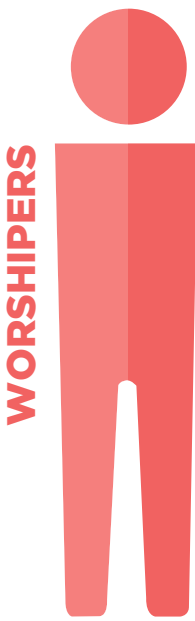


Small Groups Resources: A Journey to Vitality

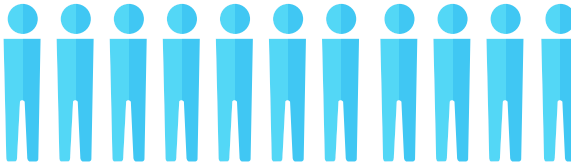
GREATER NEW JERSEY 'S SMALL GROUPS



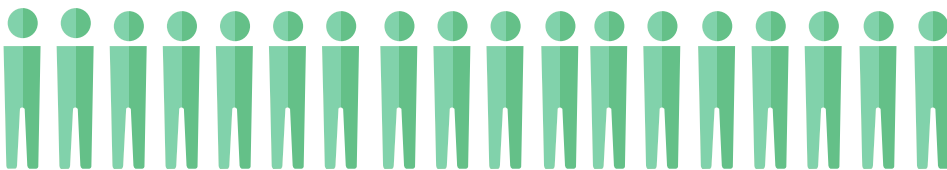
IN SMALL GROUPS



2013:
43%*



2014:
61%*




2018
GOAL:
75%

* From the GNJ end of year statistical report.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Increase the percentage of worshipers in small groups from 43% to 75% by 2018.

How can you decide what will work in your congregation and community?

1. Take a survey of your congregation. Create a list of ideas, send it out and ask people if they are interested. Always ask for their suggestions as well. You can also print one up and hand it out during service.
 **Helpful tip:** *There are easy online tools like SurveyMonkey that are free.*
2. Contact one of the members of the Small Group Resource Team about how to develop the best small groups for the needs of your congregation.

Small Group Program Reading List

BOOKS:

Creating Community: Five Keys to Building a Small Group Culture by Andy Stanley and Bill Willits

Teaching Biblical Faith: Leading Small Group Bible Studies by Jack L. Seymour

The Class Meeting: Reclaiming a Forgotten (and Essential) Small Group Experience by Kevin Watson



Call on the Small Groups Resource Team for help:

Don't worry about being perfect. Know that you're not alone, and just do it. The journey of 1000 miles begins with the first step and those steps of the righteous are ordered by God.

- Arthur E. Harrell, Raritan Valley District Lay Leader, Oldwick UMC
gennart@comcast.net

Don't be afraid to try something new! Some will be successful and some will not - but at least you tried!! People within your church see your efforts and that will encourage them too. Positive energy creates more positive energy. Small groups are a blessing to everyone.

- Dale Simms, Small Group Ministry Coordinator, Denville Community Church
anniesaunt06@yahoo.com

Start your groups each week with a question that helps to build relationships. What are your highs and lows for the week? How is it with your soul? People will get to know one another and grow closer. Leave room for the Holy Spirit to work in your group.

- Rev. Debra A. De Vos, UMC of the Rockaways and Trinity UMC of Hackettstown
deb918@gmail.com

At the end of the meeting take 5 minutes for a feedback loop and ask questions. How did we do tonight as a group? What went well and what didn't? Ask people to hold up fingers one through five to grade the evening. People feel better about a group if they are asked to help evaluate it. Then improvements can be made.

- Dr. Frank L. Fowler III, Trinity UMC Hackettstown
ffowler@catchthespirit.org

More team members can be found on the small group pages at: www.gnjumc.org



- "HIGH ADVENTURE" FOR YOUNG ADULTS
- GRIEF SUPPORT
- SPIRIT-FILLED ZUMBA
- GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN
- THE DANIEL PLAN FOR HEALTHY EATING AND LIFESTYLE
- LIFE AFTER DEATH
- HIKING AND NATURE CLUBS
- ONLINE BIBLE STUDIES

For additional information and support on small group resources:



Go to: www.gnjumc.org

Contact Beth Caulfield,
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908-938-1379