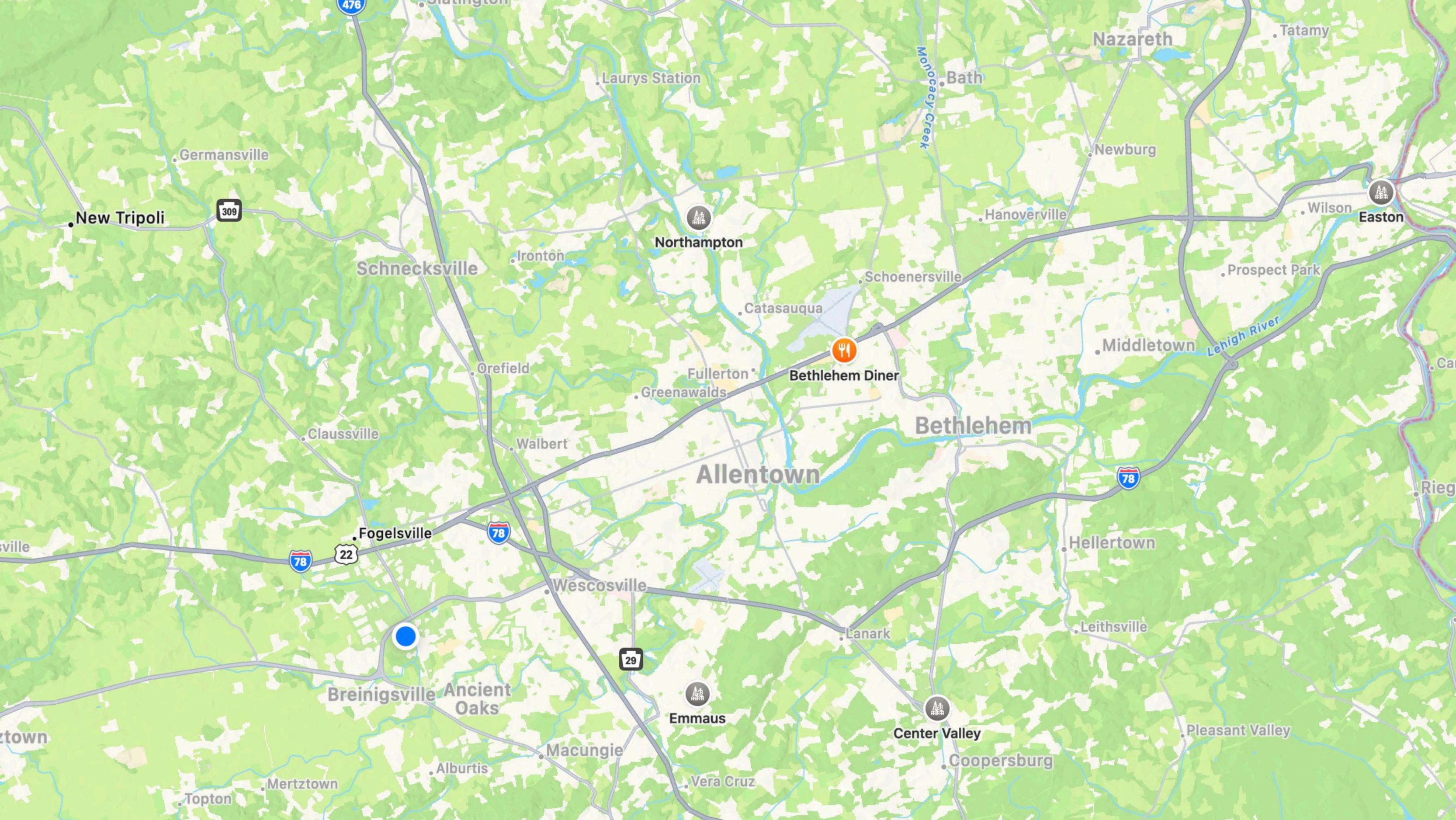




# COMMUNITY GROUPS

FALL 2022





New Tripoli

309

Germansville

Schnecksville

Ironton

Laurys Station

Northampton

Bath

Nazareth

Tatamy

Newburg

Wilson

Easton

Hanoverville

Prospect Park

Schoenersville

Catasauqua

Middletown

Lehigh River

Orefield

Fullerton

Bethlehem Diner

Greenawalds

Bethlehem

Allentown

Claussville

Walbert

78

ville

Fogelsville

78

22

Hellertown

Wescosville

29

Lanark

Leithsville

Breinigsville

Ancient Oaks

Emmaus

Center Valley

Pleasant Valley

Macungie

Coopersburg

town

Alburtis

Vera Cruz

Topton

Mertztown

# WELCOME COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS!

**Thank you for prayerfully choosing to serve as a home group leader at Riverbend! Our hope is that the vision for these groups would not only be fulfilled in the people you serve, but first and foremost in you, as you serve and lead from, and for, God's good pleasure in Christ Jesus.**

# THE VISION:

Community groups exist for people to be known among a community of Christ-followers, encouraged in the reality of His gospel, and sent to live in alignment with His purpose.

