

“CONNECT: BUILDING UP OUR LIFE TOGETHER”
“Connecting Through Generations”

We have begun our new sermon series, “Connect: Building up our Life Together.” Over the next few weeks, we will examine our life together and what connects us to one another and to God. To help with our focus and our prayer, each week we will be given a “building block” in a particular color. This week, our color of building block is brown. The color brown represents support and stability. Sunday is also Grandparents Day. For many of us, our grandparents represent love and support and were always there. Some of us as grandparents, love and support our grandchildren with passion and devotion. Some of us choose our grandparents and choose our grandchildren. Support and stability are important for everyone, and as a follower of Jesus, we create that environment as a church. This week may you be support for someone who needs it most and may you thank or lean into someone else who supports you.

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Connecting Through Generations”**

Daily prayer: *Bless grandparents near and far, may they know long life, happiness, and good health. May they remain constant in your love and be living signs of your presence to their children and grandchildren. Bless those relationships who help us grow in faith and in love, those relationship that provide support and stability for us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Study Guide

Monday, September 9, 2019 2 Timothy 1: 3-5

In this letter, the author remembers this young man in his prayers and reminds him of the faith of his mother and grandmother. The author gives thanks for their relationship as mentor and mentee and the faith they share. Faith is not always passed down in families, but when it is, it can be a powerful experience. Sometimes faith is not part of one's biological family but is part of one's family of choice. This faith often helps strengthen and guide in times of trouble. Grandparents are often that connection between faith, love and God. Yesterday was Grandparents day. *Who is your spiritual grandparent? Our building block color is brown which is the color of stability and support. Who support you in your faith journey? Who offers you stability when your life becomes hard or difficult?*

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 Ruth 4: 11-13

The book of Ruth is beloved for many reasons, not the least of which is Ruth loves her mother in law enough to leave her country and her people and follow Naomi to Bethlehem. This story of faithfulness and love is deep because they were related by marriage. After the "men" have died, these women depend on each other. In modern terms, these verses are difficult in terms of women being inherited as property. Boaz chooses to offer marriage to Ruth, who by biblical standards is unacceptable as a Moabite. Boaz is an honorable man and honors not only Ruth, but Naomi as a widow. Families can be messy, but also in the midst of the messiness can be grace, support and stability. Boaz offers stability and support to Naomi and Ruth. *In your relationships, how do you seek to offer support and stability to someone who needs it? As you focus on your brown building block, how is your relationship with God supporting you in your relationship with others?*

Wednesday September 11, 2019 Ruth 4: 14-17

Through Boaz's marriage to Ruth, Naomi becomes a grandmother through the biblical law and through Ruth's deep love of her mother-in-law. The child Ruth bears becomes David's grandfather and through David, an ancestor of Jesus. The love and devotion of Ruth and Naomi is a symbol, a witness to the power of love in the midst of grief and difficulty. This intergenerational relationship points to how each age and stage of our lives can be helpful and supportive to others. *At what time in your life did you discover the gift of either the joy, passion and wisdom of youth or the joy, passion and wisdom of age? How do you share your joy, wisdom and support in this stage of your life? Today, pray that you might be a wise and loving influence in the lives of others.*

Thursday September 12, 2019 Psalm 92: 12-15

The ending of this lovely psalm is a reminder that God's grace and strength is available always. Sometimes the focus on age tends to make all good things young and all bad things old. Even the "old" can bear fruit and can make a difference. The old can provide support and stability when the worlds can seem difficult for the young. Celebrating Grandparents Day, invites us to ponder and give thanks for the gift of understanding and wisdom that sometimes comes with age. *How have you experienced the gift of wisdom from someone older than you? How do you offer wisdom from your life experiences whether you are old or young? Using your brown building block as a focus, ask God to help you offer support and stability to someone who needs it.*

Friday September 13, 2019 2 Timothy 1: 6-7

Paul reminds Timothy to rekindle, rebuild or reboot the gift of God that is within him. Part of the ministry of the church is to nurture, "kindle" and "guide" faith in the young. From birth, through preschool, elementary, middle and high school, college and beyond, the community of faith is called to kindle and rekindle, build and rebuild the fires of faith. Often the young feel stifled and misunderstood rather than encouraged and nurtured. This Sunday, we will be giving our Bibles to our children. This gift is one of support in their faith journey and an offer of stability that faith brings. *Think of some ways this community of faith rekindles and rebuilds the faith of our young people? How can we be a better support for our children, youth and young adults?*