Our scripture comes from Hebrews 10:23-25. While you’re finding that, a pastor suddenly became sick and asked his twin brother, also a pastor, to fill in for him and conduct a funeral that had fallen on that day. His brother agreed. When he arrived, the casket was closed and he realized didn’t know whether the deceased was a man or woman. Thinking quickly, he approached an elderly lady sitting on the front pew. He leaned down and whispered to her, “Brother or sister?” She shook her head, looked him in the eye and replied, “Cousin”.

**Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**

The church has done many things this month. From ordaining a new deacon to celebrating Homecoming to making a Brunswick Stew, it’s been a month of hard work and wonderful fellowship. It’s been a month of busy hands. Many people have done many things in secret, but through it all, we’ve never lost sight of the reason we do what we do, the reason we gather in this place, the reason we are the church – Christ is the Reason.

We’ve studied what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. We’ve come to the conclusion that it is more than just going to church or knowing Jesus name or having a bumper sticker on our car. Being a disciple is seeking to be like the Master. We seek to speak like Him, think like Him, love like Him – not just while we’re in the pews, but while we’re out in the public. We sing a song about – Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace. When we are consumed in following Jesus, response to offense grows strangely unnecessary, having more stuff grows strangely unneeded, meditating on all our problems grows strangely unfruitful - love takes on a new urgency, forgiveness takes on a new weight in the light of His glory and grace.

Fellowship must never be neglected. Never forget that Homecoming isn’t about the meal on the table, but the people around the table; the stew is not about the people buying, but about the people making. Fellowship is about the love we bring to share with our brothers and sisters.

There’s a story of a group who came to share a pot of soup. Everyone brought a bowl and a spoon, but no one brought anything to place into the pot. As a result, everyone left hungry.

And so it is with fellowship. Coming only to receive will soon lead to everyone leaving hungry and unfulfilled. Coming with an abundance of blessings to share fills everyone to overflowing. Always bring blessings to share.

As we leave today – blessed with tired bodies and soaring spirits, blessed with full hands and fuller hearts, blessed with memories of another wonderful month, recall that fellowship with one another – assembling ourselves together, as the scripture says – is an act designed to stir up love and good works – fellowship is designed to cause us to seek how we might encourage one another, edify one another, and help one another grow in Christ Jesus. 1 John 1:3-4 says **that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.** Our fellowship with one another must always be founded on our personal fellowship with God and Jesus His Son, bringing our blessings to share with our brothers and sisters, with our clear goal being to bring full joy to everyone we touch.