

Monday: Deut. 10:19; Luke 14: 7 - 11 - As we talked about Sunday, the practice hospitality is grounded in the heart of God. God offered hospitality to us before we even considered offering it to others. By God's grace, people may be more ready to accept an invitation from us than we even realize! Consider our congregation: what are 3 or 4 key entry points (groups, activities, events) through which new people are most likely to connect? What could we do to make our current ministries more inviting? When is the last time you invited someone to a church event (worship, activity, etc)? How do you feel about inviting others?

Tuesday: Romans 15: 1 - 7 - Radical means "arising from the source." The church is called to offer something different from the world. Where the world sows division, the church embodies unity. Where the world sows hostility, the church offers love and hospitality. People are looking for meaning - and place to be accepted and known. Churches practicing hospitality work hard to figure out how to make people feel at home. How do people in the community hear about CUMC? What are 2 or 3 groups of people in our area that are waiting to be invited? (single moms, older adults, etc.) What might they need? What might we offer?

Wednesday: Matthew 22: 8 - 9 - Many scriptures, like this one, make it clear that the invitation is our responsibility - our privilege really. You may have heard being a Christian like this: one beggar sharing with another beggar where to find food. In what ways could the whole congregation be helped, reminded and encouraged to invite and welcome new people?

Thursday: 1 Cor 9: 24 - 27 - Building up our hospitality "muscle" takes intention. We have to keep trying, keep improving. Think about what happens when a new person or family visits worship the first time. What could make that better? Or when a new person attends a Sunday school class. What could make that even better? What steps would be involved to do the best and most radical kind of welcoming in all of our ministries?

Friday: Hebrews 13:2 - The preacher in Hebrews seems to say that there is something sacred in practicing love of stranger. It is a divine appointment, waiting to happen. What is a simple, safe idea you and/or your group could do this week? This month? What is the big, maybe scary, God-sized idea you and/or your group could do this week to practice hospitality?