



August Formation: KNOWING AND SHOWING GOD'S LOVE

Even (and perhaps especially) during a pandemic we are striving to live as disciples of Jesus Christ and make the Christian faith a way of life. Through virtual gatherings (on August 2 and August 23) and an online “playlist” of resources, we have control over what, when and where we learn.

Visit the links below to invest in your own personal growth and be equipped to care for and serve with others.

Resources for Personal Study August 2 - 16

LOVE

Love is the primary way we know God, and it guides how we treat one another.

Read:

- [Mark 1:9-11](#)
- [1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#)
- [A Long Faithfulness](#) - sermon by Rev. Anna Dickson
- [1 John 4:7-12](#)
- [How Love Shows Us the Way during difficult times](#): devotion by Bishop Michael Curry

Watch:

- [Chalkboard Theology: Baptism](#): (7:00)
Think of your own baptism or stories you've been told. How has knowing that you are loved by God shaped who you are?
- [A Long Faithfulness](#) - @17:06-32:30 - sermon by Rev. Anna Dickson (15:00)
- [The Biblical Meaning of Love](#) - Seven Minute Seminary (8:00)
- [The Present](#) - short film (4:18)
God's love/kinship meets us where we are, relentlessly, until we see it in ourselves and pass it to others. How can you pass God's love to others today?

Listen:

- [Love Your Enemies](#) - The Bible Project podcast about the Sermon on the Mount (48:34)
Loving ones enemies is difficult. Think of someone who you disagree with. How can you love them while still disagreeing?
- “[You Say](#)” - song by Lauren Daigle, sung by Boyce Avenue
- “[All Belong Here](#)” song by The Many

Do

- [Getting along collage](#) - activity for families
- Remind our family of faith that we are loved by God and by one another. Print, color and deliver this [Love Letter](#) to someone you miss seeing at church.
- Participate in “[What LIES Between Us](#)” - virtual 5 week Anti-Racism Course- Tuesdays, Aug 4 – Sept 1 at 8pm ET
- Buy supplies for Westerly Hills and First Ward students. Details to come.
- Drive through **drop off** school supplies **and pick up** communion bread to use for virtual communion on August 16th.
 - Wed, August 12 9:30-11:30am
 - Thursday, August 13 1-3pm and 4-6pm

Resources for Personal Study August 23-30:

UNITY

“The test of faith is whether I can make space for difference. Can I recognize God's image in someone who is not in my image, who language, faith, ideal, are different from mine? If I cannot, then I have made God in my image instead of allowing him to remake me in his.”

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, *The Dignity of Difference: How to Avoid the Clash of Civilizations*

Read:

- [1 Cor. 12:12-30](#)
- [Unity in Differentiation](#) - Center of Action and Contemplation
- [Matthew 22:34-40](#)
- [How We Love](#) - Center for Action and Contemplation
- [The Divine Gift of Unity](#) - Henri Nouwen Society
- [A Flexible Faith: Rethinking What it Means to Follow Jesus Today](#) - book by Bonnie Kristian
Rev. Mary Margaret Porter will discuss the book on August 23 @10:0a.m. [[Register for Zoom](#)]
Mary Margaret is also leading a bible study on this book Thursdays @9:30a.m. Contact: mporter@firstpres-charlotte.org
- [Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces that Keep Us Apart](#) - book by Christena Cleveland
Dr. Cleveland will livestream at Myers Park Presbyterian Church on Sept. 20 @7:00 [[more](#)]

Watch:

- [How We Can Face the Future Without Fear, Together](#) - TED Talk - Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (12:28)
[Love An Other: the Bible's Call to Unity, Justice, and Equality](#) - Theoacademy - Rev. Denise Anderson (5 clips ~6:00 each)
- [Places in the Heart Communion scene](#) (4:11) - an imagined scene in which Communion unifies all those who belong to God, both living and dead. [[Plot synopsis](#)]
When the congregation participates in Communion, it re-members. As you celebrate virtual Communion on August 16, envision the connection you have with others who are also receiving this sacrament.

Listen:

- [Unity is created out of Diversity](#) - Richard Rohr on 1 Cor. 12:12-30 (10:09)
- [Love Your Enemies](#) - The Bible Project podcast about the Sermon on the Mount (48:34)
Loving ones enemies is difficult. Think of someone who you disagree with. How can you love them while still disagreeing?

Do

- [Getting along collage](#) - activity for families
- [21-day Youth Anti-Racism Challenge](#) from Eddie Moore
- Attend webinar: [“What Does It Mean To Be White”](#) - Rabbi Judy Schindler and Rev. Dr. Ben Boswell - August 14 @11:00a.m.
- Participate in [“What LIES Between Us”](#) - virtual 5 week Anti-Racism Course- Tuesdays, Aug 4 – Sept 1 at 8pm ET
- Loaves and Fishes needs drivers for its home delivery program. [Contact Danielle.](#)
- Freedom School Partners needs volunteers to prepare activity kits and sort donations. [Contact Tommy.](#)
- Classroom Central needs help creating SPARK Flashcards [Visit their website for details.](#)