



Trail Guide -- Week of September 13, 2020 – “...One with God and each other...”

Regarding the early Methodist system of organizing the members into small groups, here's what our founder, the Rev. John Wesley, had to say: *“It can scarce be conceived what advantages have been reaped from this... Many now happily experienced that Christian fellowship of which they had not so much as an idea before. They began to ‘bear one another’s burdens,’ and naturally to ‘care for each other’... they had a more endeared affection for each other... And ‘speaking the truth in love, they grew up into Him in all things, who is the Head, even Christ; from whom the whole body, fitly joined together, and compacted by that which every joint supplied, increased unto the edifying itself in love.’ Notwithstanding all these advantages, many were at first extremely averse to meeting thus”* (*Works of John Wesley, Vol. 8, p.254*)

Wesley was referring to the system of “classes” that emerged from the growth of the early Methodist “societies,” which were the entry point into the Methodist movement. He had in mind, of course, in-person small groups of men and of women that met together weekly. Most likely, he would have embraced today’s “zoom” gatherings as well, as means by which we can “bear one another’s burdens” and “care for each other.” I chuckle that then, as now, there are those who are “averse to meeting thus.” We have not changed much. This month of September, we’ll have some new opportunities to meet together. Please check out the September newsletter and the W-Info. Other opportunities are emerging, including in our Neighborhood Groups, as we look for additional ways to connect, grow, and celebrate with one another. Stay tuned, and if you don’t see what you’re looking for, please ask. Below are some scriptures that reinforce and encourage us to grow “one with God and with each other” on our faith journey.

Have a blessed week – and may God use you to be a blessing to others!

Monday 9/14 - [Hebrews 10:19-25](#)

Tuesday 9/15 - [1 Thessalonians 5:8-11](#)

Wednesday 9/16 - [John 13:12-15](#)

Thursday 9/17 - [John 13:34-35](#)

Friday 9/18 - [Ephesians 4:29-32](#)

Saturday 9/19 - [Galatians 5:13](#)

Think of those who have served Christ and who have helped you to grow in your faith. Say a prayer of thanks for them, and write them a note! Ask God to help you be this sort of sister or brother who will be the recipient of such a note!

Pray for the beginning of our inside, in-person worship on Sunday, September 20! We still need volunteers to help with greeting, ushering, and more.