

# Small Group Ministry

Spring 2023 – Week 10

## Opening Prayer:

Common to all Small Groups

**Lord, we thank you for today and for this time to gather as friends in faith. We pray for our church and our community. Guide us and help us to deepen friendships and seek to grow in faith together. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## Opening Discussion

1. How is everyone? Highs /lows from the week?
2. Share a word that makes you smile about being a part of Trinity United Church family.

## 1 Corinthians 12:3-13

<sup>3</sup>Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

## One Body with Many Members

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

## What is a Small Group?

- Faith Exercise - Intentionally deepening our relationship with God.
- Building Community - Intentionally deepening our relationship with others in faith.
- Common Interest – Intentionally celebrating common ground.

## Group Parameters:

- Gatherings will begin with Prayer & Scripture to unify this ministry across the groups.
- Members will remain courteous and ensure that everyone is given the opportunity to share.
- Thoughts and feelings shared are private and should remain confidential.
- You are encouraged to share news but cautioned about crossing into the territory of gossip.
- Grow in friendship, faith, and community with one another through this experience.



## John 7:37-39

### Rivers of Living Water

<sup>37</sup>On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, <sup>38</sup>and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" <sup>39</sup>Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive, for as yet there was no Spirit because Jesus was not yet glorified.

## Acts 2:1-21

### The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

### Peter Addresses the Crowd

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

<sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

<sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

## Discussion Questions:

May 28<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Sunday. Some regard the Pentecost described in Acts 2 as the 'birth' of the Christian Church. In this moment the promised gift of the Holy Spirit came upon the gathered believers and by that power they did astounding things. The reading from Corinthians reminds us of the source of the power we have that allows us to do ministry of any kind. That power is the Holy Spirit. On this Sunday of Pentecost, we are also celebrating the anniversary of Trinity United Church (1840). With this celebratory framework on our weekend, we offer these questions.

### Acts 2:1-21

**What is your first recollection of church? How has your faith, lived through church community, been transformative in your life?**

### 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

**What are your gifts of the Holy Spirit? gifts do you see in others?**

### John 7:37-39

**How have you experienced the 'living waters' of the Spirit by your belief in Jesus Christ?**

## Musical Reflection:

Something About that Name – Anne Wilson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bAhvyPJYWrA>



Living Water – Anne Wilson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=depXVe6MFk8>



**How can the group pray for you this week?**