

Community According to Jesus

The 2018-19 Pastor's Study

Starting Wednesday, September 19, Pastor Brad will teach a class that will focus on Jesus, and his views, teachings and actions centered on what it means to be community. We'll examine who is welcome, who belongs, and how Jesus identified each. Jesus changed the whole idea of community, but why and how? To begin we'll examine some of the specific pieces of the Old Testament and the Laws around what constitutes, defines, effects, kills and upholds community. From there we'll begin to examine Jesus as we spend some time in the four gospels. Then we'll take a look at Paul and examine the influence of Jesus on Paul; how Paul viewed and built community, take a look at 15 "One Another" verses, and what they might mean for us.

The study will allow us to work alongside the overall themes found within our worship services. The study will also allow deeper concentration on our own mission statement regarding being a vibrant and inclusive, all as foundational as we continue through our exploration of whether or not to be a Reconciling Congregation. Finally, we'll examine our own words, actions, behaviors, set alongside our understandings and assumptions. We'll then place them up against what we find in scripture as together we seek to be a Christian community. This is a vital time for us at Aldersgate. It is a vital time for us as United Methodists as the special session of General Conference approaches in February. So, what better time to explore community, and not just any kind of community, but Christian, Christ-centered community that seeks to grow in faith, love, health and service.

The class is offered on Wednesdays starting September 19. at 10:00am and 7:00pm. The classes will be identical in scope; the same class at two different times. Each week will build on the last, yet also be a "stand alone" class, focused on specific elements of focus. Please sign up starting in September.