

What are your names and how long have you been in relationship with each other?

Chris (Christina) Kortman and Kristi Lewis. While we met at Madison probably 9 or so years ago and gradually got to know each other, our friendship grew into a discipling relationship when we began walking together 2-3 years ago.

How did you meet?

We met through the children's ministry program at Madison. Chris served in Madison Girls and in Children's Church and Kristi oversees these ministries and so we got to know each other through serving together.

What does your discipling relationship look like?

We live near each other and so we try to walk together once a week. It isn't at all formal, we just walk and talk about what is on our hearts. Often the conversation flows toward parenting, racism and raising children of color, church, faith, and sharing joys and struggles.

How has this relationship helped each of you to love and follow Jesus and become more like Jesus in your attitudes and actions?

Kristi: It is such a gift to be able to have Chris in my life! I learn so much from getting to talk with an experienced parent that I have so much respect for. Anytime I have questions about parenting, Chris is who I go to! I love her and Mike's example of always making sure their kids know they are loved and of prioritizing spending family time together. I also really appreciate having someone to process life with. Whether it is talking about how to continue each of our journeys towards anti-racism or marriage or even just having to do the laundry or celebrating a new favorite recipe it is beautiful to be able to share each other's joys and burdens. I think this is what discipleship is all about! Being around people that love and follow Jesus and demonstrate Christ like attitudes and actions and having some of their faith and fruits of the spirit rub off on you as you simply share life together!

Chris: I have always had a secret wish for a friend that lives close by that I could walk with regularly. What a gift this relationship has been for me!! I love that our friendship has spilled over into family meals and just hanging out together. I LOVE seeing my teenagers have so much affection for Trinity. She brings so much joy to all of us!! Kristi and I have had so many deep conversations about such a range of topics and to know that we both have a deep love for Jesus and the church sets the tone for so much that we share.