



Better Together

As many of us can recite, the mission of Guilford College UMC is to be a place where lives are transformed, believers strengthened and disciples equipped to live beyond themselves. These important steps of Christian maturing are incredibly difficult to achieve on our own. Over three Sundays in January, we'll examine Hebrews 10:19-25 and see how Christians are called to grow through the blessings of community. We're truly *Better Together*.

January 13 – “Let Us Draw Near to God.” At Christmas, we celebrated how God drew near to us in the person of Jesus. As a result of who Jesus was and what Jesus did, we can now draw close to God like never before. The book of Hebrews says that all the mysteries of heaven are ours to experience here on earth. Through private prayer and public worship we can experience great intimacy with God. These essential Christian disciplines also draw us closer to one another.

January 20 – “Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together and Encouraging One Another.” Because we live in such an individualistic society, it's hard to imagine the world of the New Testament which hardly contained the idea of a solitary Christian believer. Instead, the Christian community shared meals, material resources and – most of all – the sort of encouragement and accountability that leads to spiritual growth. Through growth in holiness we show that Jesus' sacrifice for us was not in vain. Support and accountability in small groups were the drivers of spiritual growth in early Methodism are might be the key to our renewal today.

January 27 – “Let Us Spur One Another to Love and Good Works and Hold on to Hope.” Among the greatest blessings we can experience in Christian community is to join together in the work of God's kingdom. Whether it's chopping vegetables for Wednesday night out, welcoming children and families to Trunk or Treat or packing meals for the world's poorest people with Rise Against Hunger, there's nothing more satisfying than serving together in Christ's name. These actions will bring joy to you in the present and increase your hope about the future that God has in store for us.