



Grab Gather Grow

Week of Sunday, July 22, 2018

“Passport Power”

Grab this study, **gather** a few people,
and **grow** in faith

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:11-22

(read over the scripture together)

OPENING PRAYER

God on high, what does peace even look like anymore? It feels so foreign, so often completely absent from the world we live in. "He is our peace." Jesus, our Savior, is our peace.

He is the one who brings calm and quiet and rest. Give us tangible moments of deep peace. Help us to believe that it is possible to experience peace even in the midst of chaos.

And make us instruments of your peace. May we always spread the truth of Christ and the peace that he brought to each person that we meet. Thank you, God, that peace is not lost. Just help us to know how to see it. Amen.

DISCUSSION (a few of the following)

Discuss Pastor Rich's message today about Passport Power. What stood out to you? What challenged you? What in his message calling you?

Take a look at your passport. Where have you visited? Did you SeeAllthePeople when traveling? Where did you see God at work? Where would you like to go?

Read over Ephesians 2:11-22. It offers a moving appeal for unity between Jewish and Gentile Christians. Several of Paul's letters (especially 1 Corinthians and Romans) issue similar appeals for unity in the midst of church divisions. How do we build Christian Unity? Unity with other Faiths?

In the United Methodist Church we believe in Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors. How can our doors we open at Brooklyn UMC? How do we have open doors and let all in? What are some of the boundaries we set up to keep our doors closed?

Ephesians 2:11-22

So remember that once you were Gentiles by physical descent, who were called "uncircumcised" by Jews who are physically circumcised. At that time you were without Christ. You were aliens rather than citizens of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of God's promise. In this world you had no hope and no God. But now, thanks to Christ Jesus, you who once were so far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Christ is our peace. Christ made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With Jesus' body, Christ broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us. Christ's canceled the detailed rules of the Law so that Christ could create one new person out of the two groups, making peace. Christ reconciled them both as one body to God by the cross, which ended the hostility to God.

When Christ came, Christ announced the good news of peace to you who were far away from God and to those who were near. We both have access to God through Christ by the one Spirit. So now you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God's people, and you belong to God's household. As God's household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone. The whole building is joined together in Christ, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord. Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

SERVE

Our Change for Change Offering for this and next Sunday is for our Youth and their summer mission outings. Each Thursday in June and July our Youth are going out into our community being the heart of the Brooklyns. Your change of special gift will support our youth in service. Funds will also help them to cover the cost of their mission trips to Duluth MN (Middle School) and Nashville (BUMY). If your gathering would like to help in our Thursday projects call the church office to volunteer.

Plan as a Gathering to join BUMC Sunday afternoon for an afternoon of Service!

Could your Gathering volunteer to help serve through ...

Loaves and Fishes. Go to <http://www.loavesandfishesmn.org/volunteer.html> and sign up to volunteer for a few meals this summer. Make sure you sign up for the BUMC site.

SUNNY—Monday, Wednesday, Friday Volunteers needed 10:30am-1:30pm

Join us as a **Gather Group**, form a group at work, your family, your friends or neighbors.

Call the church office at 763-561-1684 and sign up for a few dates this summer.

Grab some **“Homeless Kits”** from Church and hand a few out this week. You are free to add some cash or other items to the bags if you would like.

Join one of our **“Making Sense of the Bible”** Studies

Sundays 10am; Tuesdays 10am or 7pm; Fridays: 7pm

This week we will be discussing some of the Bible’s most challenging texts.

A Way Forward Forums

Talking about the UMC and our relationship with the LBGTQ community

July 31st at 10am or 7pm or August 2nd at 10am or 7pm



FAITH
share read talk pray bless



AT HOME THIS WEEK

Share your High and Low of the day; read the daily scripture; talk about it; pray about each others highs and lows, and at the end of the day, bless each other with the blessing below or one of your own.

SUNDAY: Ephesians 2:11-13

MONDAY: Ephesians 2:14-16

TUESDAY: Ephesians 2: 17-22

WEDNESDAY: Mark 6:30-34

THURSDAY: Mark 6:53-56

FRIDAY: Psalm 89:20-37

SATURDAY: John 6:24-35

BLESSING: “Never let God’s Passport out of your sight!”