

Worship Brainstorming

“Belonging: Finding Your Heart’s Home”

Mon., October 10, 2022 at LHUMC

12:00 p.m. Potluck

12:45-2:30 p.m. Brainstorming for Worship

November 6-20, 2022 (3 Sundays)



The worship brainstorming for this series will be held either in the Lounge or Fellowship Hall. Members of all ages and backgrounds are invited to participate in the one-time commitment. The ideas generated at the brainstorming are used in worship.

We will have a potluck at 12:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share. Brainstorming is from 12:45-2:30 p.m.

RSVPs are helpful but not mandatory. Sign up at church or contact the church office (213-798-2181 or Office@LakeHarborUMC.org) or Karen Booth (231-798-8431 or 231-557-1069 or kwbooth@comcast.net). Please read the Scripture and message synopses and preview the videos before we gather if at all possible.

2022 Theme: The Spiritual Journey Continues...

- Picking up the pieces
- Connecting the pieces
- Transformation
- Serving others (passionately)

Synopsis: Everyone wants a place to belong. Home. Family. They should be places where we feel safe, loved, and comfortable. What happens when we lose life-giving relationships and our sense of belonging? How does God’s grace help us to find a place to belong and ultimately find our heart’s home?

2022 theme connection: We want the pieces of our lives to fit together and create a beautiful picture.

Synopsis for series: Do you ever feel like you don’t belong? Maybe we remember feeling left out when we were younger, but sometimes that feeling remains, especially as we struggle with disconnection even as we’re more connected than ever. It seems that loneliness more of a reality than ever before, especially as we come out a global pandemic where some of our connections were compromised. Whether we feel unworthy, alienated, anxious or uncertain about our place in relationships or in the world — the struggle to belong is a “silent, hidden wound” that is real for many people.

Maybe we think of belonging as a place and spend a long time searching for that place, but what if belonging isn’t so much about a particular place? What if it’s about

connection with God and others that can help make us feel at home, wherever we are? We'll use Scripture passages from New Testament letters as our foundation.

Resources:

- **Films** that follow a theme about belonging and community and **related articles**
 - “All Saints” is based on the inspiring true story of salesman-turned-pastor Michael Spurlock, the tiny church he was ordered to shut down, and a group of refugees from Southeast Asia. Together, they risked everything to plant seeds for a future that might just save them all.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCUBHlqzFDE>
 - <https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/all-saints-2017>
 - <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment/movies/la-et-mn-all-saints-review-20170824-story.html>
 - https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/all_saints
 - <https://variety.com/2017/film/reviews/all-saints-review-1202538667/>
 - “CODA”: As a CODA (Child of Deaf Adults) Ruby is the only hearing person in her deaf family. When the family’s fishing business is threatened, Ruby finds herself torn between pursuing her passion at Berklee College of Music and her fear of abandoning her parents. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pmfrE1YL4I>
 - <https://www.premierchristianity.com/reviews/coda-why-christians-should-pay-attention-to-this-oscar-winning-film/12771.article>
 - “Show Me the Father.” This documentary by the Kendrick brothers explores the influence of men on children, fatherlessness, adoption, coaching, and a father’s blessing and invites you to think differently about your earthly father and also how you personally relate to God.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2l0s9U4jh8>
 - “Luca” is a coming-of-age story about one young boy experiencing an unforgettable summer filled with gelato, pasta and endless scooter rides. Luca shares these adventures with his newfound best friend, but all for the fun is threatened when by a deeply-held secret: they are sea monsters from another world just below the water’s surface.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYfJxlgR2jw>
 - <https://christiananswers.net/spotlight/movies/2021/luca2021.html>
 - “The Mitchells vs. The Machines.” A quirky dysfunctional family’s road trip is upended when they find themselves in the middle of the robot apocalypse and suddenly become humanity’s unlikeliest last hope.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= ak5dFt8Ar0>

