

Fall Bible Study 2018 Hospitality

Assembly has recently selected “Radical Hospitality” as its current three-year goal for the congregation. To help move this goal forward, Worship Committee believes it is good to focus our fall Bible study around the theme of “Hospitality”.



This is a central theme of the Bible, in both the first and second testaments, commonly called the Old and New Testaments. It is also a theme of the Mediterranean world, recognized as a sacred trust among many peoples and faith groups. This is the context in which the biblical material was nurtured and shaped. Nomadic life, with few public inns available, necessitated showing hospitality to the stranger and guest. Within the biblical story, these strangers were sometimes a deity or the deity’s messengers (Genesis 18, 19 & Hebrews 13). Hospitality provided protection, even from one’s enemies during times of travel.

Jesus was dependent upon hospitality for much of his ministry (Matthew 8 & 9, Mark 7 & 14, Luke 7 & 8). And hospitality is assumed when Jesus sends forth the disciples (Matthew 10, Luke 9 & 10). Paul also relied upon hospitality in his missionary travels.



Since hospitality plays such a central role in the biblical narrative, our series will focus on how our emphasis connects with the biblical witness. We will want to give attention to how we exercise radical hospitality not only to those in our community and world as we are able, but also how we exercise and experience radical hospitality within our own faith community here at Assembly. 2nd hour discussions (in an elective) will continue the theme, helping to expand and embody the hospitality we envision.

Date	Preacher	Theme	Scripture text
10/21	Paul Keim	Introduction to Hospitality	Genesis 18
10/28	Karl Shelly	Church without borders: hospitality's political implication	
11/4	Nathaniel Fontan	Immigration and Hospitality <i>Surprise Luncheons following church</i>	Genesis 41:55-57
11/11	Sarah Turner	The Lord’s Supper and Hospitality	1 Corinthians 11:17-34
11/18	Kay Bontrager Singer	Learning from Faith Mennonite about Hospitality	2 Kings 4:8-17

2nd Hour Electives
Fall 2018
October 21-November 18

1. Practicing Radical Gratitude - Input from various Assembly-ites
Hear from various Assembly participants about different gratitude practices. We will hear from folks who write, make music, art, and practice gratitude across generations. This is a chance to learn more about why gratitude is good for your brain and soul and how to make a practice that works for you.

2. Bodies- Continuing our conversation about Sexuality- Facilitated by Gayle Gerber Koontz
Following our powerful fall series on sexuality the conversation will continue in this elective as we talk about how our bodies are socialized for gender, work and social interaction. We will talk together about how a community of faith can help us be hospitable to all ages of bodies and remind us that our bodies are lovingly and beautifully made.

3. Hospitality- Led by Worship committee planners
Continue the first hour conversation with guests and on the Biblical theme of Hospitality. Delve further into the texts that we are using for this fall Bible Study.
Guests are especially welcome here.

