Sometimes we become so familiar with things that we forget to give our ongoing "thanks" or "praise" for them.

- + What are a few of these things in your own life?
- How can you practice being more consistent in talking to God about your gratitude for such things?

Who is someone you know that especially excels in showing gratitude (either to others or to God)?



# **GROWTH:**

### JOURNAL PROMPT

God, help me to live intentionally this fall as I learn more about your Holy Spirit and the attributes of a life rooted in you. Nourish me through my study of your word, community with my small group, and worship in church. Show me clearly the tasks, relationships, and work to which you are calling me. Amen.

### **CALLING PROMPT**

God is inviting you to participate in his ministry by answering the unique call on your life. How can you actively respond to scripture and God's presence this week?

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

## Let's prepare for the week ahead, shaped by our time together today.

Gracious God, we trust that you go with us in the week ahead. We are changed each time we gather to learn more about you and your Word. Please give us boldness to proclaim your good news in the coming week and bring us back safely together again in this community. Amen.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Gracious God, thank you for being with us during our gathering as a community today. May we strive to grow in faith both individually and together. We ask that you bless this time of learning and fellowship, as we read Colossians.

## COMMUNITY Time to build relationships: mix + mingle!

- https://standrewmethodist.org/worship/sermons/)

+ What specific point resonated with you from the weekend's sermon?

+ If you couldn't attend, ask others in your group what stood out to them. (Note: Links to both video and audio versions of previous sermons can be found at

+ Where did you see God's presence in your past weekend?

## VIDEO – WEEK 2 WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE NOTES


## **SCRIPTURE** A great starting place is always in God's word. This week we are in:

### **COLOSSIANS 1:6B -14**

<sup>6b</sup> In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.<sup>7</sup> You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, <sup>8</sup> and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,<sup>10</sup> so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, <sup>12</sup> and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you[d] to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. <sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Paul describes the fruitfulness of the gospel is beyond anyone's own doing; rather is thanks to the Holy Spirit! This passage is the only reference to the Holy Spirit in the whole letter to Colossae. As a pastoral leader, Paul is encouraged to see that these people are really embracing the love of God and the gospel. He knows this, because a friend and fellow minister named Epaphras has been shepherding this group of people and keeping Paul updated on their progress. Epaphras likely heard Paul preach and learned the gospel through the ministry that is spreading throughout Asia Minor. In the early church, it is a rare thing to have multiple mentors in the faith and reliable sources of the gospel... so Colossae is thankful for the ministry of Epaphras and Paul.

Gratitude is a key theme for many of Paul's writings, and Colossians is no different. This is so prominent in his writings because it was so important to him as a person! The posture of thankfulness is the way God desires we live. It is in this way that we come to see clearer all that God is doing around us, in us, and for us.

Who is Epaphras in v.7 and why does Paul mention him?

What does Paul say the Holy Spirit "gives"...?

How does this passage relate to the Fruit of the Spirit we learned about recently (from Galatians 5)?

# **SITUATION**

# **QUESTIONS:**