

## **Let's Connect! Introducing God's Pods! (GP)**

Our St. Paul's **TPIRC** team (*Thriving Pastors In Revitalizing Congregations*) is rolling out another opportunity to *better connect* us with each other during this continuing pandemic time when we are away from each other.

This offering, **God's Pods (GP)**, will primarily use the technology *of email*. The intent will be to allow all of us who sign up to better connect with others in our congregation and get to know some we either don't know well or may know only by face.

**How GP Will Work:** We will be forming email "Pods" of 4. You can sign up individually or as a couple. If you are a couple, you can still sign up individually if you would like to be placed in your own pod. Its up to you to decide.

These email "Pods" **will be formed in groups of 4**. We will try to put those signed up into a group where you **do NOT know the others** in that group well, if at all. As you move forward in your weekly email exchanges, you get to share your background, interests, likes/dislikes, hobbies, books, movies, pets, church thoughts, whatever...with all the other members in your pod of 4. Again, the focus is getting us closer together and also allowing us to get to know others in our congregation we do not know very well, but in the safe comfort of email exchanges.

**Weekly Emails:** The suggestion of the program is that each person(s) in their respective pod will communicate by email with the other 3 members in their assigned pod at least once a week. When an email is sent out, it is to ALL the members of the pod. Therefore, you send out one email "chat" and will receive three emails back....on whatever topic the pod group is would like to "talk" about. If you want to communicate more frequently than weekly, that is up to each respective pod.

**To Get It Started:** No one in the pod is the leader. Really, you all are! To get things rolling, we will provide you some initial topic ideas for which you can start your pen pal exchanges. Anyone in the pod can suggest some other ideas as you move forward...such as "what is your favorite movie and why", "what type of books do you like and can you recommend a good one", or even "what's your favorite food recipe and can you share?" Anything is open to "talk" about.

**Once We Are Back Together:** Once we are again able to attend in-person services, you will have "met" others you did not really know in the congregation. If you like, you can continue to email any or all of your pod with your new found friendship connection. Perhaps your pod might suggest getting together for a breakfast out after church service (once vaccine is in place and it is deemed safe to do so).

**Bottom Line:** We will have better connected with each other, feel just a little bit closer to our church community, and we have something to look forward to at least weekly from our fellow pod participants by way of ongoing email conversations.

**Come...Try it !! To Sign Up:** Send your name and email address to: [TPIRC485@gmail.com](mailto:TPIRC485@gmail.com)  
Once we have enough people registering, we will reach back out to you and let you know once we have placed you in a pod along with the other 3 pod members.

**For Those Without Email Access:** You can participate by regular mail and we will connect you with others that also do not have email access. You can either write or computer print out and send your communications through regular mail to each other. If you wish to sign up, please call Lena at the Church Office (815 459 5096) and provide your name and address and we will get info back to you!

**Cancelling Out:** If you try this but find its not for you, simply let us know you are cancelling your **GP** involvement by again contacting us at: [TPIRC485@gmail.com](mailto:TPIRC485@gmail.com) We will handle the rest.