

SPIRITUAL LIFE & FORMATION

The year 2023 included a number of advancements in The Connected Life. We created our own curriculum to help support Mapleview's Give, Grow, Go vision. We also developed and recorded a four-session Missions video curriculum for small groups to complement our Missions emphasis in October. This past year we continued to develop our strategy and increase our environments to help people "connect with God and connect with others" through various Classes, Studies, Support Groups and Connect Groups.

CLASSES

The re:Start small group experience for new and returning believers helps provide a solid foundation as they give their life to God. The re:Align class launched in the fall introduces spiritual disciplines that help us grow in our faith journey and experience the life transformation that God has for us. Thirdly, the re:Purpose class was introduced which helps us identify how God has uniquely equipped us to go and serve Him. Additional classes were provided throughout the year including a new series called Faith Driven Entrepreneurs for business owners and entrepreneurs.

STUDIES

Many of our standard studies continued throughout the year. Our Prophecy and End Times study continues to look at current events through the lens of Scripture. The Ladies Bible Study is available to connect ladies of various ages and grow together, both

relationally and in biblical knowledge. Ironmen served a similar function in connecting men and facilitating growth. The Bema Study for ladies relaunched in the fall, looking at Scripture while paying particular attention to the Jewish context and influence that exists.

SUPPORT GROUPS

We have two core support groups that seek to help people going through specific needs in their lives. Divorce Care and Grief Share continue to meet the needs of the people of Barrie. Many participants start one of these series with no significant connection to Mapleview but end up finding hope in God and begin attending Mapleview on a regular basis. These groups are being effective at helping people in their time of need but also starting them on a new path in their spiritual journey.

CONNECT GROUPS

This new initiative of small groups meeting primarily in homes throughout Barrie and the surrounding communities has proven to help people connect with others, grow in their faith and be able to serve God and others in practical ways. We launched seven new groups this year. We have also introduced a New Facilitator onboarding path that provides orientation and training to help set up facilitators for success and ongoing leadership development meetings for all facilitators to continue growing in their abilities to lead their groups.

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MARRIED LIFE

Springboarding off the Together for Good marriage seminar in the spring, we launched a new ministry, The Married Life, with our first Date Night event in the fall. These events are designed to prioritize our marriage on our calendars.

THANKS TO ALL

2023 was truly a fun year as I continued to build relationships with the various facilitators of these different environments. They have been a joy to work with and have helped me understand the culture of Mapleview and how we best work together to “provide environments where life-change can take place as people develop their love for God and for others.” The people and staff of Mapleview have made me feel at home from day one! Oh, yeah, and 2023 I realized a longtime dream of starting a small church golf league!

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. John Ratz
Spiritual Life Formation