Something to Believe In

In his remarkable book, “Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time,” Marcus Borg points out that the word believe did not originally mean mental assent to a set of doctrines or teachings; in both Latin and Greek its roots mean “to give one’s heart to.” “Believing in Jesus does not mean believing doctrines about him,” Borg writes. “Rather, it means to give one’s heart, one’s self at its deepest level” to God in Christ.

This is, at least in part, why United Methodists in general tend to be short on dogma & doctrine, and long on love. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, said, “If thine heart is as my heart, take my hand.” Wesley was not especially concerned with dogma. His ultimate concern was for every Christian to experience and practice the love of God in Christ.

At The Fountains, we will continue that “warm-hearted” Wesleyan experience as we reach, touch, and teach by sharing the story of Jesus. The new life promised in Christ is ours not just to keep to ourselves, but to share with those whom we meet on a day-to-day basis.

The life of a disciple is grounded in relationship – with God and with one another— it’s not whether everyone agrees on what to believe in. Unlike other traditions, we are not a “creedal” church. There’s not “dotted line” at the bottom of a doctrinal statement for you to sign on. Like Wesley, we “think and let think.”

Some books for your consideration on the journey: