

# NEW BEGINNINGS

## Learn in Relationships

*"Speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind" 1 Thess. 5:11*

### WHAT IS LIFE REALLY ALL ABOUT?

**Home** – "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind."

**Family** – the second command is like it: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself

**Relationships** -- "Those who live in the Lord never see each other for the last time."

### We were **designed** for Real Relationships

*"Loneliness is the first thing which God's eye named not good."* J. Milton

**Servant Relationships** – "All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders." Luke 15:29

**Parasitic relationships** – "you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband." John 4:18

**Giving Relationships** – "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

### Real Relationships will face **obstacles**

*A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.* Pr 17:17

*Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.* Pr 27:6

### Real Relationships are a **choice**

**Prioritize** – Action expresses priorities.

**Invest** – see the potential not the problems

**Commit** – Be devoted to (1) *Discipleship*, (2) *Fellowship*, (3) *Worship*

**Connect** – Don't take friends for granted



## Friendship Prayer

*Gracious God, I ask your blessing on all my friends who have given of their own heart and soul to deepen and strengthen my own. I pray especially for those who have walked alongside me when I have not been a faithful friend myself. When I feel alone, remind me that my friends are one your greatest gifts of grace to me. Let me be to them what they are to me. I ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.*

Two people are better than one, because they get more done by working together. If one falls down, the other can help him up. But it is bad for the person who is alone and falls, because no one is there to help. Eccl.4:9-10

*"Without friends no one would choose to live, though he had all other goods."* ~ Aristototele

*"A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out."*  
~ Walter Winchell

*Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."* James Matthew Barrie

### **Fall Worship Schedule**

**10 /5 The Journey Begins!**

**10/12 Live in Gratitude**

**10/19 Lead with Grace**

**10/26 Learn in Relationship**

**11/2 Link in Community I**

**11/9 Link in Community II**

**11/16 Love by Serving**

**11/23 United Methodist Charge Conference**

## *My Dear Friend*

*At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.* Albert Schweitzer

I want to thank you so much for all the ways you inspire me and encourage me when I'm feeling down. By your mere presence you remind me of what a good friend is suppose to be and when I see you reach out to strangers and friends alike with such gentleness and compassion, I'm filled with gratitude that you are my friend too. I've watched you model genuine Christian love, comfort people's hurts, and offer friendship without question and I now know what a difference one Christian can make in the lives of others. You bless my life more than you know. I wanted you to know that today I prayed God would bless you for all the things you have done for me and for others.

When I see you at church, in the store, or just around town I know I have someone I can count on and I know I can make it through anything with a friend like you. I know I don't say this as much as I should, but my life is richer, healthier, and certainly happier because of you. I'm sending you this note so you know what a blessing you are to those whose lives you've touched, like mine.

*Your secret friend,*

**Gracious God,** I ask your blessing on my friend who has given of his/her own heart and soul to deepen and strengthen my own. I pray especially for those who have walked alongside me when I have not been a faithful friend myself. When I feel alone, remind me that my friend is one your greatest gifts of grace to me. Let me be to them what he/she is to me. I ask this for the sake of your self-giving love offered generously through this special friend of mine. Amen.