



## ***Rooted***

### **Broadway United Methodist Church, Fall 2021**

#### **Week 1, September 8, 2021**

##### ***Guiding Question: What is church?***

And I pray that y'all, being **rooted** and **established** in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that y'all may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:17-19

- Church is **not** a social club, but a team. We want you to be the best version of yourself AND to make your unique contribution to the team.
- Church is **not** a consumer product. We are not spiritual consumers. We are partners. The New Testament word is KOINONIA. It means we each have a share in the partnership that we call church.
- Church is **not** the building. It is a dynamic movement of people through every time and place.

*Broadway began in 1907 and 1908 in Bowling Green, KY as a church plant from State Street United Methodist Church, with an expanded building in 2004 and Greenwood Campus in 2007.*

**BUMC Mission:** **Invite** means we take seriously God's welcome to all people and that the most profound thing is God's absolute unconditional, unwavering love for us. **Grow** means we believe people are not stuck and can be formed in profound ways to love God and love neighbor. Grow means God can work in us to overcome our sin and our brokenness, and we can become the person God created us to be and become fully alive. **Serve** means that we want to be like Jesus who said he came not to BE served but TO serve and to give his life away.

At Broadway, **everyone is welcome**. We don't ask people to change and then come. There is no welcome "but." Everybody is welcome. We are a place for imperfect people who experience healing and redemption.

Without experiencing **God's deep love** for us we will never be changed. When we experience love deeply, we can't help but be changed.

We stand in the Methodist tradition, started by John Wesley to reform the Anglican church in the 1700s and refocus its efforts on spiritual growth and transformation.

We gathered around the process of real, ordinary people becoming Christ-like, spiritually transformed fully alive, passionate and holy and free. Wesley also believed there was no holiness without **social holiness**. So they gathered people into small groups to challenge and encourage each other to live bold lives of faith. Our movement has always called people to worship and works. They called it **works of piety** and **works of mercy**. Going to church, praying, receiving the sacraments AND also feeding the poor, visiting prisons, and educating children. We believe right beliefs are important. But those right beliefs are for the purpose of right living.

**Week 1 Prayer Exercise:**

*Imagine Jesus walking on the seashore.*

*You are fishing with nets.*

*Jesus walks up to you.*

**What do you see in his eyes?**

**What does he say to you specifically?**

**What does he say about your part in a larger community? How are you part of the team?**

*Then he has an invitation: Drop your nets. Come follow me. I will make you fish for people.* **What does this mean for you? What**

**does it mean to follow Jesus with these people, in this course?**

**How might you give yourself wholeheartedly to this course, to one another, to God in these short weeks you will have together?**

**Breakout Room Discussion Questions**

1. What did you think or find interesting about tonight's video?
2. Did anything about the video seem surprising or particularly speak to you?
3. What was your biggest take away?
4. What do you value in a community of faith and in that community's beliefs or doctrine?
5. What does it mean to follow Jesus as part of a community versus as an individual? What difference does the community around you make to that experience?

**Coming next week:**

Becoming Fully Alive: What does it mean to be in relationship with God?