

THE ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS REVIEW:  
MISSION AND WITNESS  
Sunday, August 22, 2021

Additional Resources

Today's service has been recorded and can be found on FPC's website:

Every service in the summer series is available.

**Question 51: Who are the needy?**

The hungry need bread, the homeless need a roof, the oppressed need justice, and the lonely need fellowship.

At the same time – on another and deeper level – the hopeless need hope, sinners need forgiveness, and the world needs the gospel.

On this level, no one is excluded, and all the needy are one.

Our mission as the church is to bring hope to a desperate world by declaring God's undying love – as one beggar tells another where to find bread.

*The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version*

In his book, The Great Spiritual Migration, Brian McLaren reflects on the transition from being a pastor of a congregation to being a member of one. He wondered if he would want to go to church at all. It would be easy to skip since no one was watching. What part of "church" would he miss? What could he live without? Here is what he discovered:

"...what I needed as a parishioner was very different from what had preoccupied me as a pastor. I wasn't looking for clever sermons or a certain style of music. I didn't need a church that was "cool" or "contemporary" or big or small. I certainly didn't need a church whose primary goal was to police the belief systems of its members.

Instead, I wanted and needed a church that would help me live a life of love, with as little distraction as possible. I needed sustenance, encouragement, and help in loving God, loving myself, loving my wife, loving my kids and grandkids and extended family, loving my neighbors, especially people I might struggle to love, and loving the earth.

I felt that without a community and regular gatherings to help me, I could too easily drift, too easily shift into autopilot, too easily stagnate and sour. Without intentional care and relevant practices, my soul could grow weary and cold, or go small and dark. I could lose my way. Easily."

Many of us are wondering what church looks like on the other side of the pandemic. Perhaps that isn't the most important question. More pressing it seems to me is "How do I learn to live in deeply loving ways - so that I look, act, talk and walk like Jesus/Spirit - and what community can help me do that?"

Cameron Trimble from 5/7/21

Witnessing and being in mission may look different going forward. SDE