
Graphics and Audio Notes

- There **will** be a sermon starter video.
- There **will** be notes and / or scripture to show on screen during the sermon.
- [Include other notes about graphics or media during the service here]



Text highlighted in this way have a slide prepared to be on screen.

Text highlighted in this way are a reminder for Andrew during delivery.

Text highlighted in this way are direction for Andrew during delivery.

Key Questions

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about paying attention to what we do have - our assets.

Why is this sermon important?

It is important because paying attention to what we do have brings contentment.

What is the good news?

The good news is that God's love is for all of us. It is abundant, it is already here, and all we have to do is receive it.

What are the next action steps?

You are invited to look for what you already have in your life, in our congregation, and in our community.

What is the context of this sermon?

This is the fourth sermon in a series on neighboring. It utilizes material from NeighboringMovement.org

Metadata

Topics

- Share

- Transformation of the World

Sermon Books of the Bible

- John

Tags

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, neighbor, neighboring, practice, community

Sermon Audio at 9 a.m. Worship

Sermon Audio at 11 a.m. Worship

Sermon Video

Unavailable

Promo Text / Series Introduction

Love your neighbor is a simple guide to living from Jesus, yet sometimes we struggle to live this way in our actual lives. During this worship series, you will be invited on a journey of spiritual formation, engaging your actual neighbors where you live and together we will begin to experience what it means for our congregation to be a good neighbor. Invite a friend to join you for worship at First United Methodist Church from October 22 to November 26 for The Good Neighbor Experiment.

Worship Planning Notes

Hook

- Jesus invites us to love our neighbor. Let's figure out how to do it together.

Objectives

- Spiritual formation
- Engaging our neighbors
- Being a good neighbor as a congregation

Tie-Ins

The Good Neighbor Experiment Practice Group

Sermon Titles, Scripture and Notes

Date	Sermon Title	Scripture Text	Notes
October 22, 2017	Why Neighbor?	Mark 12:28-34	
October 29, 2017	Community by Design	Acts 2:37-47	
November 5, 2017	Humble Servants	Matthew 23:1-12	Guest Preacher, Andrew Present All Saints Day Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 12, 2017	Asset Mapping	John 6:5-13	
November 19, 2017	Intro to Spiritual Formation	Galatians 5:22-23	
November 26, 2017	Celebrate Abundance	Luke 15:11-24	United Methodist Student Day

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John 6:5-13, CEB

John 6:5-13, NRSV

Response to Scripture

Sermon Starter Video

What You Have or Don't Have **7**

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The Good Neighbor Experiment

Key Example - Asset Based SoCe Life

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Gifts and Assets

Design

Free to Fail (Joy)

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What is a community asset?

Community

Church

Self

Faith

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Good News

Call to Action

Invitation

Closing Prayer

Introduction

John 6:5-13, CEB

⁵Jesus looked up and saw the large crowd coming toward him. He asked Philip, "Where will we buy food to feed these people?" ⁶Jesus said this to test him, for he already knew what he was going to do.

⁷Philip replied, "More than a half year's salary worth of food wouldn't be enough for each person to have even a little bit."

⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, ⁹"A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this?"

¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass there. They sat down, about five thousand of them. ¹¹Then Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he distributed it to those who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, each getting as much as they wanted. ¹²When they had plenty to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing will be wasted." ¹³So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that had been left over by those who had eaten.

John 6:5-13, NRSV

⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

⁷Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little."

⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?"

¹⁰Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

Response to Scripture

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

What You Have or Don't Have

Personal Example - Kitchen and Grocery Shopping

Tell story...

There is a difference between focusing on what you have and focusing on what you don't have. This difference is the focus of the message today and we will consider it in the scripture, our congregation, and our life with God.

The Good Neighbor Experiment

The sermon today is part of The Good Neighbor Experiment worship series. During this series, we are focused on the simple guidance from Jesus to love our neighbor. We are part of a national neighboring movement which was started in Wichita by colleagues in The United Methodist Church. This sermon and series have been developed using their content from NeighboringMovement.org.

Key Example - Asset Based SoCe Life

My friends, Adam and Ashley, started a non-profit in Wichita which was focused on engaging their neighborhood in a positive, relational way. They found that most community development models were based on needs - what is it that does not yet exist in the community? What are we missing?

They found that focusing on the "bad things" or weaknesses in their neighborhood did not feel right. They literally looked out their front door each day and saw compassionate, skilled neighbors taking care of each other in large and small

ways. Over time, they discerned for ourselves a founding belief that everyone is gifted and if they offered opportunities for people to share their gifts, there would be healing and wholeness for individuals and for the community.

