



September 20, 2017

CALLED TO COMMUNITY

This Sunday, I invite the Hills Church to begin a season of conversation about why we are *Called to Community*. It's a conversation about the purpose and value of church. Or you might think of it as answers to the question "what good is church?" In the weeks ahead, I invite us all to look with a fresh perspective at the place of the church community in our lives and in the world. I hope that this will be a season to rekindle our awareness of how God's Spirit is at work among us.

This Sunday, I will begin the sermon series *Called to Community* by inviting us to look at one reason we are called to community: because life is difficult. Community is God's strategy for meeting the difficulties of life with God's steadfast love and abundant grace. In pastoral care visits, I often listen to people who have suffered life's difficult hours—illness, injury, loss and grief—and I get to hear the stories of how God was present to them through the community of the church.

Likewise, the mission of the church to meet life's difficulties is made real in the ministries of service. In the next few weeks, our church will provide housing for families in partnership with Family Promise, work on new homes with Habitat for Humanity, and fill the lawn with pumpkins to raise money for hands-on service. This Sunday afternoon, we all are invited to return to church at 3:00 p.m. to hear from people who have visited with the Siddi people in India with African Indian Alliance.

We are called to community because life is difficult, and the church is most alive when we see God at work in the church to meet difficulty with the power of redemptive love.

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister