

Sunday July 5, 2020 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

**Bible Study – Galatians 5:1; 13-26
Independence Sunday**

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes). In pairs or groups of three, tell a story of when you felt most free.

Read Galatians 5:1; 13-26

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 Galatians 5:1; 13-26 again

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

- In groups of two or three, explore the possible ways in which we might use the word “freedom.” Then discuss as a large group.
- When Paul states that the Galatians were “called to freedom” (5:1) what might that mean? How does that differ from political freedom? [Political freedom or liberty has to do with freedom from the oppression and tyranny of the government. Liberty also contains the sense of responsibility to uphold the virtues of justice and the pursuit of happiness.]
- As a group, work to create two lists. One list is a description, based on this passage, of what it looks like to be “guided by the flesh” or selfishness and another list for being “guided by the Spirit.” As you look at the contrast between these lists, what do you notice?
- Read verses 22-23. Why do you think that “Fruit” is singular in verse 22? [All are summed up in the word ‘love.’]
- How does freedom from sin enable us to more freely love God and others?

Read Galatians 5:1; 13-26 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:

God of freedom and love, you have called us to live in freedom – freedom from the tyranny of sin and for lives of love to God and neighbor. May our lives radiate the fruit of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control —in all we do and say. **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.