Transition

With that said, let's explore asset mapping used by Jesus and the disciples.

Scripture: The Fishes and Loaves

One of the most powerful Biblical stories about assets is the story of the fishes and loaves from John 6. You can follow along in the scripture that you find in the bulletin.

Jesus' Question

⁵Jesus looked up and saw the large crowd coming toward him. He asked Philip, "Where will we buy food to feed these people?" ⁶Jesus said this to test him, for he already knew what he was going to do.

Jesus doesn't solve the challenge for them. He simply asks a question.

Philip's Needs Based Response

⁷Philip replied, "More than a half year's salary worth of food wouldn't be enough for each person to have even a little bit."

What do we not have?

Andrew's Asset Based Response

⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, ⁹"A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this?"

He sees what already exists in the community.

Jesus' Wisdom in Response to Assets

¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass there. They sat down, about five thousand of them. ¹¹Then Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he distributed it to those who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, each getting as much as they wanted.

Jesus guides sharing among the community.

Abundance Results

¹²When they had plenty to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing will be wasted." ¹³So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that had been left over by those who had eaten.

The disciples identify the problem of a lack of resources, but Jesus tells them to do some Asset Mapping! When we place even the smallest gifts into God's hands, surprising things can happen.

Transition

Asset mapping focuses on three neighboring ingredients: Abundance, Gifts and Assets, and Relationships.

Let me remind you of the neighboring ingredients which we are exploring during this series.

Neighboring Ingredients¹

During this worship series, we are taking a closer look at the Jesus command to love our neighbors – the actual people that live next to us.

Design is one of the key ingredients in neighboring and I want to remind you of the other neighboring ingredients with a very brief explanation.

Abundance

Abundance

Neighbors view the world with abundance over scarcity. The markers of abundance are joy, hope, optimism, and contentment – seeing the good in people and in events.

Gifts and Assets

Abundance

Gifts and Assets

Neighbors believe that all people have skills, talents, and assets. When we share our assets, we experience wholeness and the community gets stronger. In a world that usually focuses on needs, neighbors point to assets.

Design

Abundance

Gifts and Assets

Design

Neighbors design their homes, calendars, and relationships to create space for other people. Neighbors adjust their routines and rhythms to make neighboring the path of least resistance.

¹ Adapted from The Good Neighbor Experiment Leaders Guide: Session 1.1 Why Neighbor?

Free to Fail (Joy)

Abundance
Gifts and Assets
Design
Free to Fail (Joy)

Neighbors approach failure with joy. Failure is informative and helps shape what comes next. Neighbors are unafraid to try new things because they are free to fail.

Spiritual Formation

Abundance
Gifts and Assets
Design
Free to Fail (Joy)
Spiritual Formation

Neighbors prioritize their spiritual health so they can build healthy relationships with others. Spiritual formation helps us operate as people who are loved unconditionally, and who love others non-coercively.

Relationships

Abundance
Gifts and Assets
Design
Free to Fail (Joy)
Spiritual Formation
Relationships

Neighbors value meaningful relationships knowing that community is essential for health and happiness. This ingredient is essential, and for some people it will be the easiest and most obvious, while for others it may feel the most awkward.

Celebration

Abundance
Gifts and Assets
Design
Free to Fail (Joy)
Spiritual Formation
Relationships
Celebration

Neighbors celebrate often with gratitude, inviting others to join when possible. Celebration produces joy and aids us in the ability to be free to fail. Celebration recognizes abundance and encourages future experimentation.

Transition

You don't need to feel responsible for fully understand all of these ingredients. We will continue to consider them during this worship series and, at times, will focus on just a few of these ingredients.

Consider Our Assets vs. Needs

What is a community asset?

The talents and knowledge of our neighbors,
the schools in our neighborhood and the staff and programs there,
the churches in our neighborhood and the staff and programs there, and
the businesses in our neighborhood.

Community

Wendy's
Great restaurants

Church

Not enough parking

Sanctuary
Children and families

Self

Gadgets and technology
Already have

Faith

I don't pray enough
I don't read the Bible enough...

Conclusion

Good News

The good news is that God's love is for all of us. It is abundant, it is already here, and all we have to do is receive it.

Call to Action

Invitation

Closing Prayer

Jesus, I am sorry for all the times in my life when I mess up.

.....
And if anything comes to mind, ask God's forgiveness.
.....

Forgive me of my sin and all that I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross and rose for me.

I trust you with my life.

Help me receive your forgiveness.

Please fill me with your Spirit and help me to follow you.

In your holy name, Amen.