

**BETTER TOGETHER**  
**“Generation to Generation”**

We continue our sermon series “Better Together. This month will encourage us to focus on our relationships and our calling to live out our faith in Jesus. Last Sunday we were reminded that our work reflected our love of God. Everything we do and say witnesses to our faith in Christ. This weekend is Grandparents Day. This “hallmark” Holiday is not widely celebrated and yet what a good way for us to focus on our call to be Better Together intergenerationally. For many of us, our grandparents represent love and support and they 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. On Sunday night we kick off our Sunday night programming which focuses across generational lines. We can learn from one another: young offering new insight and hope to those who are older and the older offering wisdom and depth to the young. May these words reflect our work and faith this week as we remember we are truly “Better Together.” Pastor Cindy

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“Generation to Generation”**

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This week’s sermon may be viewed at <https://boxcast.tv/channel/f9yfyjzko2esfwfc5vkn>

**Prayer for the Week**

*Holy God, who is both friend and parent to us, 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.*

**Monday, September 13, 2021 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 bad things old. Even the “old” can bear fruit and can make a difference. The old can provide support and stability when the world seems 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? In what ways are we Better Together from our age-related differences?*

**Tuesday September 14, 2021 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 and love and God. *Who is your spiritual grandparent? Who supports you in your faith journey? Who offers you insight and wisdom when your life becomes hard or difficult? How does that help you connect with a diverse community where we live out the theme we are Better Together?*

**Wednesday September 15, 2021 2 Timothy 1: 6-7**

Paul reminds Timothy to rekindle or rebuild or reboot the gift of God that is within him. Part of the ministry of the church is to nurture and "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. Think of some ways this community of faith rekindles and rebuilds the faith of our young people? *How can we be Better Together and offer support for our children, youth, and young adults? And if we are part of a younger generation, what gifts do we offer to the older generations?*

**Thursday September 16, 2021 Mark 4: 26-29**

Jesus begins this chapter with the parable the sower, then uses the image of NOT hiding a lamp under a bushel and how the gifts we receive are expected to be shared. Here then is another short parable using the images of seeds, growth, and harvest. The placement is interesting. God's kingdom is like a plant: first the seed, then the seedling, finally the full growth and the harvest of the produce. In healthy family systems there are children, parents and grandparents and each age and stage is part of the reign of God. The beginning, the middle and end, and how these generations encourage and care for one another offers love and compassion and witness God's action at work in the world. Sometimes that can be actual ages and sometimes it is stages we live through no matter what our age. *How do these ages and stages create a community where we are Better Together? Do you have more than one stage happening in your life and how does that nurture your love and relationship with God?*

**Friday September 17, 2021 Mark 4: 30-32**

The parable of the mustard seed is very familiar. The author of Mark places it with other "farming" imagery. This time, instead of images of where seed falls or of harvest, Mark speaks of the growth and strength of the mustard tree. A tiny seed grows into a large bush that shelters small animals. Seeds of faith are planted generation to generation. It may not be a family built upon blood lines, but on lines of love. Those who are more mature in the faith create a space of shelter and safety for the more vulnerable among us. *Who are those saints who make a safe space for the community might grow in grace and be Better Together? How do you provide a safe place for others in your life?*