



# Mission & Values



## WARM-UP

Find a gif on your phone that describes your current mood. Share with the group and explain. (Either text your group message the gif or show people on your phone)

### Our Values

Not Earned   Not Threatened   Not Alone   Not About Us   **Not... Not Fun**

### Value #5 – Not...Not Fun:

We take Jesus seriously, not ourselves, because humor and play belong wherever the Spirit is present.



What do you like best about this value?



How do you see this value at Hope?



How do you see yourself engaging with this value at Hope or in life?

“To gather joyfully is indeed a serious affair, for feasting and all enjoyments gracefully taken are, at their heart, acts of war.

**In celebrating this feast we declare that evil and death, suffering and loss, sorrow and tears, will not have the final word.**

But the joy of fellowship, and the welcome and comfort of friends new and old, and the celebration of these blessings of good and drink and conversation and laughter are the true evidences of things eternal, and are the first fruits of that great glad joy that is to come and that will be unending.

**So let our feast this day be joined to those sure victories secured by Christ,**

Let it be to us now a delight, and a glad foretaste of his eternal kingdom.”

- An excerpt from a liturgy entitled “Feasting with Friends” in **Every Moment Holy** by Douglas McKelvey



What stands out to you about this liturgy?



What makes engaging in fun or joy difficult?

### PSALM 100:1-5 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.

<sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.

<sup>5</sup> For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

### **ROMANS 12:3 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

### **ACTS 4:13 (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup> When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and took note that these men had been with Jesus.

### **PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7 (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



What stands out to you in these verses?



How do you see the value of “Not...Not Fun” in these verses?



What’s the difference between a shallow joy that avoids pain and a gospel-shaped joy that can hold it? How might joy itself be an act of faith in seasons that feel heavy or unresolved?



In your opinion, what proposed value is strongest in our church today? Weakest? How might we contribute to bolster the weaker value?

## DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



- What is stopping your joy this week?
- This week, how can you take Jesus seriously but not yourself?
- How can you recognize Jesus as the Author of your joy this week?