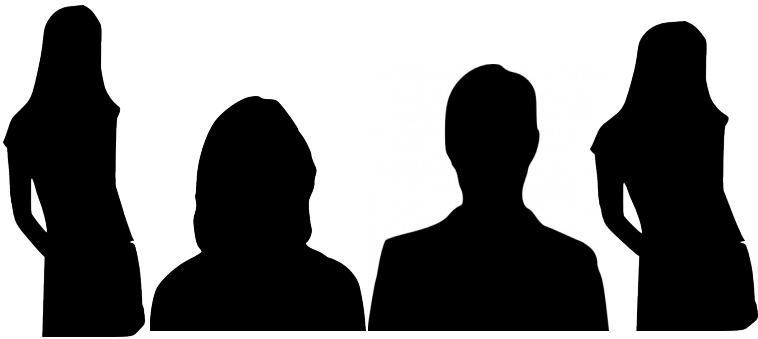


Connect
Connect
Connect
Connect



**embodying the values of a Therapeutic Community
exploring dimensions of ourselves as human beings
encouraging positive change through connection to God
and one another**

Where Connect fits within the Church

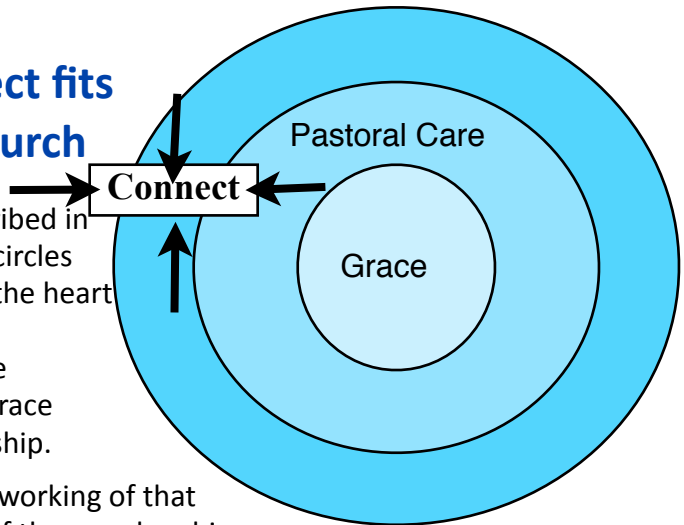
If the church is described in terms of concentric circles then “Grace” lies at the heart of the congregation. “Pastoral Care” is the outworking of that grace among the membership.

“Connect” is the outworking of that grace on the fringe of the membership where it is anticipated that there will be people in need of connection to God and to others. Out on the fringe “Connect” will seek to bring together people within church membership, people on the fringe of church membership, and people from beyond church membership.

Together we will meet a twofold need.

Firstly, there is the need to be with other people in a non-threatening, supportive way. This is achieved by embodying the values of a therapeutic community and through a programme of “social” activities that serve the purpose of building relationships.

The second need is to rediscover how to connect with God so as to develop personal, positive change towards becoming the human beings God intends us to be. This component will be developed by becoming skilled in one spiritual exercise – the ability to pause and review our day and see where God may have been at work in it. At the end of each day of creation, God looked and saw it was good. We will learn to pause and look to see what we might otherwise miss or take for granted. The basis of this exercise was developed by Ignatius of Loyola (who founded the Jesuit movement) but is adapted to the therapeutic component of our evangelical outlook.



How Connect functions within the Church

A Connect Core group have met fortnightly on Monday evenings and have developed the following aims

(a) we will

- embody the values of a Therapeutic Community (acceptance, respect, confidentiality etc)
- explore dimensions of our common humanity through fun, non threatening, activities
- encourage personal positive change through connection to God and to the group



(b) we will gather together a group of other interested people by

- openly intimating our meetings and explaining who we are and what we are seeking to do
- individually inviting people we think would benefit from being part of the Connect group
- being willing, in due course, to accept “referrals” from agencies beyond the church. (eg Edinburgh City Mission)

(c) we will set up opportunities for one to one “spiritual direction” and one to one social connections in the period between the meetings. With regard to Spiritual Direction and/or Counselling, the Ministry Team will be available to see people individually. Beyond the Ministry Team the group will also have access to the services of the Rev Andrew Bain of Emmaus House. Andrew is a skilled Spiritual Director, who also trains people as Spiritual Directors.

When Connect will meet within the Church

The theme of the first programme is based on Genesis 1 and the recurring phrase at the end of each day when “God looked and saw that it was good”. The aim is to develop the ability to look and see more what we might otherwise miss.

Mon 21 Nov	Connect Start	Meal/Introduction
Mon 5 Dec	Connect Day 1	Games Night in
Mon 19 Dec	Connect Day 2	Homespun Seasonal Fun
Mon 18 Jan	Connect Day 3	Burns Supper
Mon 8 Feb	Connect Day 4	Film Night In
Mon 22 Feb	Connect Day 5	Pottering Around!
Mon 8 Mar	Connect Day 6	Xtreme Make-over!
Mon 22 Mar	Connect Day 7	REST sweet REST!

All meetings will be held in the Pillar Hall with times varying in accordance with the content of the evening but starting no earlier than 6.30pm and ending no later than 10pm and typically 7.30-9.30pm. The Connect Course begins on 21 November and recruiting thereafter will be less proactive and more considered. The hope is that people will start and stay with the Group to the end of the programme, when Connect breaks in preparation for a Spring Conference (tbc)

For more information contact:

admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk

minister@barclayviewforth.org.uk

or call the church office