

Sunday June 28, 2020 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

**Bible Study – Matthew 10:40-42
Love All the People**

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes). In pairs or groups of three, name a person you like to hear from the least (it could be a politician, friend, coworker, or family member —hopefully not your pastor!).

Group Dialogue (Approximately 30 minutes)

Matthew 10:40-42 - Context. This week’s reading is the final exhortation of the “Missionary Discourse,” where Jesus reminds his hearers and readers that all who are disciples of Jesus – including, but not limited to, the preachers, the teachers, and the outstandingly holy ones – represent Christ to the world. And when they do, their reward will be from God. Even the humblest gesture to those in need will not go unrewarded.

Read Matthew 10:40-42

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn’t make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

Read Matthew 10:40-42 again

Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

- How does being welcomed or received well by another (person or group) set the tone for a positive encounter? [Receiving hospitality sets the mood of invitation and relationship building. It can be disarming and sets the table for trust and possibly vulnerability.]
- What does the image of giving a cup of cold water in verse 42 invite us to consider about our actions and disposition?
- How might we embody hospitality in such a way that others see Christ in us? How is living in such a way that embodies hospitality another way we preach the gospel?
- How does your church typically talk about measures of success? Is it in terms of money (Is there enough to pay the bills?) Is it in terms of attendance? (Was the sanctuary full or uncomfortably empty? Where there a certain number of views on our online worship platform?) What might it look like if our main measurement for faithfulness to Christ as a church was about how we

welcomed people, extended hospitality, and connected to others with the community and with God? How might we measure that? What would it look like if we knew it was happening well?

- How can your church “love all the people” in your community?

Read Matthew 10:40-42 again

Closing Reflection Question

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

Prayer (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:

I ask God for....

I thank God for.....

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

Loving God, you invite us to “see all the people,” “hear all the people,” and “love all the people” that we are in relationship with. Guide our hands in mercy, our eyes for compassion, our feet toward welcoming, and our mouths for offering peace to those far and near. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord’s Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.