

LIFE TOGETHER

with the People of Franklin United Methodist Church

my notes, thoughts, & prayers

Welcome & Introductions

“How is it with you?”

How are you feeling?

How is your faith? your family? your health?

Are you struggling or celebrating?

Are you grieving or rejoicing?

Are you questioning faith?

Where have you found inspiration?

Praying Together

John 13:34-35; 15:9-17 & Psalm 133

Discussion: In This Together

In his book, *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit*, James K.A. Smith argues that we are shaped less by what we believe and more by what we long for. He says we are not so much “thinking things” but beings that long for, desire, and love.

How do we come to love something? How do we develop our longings and desires?

“It’s not that I know in order to love, but rather: I love in order to know” (p.7). Give an example of someone or something that we “love in order to know.”

Jesus gives the disciples a “new commandment.” Why do you think Jesus needs to give this commandment?

How does Jesus expect us to learn to love? to “remain in my love”? Is this expectation about knowing or something else?

Final Thoughts?

‘Till We Meet Again

John 13:34-35, 15:9-17

Common English Bible

³⁴“I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. ³⁵This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other.”

⁹“As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete. ¹²This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than to give up one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I don’t call you servants any longer, because servants don’t know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You didn’t choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you could go and produce fruit and so that your fruit could last. As a result, whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. ¹⁷I give you these commandments so that you can love each other.

Psalm 133

Common English Bible

Look at how good and pleasing it is
when families^[a] live together as one!
²It is like expensive oil poured over the head,
running down onto the beard—
Aaron’s beard!—
which extended over the collar of his robes.
³It is like the dew on Mount Hermon
streaming down onto the mountains of Zion,
because it is there that the Lord has commanded the
blessing:
everlasting life.