

11-17-19

“For Our Church Family – the Body of Christ”

GFUMC Eph. 4: 1-16

- I. The church is a family – just not always a _____ one.

“Our family is like Grandma’s Christmas fudge – mostly _____ with a few nuts.”

Family = “a group of people, sometimes of the same blood, who genuinely love, trust, and look out for each other. A family is not to be mistaken with relatives sharing the same household who hate each other.” (Urban Dictionary)

- A. When I say family, I mean what Paul said in Ephesians 4: 6... We all have “one God and _____ of all, who is above all and through all and in all.”

When we worship, we _____ with God, who is above us and with each other. When God works in us we _____ together. And when we _____ others, God works through us.

A healthy church family is a church that celebrates and makes the most of the connection to God through Christ, and the connection to each other.

- B. When I say we are a family, I mean that we are God’s children. _____ of us

“All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being...” (John 1: 3)

- C. When I say church family, though, I’m talking about connection – I’m talking about belonging. In a healthy church family, you can _____, even before you believe.

...in a healthy church family we set up more tables and chairs instead of setting up more _____.

- II. The church is also uniquely the _____ of Christ.

- A. I am thankful for the _____ that binds the body. (Eph. 4: 3-6)

In the church body, we don’t have unity of opinion, but we have unity of the Spirit.

- B. I’m thankful for the _____ that blesses the body. (1 Cor. 12: 14-18; Eph. 4: 7)

“To each one of us _____ has been given,” Paul writes in Eph. 4: 7. Not all the same gifts, right? Some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers...

- C. I am thankful for the _____ that builds the body.

If your ministers are doing what we are called and gifted to do, then we will be helping to _____ the whole body for the work of ministry.

If this body of Christ is healthy and doing what it is supposed to do, it will be growing in Christ so that it can serve as _____.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people. (St. Teresa of Avila)