- <https://www.christianpost.com/news/the-mitchells-vs-the-machines-highlights-importance-of-family.html>
- “Marcel the Shell with Shoes On.” Marcel is an adorable one-inch-tall shell who ekes out a colorful existence with his grandmother, Connie, and their pet lint, Alan. Once part of a sprawling community of shells, they now live alone as the sole survivors of a mysterious tragedy. However, when a documentary filmmaker discovers them, the short film he posts online brings Marcell millions of passionate fans, as well as unprecedented dangers and a new hope of finding his long-lost family. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k98Afd7Nf3Y>
 - <https://thinkchristian.net/marcel-the-early-church-member>
 - <https://screenfish.net/marcel-the-shell-with-shoes-on/>
 - <https://sojo.net/articles/i-needed-tiny-shell-play-me-amazing-grace-curly-pasta?fbclid=IwAR2flGxtcB7lxjEZ1zK9Kr2GbR2kM0jjoLSAbcyeE8A9utxcaYvCr m73DI8>

How and when could we show these films during late October or early November?

- *A Place to Belong: Learning to Love the Local Church* by Megan Hill
Synopsis: Christians know church is important, but sometimes it doesn't seem worth the effort to connect. An eclectic assortment of people with differing personalities, political views, and parenting styles can make for awkward interactions and difficult connections. What's the point of putting in the tough work to build relationships? But the Bible says God's people ought to be bound together. It uses words like beloved, brothers and sisters, saints, and fellow laborers to describe their mutual relationship in the church.... (The author) encourages and equips both first-time visitors and regular members to delight in being a part of the local church – no matter how messy and ordinary it seems today. It is only when God's people begin to see one another as the Lord sees them that they will truly find a place to belong. <https://static.crossway.org/excerpts/media/6e6170567afbb15fd3577cd664d87e135624f7c8/A Place to Belong excerpt.pdf>
- This is an older article, but may offer some insights: <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/9615/gallup-number-of-americans-who-belong-to-a-church-or-house-of-worship-plummets>

Questions and notes for reflection:

- *St. Augustine's Confessions*: “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”
- Belonging is different than fitting in. How?
- Do we belong before we believe?
 - Belong, behave, believe - what does this look like in a family? In the church?

Visuals: stick heart (ribbons for All Saints Day)

Music: *Good, Good Father; Bind Us Together* (FWS 2226); *Pues Si Vivimos/When We Are Living* (UMH 356)

Social Justice Issue for November 2022: Homelessness

November 6, 2022: “For All the Saints”

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints Day

Scripture: Ephesians 1: 11-23 (NLT)

¹¹ Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan. ¹² God’s purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. ¹³ And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. ¹⁴ The Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

Paul’s Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom

¹⁵ Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God’s people everywhere, ¹⁶ I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, ¹⁷ asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. ¹⁸ I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. ¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms. ²¹ Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. ²² God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. ²³ And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

Scripture reference: Romans 14: 7-8 (NIV)

⁷ For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Synopsis: We are all called to be saints – those who help one another to know God better.

Felt need: To remember the faith of those who were a part of our community and find strength in the faith we claim together

Visuals:

Hands-on item: seed, ribbon

Activity: remembering the saints – bell toll, Holy Communion

Media possibilities: Show a clip from *All Saints* when Ye Win describes “church hut” in refugee camp (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmuEyvcSMf0> – very short clip at 4:15).

Music: *For the Beauty of the Earth* (UMH 92), *My Hope Is Built* (UMH 368), *For All the Saints* (UMH 711)

Children’s Time:

Social media:

NOTE: Charge Conference will be held in the afternoon.

November 13, 2022: “I Belong”

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

NOTE: Pastor Mary may invite someone (or more) to share this message.

Scripture: I Peter 2: 1-10 (MSG)

2¹⁻³ So clean house! Make a clean sweep of malice and pretense, envy and hurtful talk. You’ve had a taste of God. Now, like infants at the breast, drink deep of God’s pure kindness. Then you’ll grow up mature and whole in God.

