

Welcome In

Hebrews 10:19-25

Sunday, November 15, 2015
Forest Hill UMC

Hebrews 10:19-25

Hebrews 10:19 Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, **20** by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, **25** not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

God creates us to live together in community. When done with pure intentions, the church is the most beautiful organization on earth.

COMING INTO COMMUNITY

Hebrews 10:22 let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

We are welcomed in to the community officially when we are baptized. Christian Baptism is a holy mystery. We believe that God is present in the water by the power of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is God's act. It is a pure and complete gift. We cannot earn it nor do we deserve it. It is an act of mercy and grace from God alone.

HOLDING HOPE

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.

We are the people of hope. This hope moves us to change our lives; to align our desires with the will of God. This hope gives us faith.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

Our faith fuels our desire to share the gospel with others and to welcome others into our faith community.

LIVING TOGETHER

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, **25** not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Life together is more than going through the motions. It is sharing hurts, fears, joys, celebrations; being real and genuine. It means nurturing one another in the faith and meeting together often. We come together as a community of believers with the purpose of loving God in community, grow in our faith and teaching others, and serving others in ways that bring glory to God.

This week's Bible reading:

Sunday: Psalm 94

Monday: 1 Timothy 5

Tuesday: Luke 4

Wednesday: Psalm 113

Thursday: 1 Timothy 6

Friday: Colossians 2

Saturday: Psalm 116