

## Imagine

*Imagine the results  
if we blessed everyone we encounter.*

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## Welcome

- We welcome our new participants.
- Our Folders ... (last week's material)
- We are seeking to Define ...
  - who we are and what we do as people of God in Christ.
  - ways we join Jesus in God's mission with Clarksvillians.

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## Prayer

Lord, we pray your blessings on our gathering, our breaking bread together, and our conversations. May you inspire our hearts and minds, and may we imagine with you the future you have in store for us. In Christ's name and for his mission we pray. Amen.

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### We Start with Why

- Why do we exist?
- How do we behave?
- What do we do?
- How will we succeed?
- What is most important right now?

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### Our Why?

- Our reason to exist is to advance God's Mission.
- "The church does not have a mission. Rather the mission of God has a church."
- Our church exists and has purpose only as we serve God's mission to people of the Clarksville region.
- We shape our ministries to fulfill God's mission.

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### Blessed to Be a Blessing Genesis 12

- From God's call and commission of Abraham & Sarah, **we** are called and commissioned to be a blessing to all we encounter.
- We are especially called to bless every person who comes in contact with us as MSUMC.

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## Blessing as Fulness of Life

- Human Flourishing = blessed, favored, happy, well
- Aristotle = *eudaimonia* = doing & living well
- Jesus: "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."  
(John 10.10)
- ***If we as God's people bless all we encounter,  
imagine what kind of community we can have.***

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## It's About Relationships

- *Church* is relationships of spiritual companionship.
- Relationships mean people before programs.
- Relationships are *here* and *out there*.
- We must cultivate spiritual friendships as we do good.

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## Hospitality as Blessing

Genesis 18

- Abraham hosts strangers of the promise (Gen 18)
- Abraham's hospitality opens the promise of birthing Isaac.
- Abraham & Sarah modeled biblical hospitality,  
opening themselves to the blessings of others.

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### Radical Hospitality

- Root *Greek* word = *ghosti* = guest <> host
- Hospitality = the line between guest & host disappears.
- Hospitality = the deepest human exchange.
- Hospitality creates “home” for all.
- Hospitality is renewal, healing, reconciliation, belonging.

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### Imagine Hospitality

- Imagine ways our hospitality can change our church.
- Imagine ways we can practice hospitality on Sunday.
- Imagine ways we enlist *greeters* for Sunday, more hosts.
- Imagine ways we can be very intentional with hosting.
- Imagine ways we can form new groups.

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### Other Key Texts

- Luke’s Good Samaritan chapter 10
- Luke’s Great Banquet chapter 14
- Paul: Romans 12, 15.7; 1 Corinthians 12, 13;
- Ephesians 2.11-22 “No longer strangers”

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### Practice Hospitality

- Notice others (those we don't know)
- Acknowledge / greet / welcome
- Care & share
- Listen and enter one another's stories
- Make *home* for the guest, true belonging
- Follow up & stay with

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### Being Ready to Host

- Imagine ways we can anticipate & prepare to host.
- Imagine ways we can be better hosts for one another.
- Imagine ways we can better host guests and newcomers.
- Imagine ways we can extend hospitality to all the groups that gather in our facilities.

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### Tie a Bow on It

- Wrapping Up
- Blessed to be a blessing and to extend hospitality
- Genesis 12 & 18
- Luke 10, 14
- Romans 12
- Notes, notes, notes

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Next Week

- Practicing blessing & hospitality **“out there”**
- Imagine ways we extend hospitality to gatherings in our city.

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Benediction  
Numbers 6.24-26

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
- The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
- The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

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