

Church names are interesting. So many churches are named for their location. That goes all the way back to the beginning – Corinth, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Galatia. You can learn a lot about a church by their name. For instance, most 1st churches (regardless of their denomination) are traditional they believe they have a history to uphold. Holy Trinity, Wesley, (Street name), Hope – all common names for Methodist Churches. I love that our church is named Faith – for so many reasons. I have loved hearing the stories of Mrs. Joan and Mr. Campbell dreaming and praying about a church here in Hamshire-Fannett. The story of the nursery door. The stories of the early days of our Rice Festival booth prepping the fajitas. What are some of your favorite stories?

Stories are important because they connect us to God and each other. Stories connect us through our emotions. They help us understand ourselves and each other. Last year we went through the book of Genesis through our *“Tell Me The Stories”* we looked at Noah, Abraham, Jacob and Esau. We learned more about God through the stories of the patriarchs and matriarchs. We saw the ways in which God had to adapt in order to reach the people that God loved.

So what do we know about God? We know that God loves us more than we can understand. We know that God shows up in ways that we do expect and do not expect. Sometimes God shows up in the least

“Stories let us share information in a way that creates an emotional connection. They help us to understand that information and each other, and it makes the information memorable. Because stories create an emotional connection, we can gain a deeper understanding of other people’s experiences.”