groups
Youth Group
Confirmation Classes
UMW/UMM
UNY Summer Camps (for Children)
Joy in the Morning
Ministry Intern Program

Serve Ministries

When people are ready and desire to take the next step in their faith we offer Serve Ministries. Serve Ministries closes the loop on our pathway, creating a generative cycle because as we send disciples out it is expected that they will go as fishers of people to help others connect and grow in their faith. Our primary vehicle for this is through mission evangelism. We understand mission to be serving our community as Christ's love and justice, and evangelism to be the authentic invitation to embrace God and the church. Ministries that help us to invite others into relationship with God and the church are:

- Outreach and Evangelism Teams
- Mission Teams (UMEM, Youth Mission)
- Feeding Ministries (FCC, Serving at Church Dinners, Monday Meals w/ Julie, etc.)
- Financial Giving (UMCOR, UNICEF, Heifer, Habitat)
- Church Leadership (Committee Service, Volunteering)
- Pastoral Care (Visitations, Prayer Chains)
- District and Conference Service