

COURT STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WELCOME

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2022

GATHERING

Prelude	<i>Welcome</i>	Rev. James West
Gathering		
Song of Faith		<i>Jesus, United by Thy Grace</i>

ENGAGING

Prayer of Illumination		
Scripture		Jeremiah 29:1, 4-9
Act of Praise	<i>The Open Table</i>	Rev. Jim West
	Message:	
	<i>Fear Bravely: Neighbors</i>	
Prayer		

THANKSGIVING

Offering		
Invitation to the Table		
Upcoming		
Song of Faith		<i>Jesu, Jesu</i>
Blessing		
Postlude	<i>I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath</i>	Rev. James West

Today's alter flowers have been generously provided by Dibby Thomas, in honor of David W. Thomas

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

As you reflect on this week's message and continue to meditate upon Mark 12:28-34 ponder these questions from Catherine McNeil's book *Fearing Bravely: Risking Love for Our Neighbors, Strangers, and Enemies*, (Colorado Springs: NavPress in alliance with Tyndale House Publishers, 2022) 85-86. Perhaps you will choose to write about them in a journal or chat with a friend.

- What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
- Do you think of following Jesus as something primarily for your heart and mind to believe, or for your body and life to do? Why?
- How does reading the pronoun you in the Bible as plural change your understanding of the gospel and the Christian life?
- Who are the people in your neighborhood? What are the demographics of your city or town, and how does that compare to the people you know best?
- What people in your community do you think of as "those people"—too different from you to really understand or embrace?
- Jesus said that all God's law could be summarized by loving God with your heart, soul, and strength, and loving your neighbors as yourself. What do you think Jesus meant by this? How do these two commands together fulfill all that God wants from us?
- If this church suddenly closed, would our neighborhood feel the absence? If so, how? If not, why not?
- In what ways have you viewed your neighbors with fear? How can you begin to view them with love?

Prayer of the Week

Jesus, every time you point to this kind of extravagant, risky love of God and my neighbor it's as if fear and it's side-kick "but what if" comes knocking on my door. Move me and my congregation outside of our comfort zones into the world and among the people you have created for your delight. Show me how good it can get. Amen.

Scripture for Next Sunday

Luke 10:25-37

Vanco Giving

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Call to Worship by Richard Bott, alt. and posted on Sharing Liturgy. <http://liturgy.richardbott.com/>

Prayer of Illumination from a collection of prayers posted on the Wordship@North website. <https://northchurhindy.wordpress.com/>

Prayer of Dedication from the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand website. <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/>