

Saint Giles Presbyterian Church
5101 Oak Park Road
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Friends,

We have just completed a three-week worship series on discipleship. Over these three weeks, I have identified six practices of discipleship that should inform how we live, how we serve and how we express our commitment to Jesus Christ.

1. Serve big-heartedly: Choose service that “fits” your gifts, talents, abilities and interests. Choose service that requires you to give freely, generously. Choose service that rejects far-too-common patterns of reciprocation. When you find yourself thinking “What’s in this for me?” or feeling resentful or sucked-dry, stop in your tracks. Discipleship is not about compensation or reward, nor about guilt or exhaustion. Stop in your tracks and check-in with yourself. Maybe make a list of what God has big-heartedly given you.



2. Travel lightly: Show up with what you need: a bottle of water, a spirit of humility, an eagerness to learn and a commitment to be fully present. In terms of emotional baggage, do what you can to know your baggage: be aware of what stirs it up, identify alternative behaviors, and take time to pause, breathe and think when your baggage has been activated.

3. Dwell wisely: Wisdom is the “sweet spot” where we are uncomfortable enough to grow. Wisdom is the vulnerable space in which we are challenged to reconsider long-held beliefs. Wisdom is finding and nurturing relationships that turn racism on its head. Wisdom is acknowledging that I can choose to dwell in one place and you can choose to dwell in another. Wisdom is discerning - when to stay and when to go, knowing these timelines differ from person to person.

4. Don’t be afraid: “Don’t be afraid *of those people*” - those people who resist, harass, interrogate - those people who dig their heels in, who deny the need for change, who reject Jesus’ principles of transformation. They are going to be there - building walls of resistance, battling to keep things exactly as they are. Our job is to live the way of God, to do the work that brings forth God’s Kingdom.

5. Prioritize Jesus: Spend your time and energy, devote your attention, to “kingdom values.” God calls us to contribute to a new kind of community. God calls us to dismantle inequitable systems. God calls us to build just systems - systems designed to underscore that all people are God’s beloved. God calls us to cross boundaries (visible

and invisible), to serve strangers, to connect with outcasts, to befriend the lost, to touch those deemed un-touchable, to reach those who have been cast aside, to love those who have convinced themselves they are unlovable.

6. Double down on hospitality:

- Hospitality that *requires reaching*. Open your door. Knock on their door. Offer a cup of cold water. Sip water side-by-side. Provide a meal. Share a common table. Offer something specific. Show up. *And keep* showing up. Listen. *And keep* listening.
- Hospitality that *requires reflecting*. Develop and maintain a “beginner’s mind” - a curious mind, ready to learn. Notice your non-verbal communication. Get in touch with your implicit biases. Admit your prejudice. Acknowledge your mistakes. Be honest about what you *don’t* know.
- Hospitality that *requires growing*. Pursue unexpected relationships. Stretch yourself. Create a list of meaningful questions. Honor the silence. Make eye contact. Assume positive intent. Believe - *practice* believing - that all people are God’s Beloved.

Whether you are responding to COVID-related needs or engaging in activism related to racism, I invite you to choose one or two practices to focus your discipleship in the weeks ahead.

Peace to you and yours,
Katherine

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Giving to Saint Giles

Although we are not physically meeting each week, Saint Giles continues to pay our staff and support many benevolences. Presbytery, Step-Up Ministry, Urban Ministries, YMCA, Campus Ministry, and others all continue to receive our support that comes from our budgeted income. Now more than ever, we need your continued support to make sure that our works continue. Your giving makes a difference and we ask that you consider keeping your donations up to date by mailing a check to the Church office or calling Dave Gospodarek (919-880-5618) to make a credit card payment.

Thank you for your support during these times.

If you need assistance with shopping or other errands, please contact Emmie (office@saintgiles.org) or Katherine (katherine@saintgiles.org).

If you are able to offer assistance with shopping or other errands, please contact Emmie (office@saintgiles.org) or Katherine (katherine@saintgiles.org).

Connecting during COVID

Are you missing our community of faith? Our sense of connection and family? Our regular interactions? **There ARE things YOU can do!**

1. Make a phone call - talk with someone you are missing - reach out to someone who you think might be feeling disconnected.
2. Send a note - most folks enjoy receiving something other than bills & junk-mail in their USPS mailbox.
3. Reach out via text or email - send a picture, ask a question, deepen an existing relationship or spark a new one.
4. Organize a (small) group get-together - plan a group facetime or google meetup, schedule a ZOOM gathering (the staff team can help with this), plan a conference call or think creatively about how to SAFELY meet in-person: limited numbers (less than 10) + masks + social distancing +lawn chairs in a cul-de-sac? driveway conversations? parking lot talks? separate 6' tables in the Fellowship Hall? Please contact Emmie before making a plan that involves a gathering on the church campus.

SAFETY is #1, followed VERY CLOSELY by lots of grace and understanding.

- Some folks feel comfortable gathering in small groups. Others do not.
- Some folks are ready to assume some risk related to getting together. Others are not.
- Some folks share their needs, fears and medical diagnoses with ease. Others do not.
- Some folks have made “family agreements” related to social contact. Others have not.



All this is to say: Do not assume everyone is “on the same page” as you. Do not feel pressured to say “Yes” if you want or need to say “Not yet.” Be sensitive to one another. Choose words that allow LOTS of room for “No, thank you.” Be kind to one another. We are stronger when we create gracious spaces that honor our diversity as a community of faith.

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Directory Update

We've compiled responses to the directory and have updated listings we have received changes for. Here are the updated listings:

BUNN, Doug & Cyndi
6513 Wynbrook Way
Raleigh, NC 27612
673-5038 (Cyndi)
847-2821 (Doug)
doug@thehoneydohusband.com
cyndibunn@gmail.com

GRASSI, Dan
17 Oakland Street
Weaverville, NC 28787
grassidg@yahoo.com

GRASSI, Dick
17 Oakland Street
Weaverville, NC 28787
208-8726

HART, David & Rita
7308 Glendower Road
Raleigh, NC 27613
395-6652 (Rita)
270-0240 (Dave)
rmhart4610@aol.com
dhart5303@aol.com

JOHNSON, Ashlee
3411 Bremer Hall Ct #302
Raleigh NC 27615

LAVENDER, John and Susie
Katie
5205 Mallard Grove Drive
Raleigh, NC 27616
790-9436
523-6811 (John)
802-7518 (Susie)
jkslav03@bellsouth.net

MOODY, Joe & Sue
4816 Metcalf Drive
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906-4452 (Sue)
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MORTON, Ed & Libby
4930 Brookhaven Drive
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4120 Sedgewood Drive, #202
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417-6022
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