

Friends of Jesus

Friends of Jesus - DC Metro Area is a community of small groups meeting in the DC metropolitan area. We began in January 2013 with one group, and in September 2013, multiplied to include groups in both DC and Maryland.

Where & when we meet

Most Sundays we meet 5-6:30 PM in Silver Spring, MD, not far from I-495 and University Boulevard. We will have a Lenten cycle of Sunday gatherings March 9-April 13, 2014.

We will join with the DC group for a Good Friday Passover Seder and an Easter sunrise celebration.

Who meets

As indicated in our Vision statement elsewhere in this brochure, we seek to be an inclusive community. We hope to reflect much of the diversity of our area.

We welcome all interested in exploring what it means to follow Jesus. This includes everything from people just beginning to explore whether they should be committed to following Jesus to those who have had such a commitment for many years.

We welcome both those with no other ongoing faith community, and those who also participate regularly elsewhere.

We are an interactive group treating each person's questions and reflections with respect, believing that each of us is helped to grow by learning from the experiences and questions of others.

What we do when we meet

We include several elements in our times together:

Fellowship. Each time we meet we include some fellowship time to grow to know each other and become a community. Occasionally we will hold gatherings which are primarily fellowship.

Bible Reflection. We look at Bible passages, allowing each person to share their own reflections and questions. We seek to understand how we can incorporate the meaning we find in our daily lives.

Music. We usually have a brief time of singing hymns together.

Worship. Our worship time is a time when we quietly listen to God, out of which any participant may feel led to share a brief message, a song or something else for the group.

Prayer. We take time to pray over concerns raised and allow anyone the opportunity to pray as led.

As we feel led, from time to time we may gather in the larger community for **service** and/or **witness** ourselves, or with others.

Mission

Friends of Jesus is a loving community that listens and responds to Jesus as we experience him in our hearts and in our midst. We equip one another to discover and use our spiritual gifts; learn to follow Jesus in our daily lives; and live as peacemakers, agents of God's justice and reconciliation.

Vision

We are a network of small groups united in becoming:

- A deeply rooted spiritual family, where each person can experience the living power of Christ within and make positive use of their spiritual gifts.
- A community that wrestles together with Scripture and its meaning for our lives. We make space for shared listening to the Holy Spirit, where anyone may be inspired to speak.
- A gathered people, participating in Christ's work as a multi-ethnic, socioeconomically diverse, LGBTQ-affirming community.
- A seedbed for ministries that make visible Jesus' jubilee kingdom through acts of mercy, prophetic witness and teaching.
- A movement that equips people to gather new small groups, congregations and churches throughout the DC metro area and beyond.

Leadership

We operate as a participatory group respecting the gifts and contributions of all. We also recognize the need to name certain people to perform particular functions, and to coordinate our efforts.

The general pattern we follow includes for each small group a leader, an apprentice leader and a host. The leader and apprentice leader meet weekly between small group meetings, review the last meeting, consider input received from participants, pray for and keep in touch with participants, and do the detailed planning of group meetings. The host makes sure the meeting place is prepared and welcoming for participants, and pays particular attention to making sure everyone is welcomed and integrated into the group.

This general pattern may be adjusted as seems appropriate. Other persons may take on specific roles commensurate with their gifts and interests.

Friends of Jesus as a whole has a Clerk, who serves as presiding officer for monthly meetings to consider spiritual queries and conduct any needed business.

Each small group and Friends of Jesus as a whole functions well if everyone who is regular takes an active role, invites others to come participate, and provides input to those with particular responsibilities.

Friends of Jesus - DC Metro Area Contacts

The Friends of Jesus Web site is at:

<http://dcmetro.friendsofjesusfellowship.org/>

Our Facebook page is at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/208047979737/>

The email address for Friends of Jesus is:

contact@dcmetro.fojf.org

Maryland Small Group Contacts

The Maryland small group email is:

Maryland@dcmetro.fojf.org

Phone numbers of our Leadership Team:

Bill Samuel 301-943-6406

Tim Hartnett 410-236-8083

Friends of Jesus Fellowship

Friends of Jesus - DC Metro Area is part of a larger network of similar groups across the nation called Friends of Jesus Fellowship.

<http://www.friendsofjesusfellowship.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/499808963383272/>

Last updated March 8, 2014

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Maryland small group

Meeting in Silver Spring, MD

*Growing together in understanding
how to be a follower of Jesus*