The Stone

4-8 Welcome to the living Stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out; God set it in the place of honor. Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you’ll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God. The Scriptures provide precedent:

Look! I’m setting a stone in Zion,

a cornerstone in the place of honor.

Whoever trusts in this stone as a foundation
will never have cause to regret it.

To you who trust him, he’s a Stone to be proud of, but to those who refuse to
trust him,

The stone the workmen threw out
is now the chief foundation stone.

For the untrusting it’s

. . . a stone to trip over,

a boulder blocking the way.

They trip and fall because they refuse to obey, just as predicted.

⁹⁻¹⁰ But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.

Scripture: Ephesians 2: 19-22 (MSG)

¹⁹⁻²² That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You *belong* here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

Synopsis: We need the basics to survive like food, clean water, air, sleep, shelter, and security. The need for love and belonging follows close behind. (See Maslow's hierarchy of needs.) How does a community of faith provide that need, and how can we offer it to others in the name of Jesus?

Felt need: To share and hear stories of what it means to belong and believe

Visuals:

Hands-on item:

Activity: Acknowledge Veterans Day

Media possibilities:

- “#BeUMC.” Length: 1:56. Cost: Free. Web license: Yes. We are the church. Together. Let's #BeUMC. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vi1k7uAJ9zM&t=11s>
- “You Belong.” Length: 1:24. Cost: \$19.99. Web license: Yes. This upbeat video welcomes visitors, encourages members, and invites everyone to sing, praise, and worship God. Everyone is welcome at church. <https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/116274/you-belong-here>
- “A Place to Belong – Worship.” Length: 1:23. Cost: \$19.99. Web license: No. Start your service with this inspiring look at how everyone – members and visitors alike, are welcome at your church and have found a place to belong. <https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/67935/a-place-to-belong--worship>
- “Belong.” Length: 2:19. Cost: \$20.00. Web license: No. As we are looking for significance and searching for who we are, those around us help to uplift and encourage us. It is those people we call friends and family, and it is those people that help us feel like we belong. <https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/54156/belong>

Music: *Cornerstone*, ask for favorite hymns

Children's Time:

Social media:

NOTE: This could be a series of vignettes about what it means to belong to God, the Body of Christ, a community of faith, etc. The vignettes could use an example from one of the films.

November 20, 2022: "Sing from the Heart"

Christ the King Sunday, Sunday before Thanksgiving

Scripture: Psalm 100 (NIRV)

A psalm for giving grateful praise.

¹ Shout for joy to the LORD, everyone on earth.

² Worship the LORD with gladness.

Come to him with songs of joy.

³ Know that the LORD is God.

He made us, and we belong to him.

We are his people.

We are the sheep belonging to his flock.

⁴ Give thanks as you enter the gates of his temple.

Give praise as you enter its courtyards.

Give thanks to him and praise his name.

⁵ The LORD is good. His faithful love continues forever.

It will last for all time to come.

Scripture: Philippians 4: 4-9 (NRSV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Synopsis: Gratitude can be a powerful spiritual discipline that reminds us of our need for community in Christ. Taking intentional time to thank God opens us to be more

aware of all that we can be grateful for. Saying “thank you” is a reminder that we need others – and that others need us.

Felt need: To cultivate gratitude for our connection to God and each other

Visuals:

Hands-on item: a thank you note to be written to someone who did something for you that you couldn’t do on your own

Activity:

Media possibilities:

- Show a clip from *CODA* when Ruby is signing as she’s singing “Both Sides Now.” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6_-L4esdvl (Length: 3:56. Cost: Free. Web license: No.) or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhHz6FcrVmQ> (Length: 2:19. Cost: Free. Web license: No.)
- “Thanksgiving in All Circumstances.” Length: 1:43. Cost: Free with subscription. Web license: Yes. Use as an opener to this year’s Thanksgiving Services. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/99669/thanksgiving-in-all-circumstances>

Music:

Children’s Time:

Social media:

NOTE: Hanging of the Greens is in the afternoon.