# KNOWN

**As Christians, our greatest joy and privilege is knowing God and being known by Him. Knowing God is eternal life (John 17.3)—a knowledge that goes far beyond mere intellect, but is experienced through faith in His grace, friendship with Him, surrender to His will, and abiding in His love (see Ephesians 3.14-19 | John 15.1-17).**

**We also have the privilege and joy of living in One Body as the children of God. The “one another” commands of the New Testament outline the kind of shared life that pleases the Father. Among those are the commands to “bear one another’s burdens (Galatians 6.2),” and “confess your sins to one another (James 5.16),” which cannot be done without taking time to cultivate the kind of love, trust, and safety that allows people to let themselves be truly known by others.**

**Our prayer is that these home groups would become places where the gift and encouragement of knowing and being known with God and others is sought after and enjoyed.**

# ENCOURAGED

**Two passages of Scripture in Hebrews urge us to encourage one another daily and increasingly as we approach the Day of Christ's return:**

**"...encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception." (Hebrews 3.13)**

**"...let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10.24-25)**

**Our prayer is that the knowledge of our joys and burdens would be shared and carried by a community that actively and increasingly encourages one another in the gospel of Christ, so that no one in our midst would go without the daily encouragement to know, trust, and follow Him more.**

# SENT

**On the evening of Christ's resurrection, He said to His disciples, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you (John 20.21)."**

**Our prayer is that the Spirit of God would send and empower people through these groups to be bold witnesses for Christ in words and actions that display His compassion and proclaim His truth in the places where they live, work, and play. We are praying "to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9.37)."**

**Sent—to live in alignment with His purpose...**

**Romans 8:28 tells us, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Pastor K.P. Yohannan makes this important observation: "Please notice that this verse says purpose (singular), not purposes (plural) ...There is only one purpose. ...We must look closely at the verse following to understand the singular purpose God has for all believers: "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son."**

**Our prayer is that the Lord might use our time together these groups to conform us to the Image of Christ—in love, in holiness, and in missional living. Our singular purpose is not community, but to be fully restored to the Image of God in Christ Jesus. True community will be joyfully found as a by-product of our shared life in Him.**



# COMMUNITY GROUPS

FALL 2022

# THE 3/3 METHOD

## Review

**Look Back: Where have you been?**

### Connect & Review

- Open in Prayer & Spend the first 15-20 minutes on one or two of these questions:
- What are you thankful for this week?
- What challenges have you faced this week?
- How were you able to apply or share what we discussed in our last group?
- How did you experience God this past week?

## Recognize

**Look Up: How is God at work?**

### Read The Passage

- Have someone read the Bible passage out loud.
- Ask if there are any words they do not understand. Define any confusing words.
- Have one person re-read the passage out loud. Invite people to prayerfully listen as the Scripture is re-read.
- Have someone re-tell and summarize what happens in the passage.

## Respond

**Look Forward: Where is Christ leading?**

### Obey God's Word

- How does this passage, and tonight's discussion impact or change how you view God? Yourself? Others?
- In what way(s) do you see yourself reflected in the people from tonight's text (what is the text revealing about you)?
- How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to live differently in light of this passage?
- With whom can you share what the Lord is revealing to you?
- How can we best pray for one another?

# DISCOVER GOD'S WORD

What does this passage tell us...

...about God?

Who is He and  
what is He like?

...about people?

What concern(s) does  
this text address?

...about God's  
relationship with  
people?

How does the text point  
us to Christ, His gospel,  
and our need for Him?

# THE 3/3 METHOD

## Review

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# YOUR FIRST GROUP GATHERING

## Open in Prayer

## Briefly Communicate our Vision for Community Groups

## Go around the room and allow each person to share...

- Their name
- Something interesting about themselves
- Their Lehigh Valley Story: How did you arrive here? Did you grow up here?

## Go around the room a second time and allow each person to share...

- Their Riverbend Story (Their spiritual journey | What circumstances and events led them to get connected to this church and/or home group?)
- One thing they are hoping/praying for as they join this group this Fall...

## Finally, ask how the group can best pray for one another



# COMMUNITY GROUPS

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