



Mt Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Making and Growing Followers of Jesus

Sermon Title: Christ's Command to Connect

September 16, 2026

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Jesus says in John 13:34, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." I loved last Sunday at MLEPC seeing Life Together demonstrated through our Kickoff event! Watching you all interact with one another was incredible and inspiring. There is nothing more beautiful when the Church of Christ is being the Church. I trust you had a good time connecting and gathering as one church. Love one another.

This week, as we continue our *Life Together* series, we are going to look at something that was at the heart of Jesus' ministry: connection. Jesus did not simply come to teach truth from a distance; He stepped into people's lives. He shared meals by breaking bread, laughed with them, welcomed children, noticed those others overlooked in society, and spent time with people who desperately needed to know that they were seen and loved. Jesus showed us that following Him has always been about loving God and learning to genuinely love one another.

Jesus surrounded Himself with people who were far from perfect. The disciples had different backgrounds, personalities, opinions, strengths, and plenty of weaknesses! I thank God for this because I know I have mine! Yet Jesus invited them to walk with Him and with each other during this time in history. Along the way, they learned what it meant to encourage one another, serve one another, forgive one another, and grow together. Jesus knew something we sometimes forget: we need each other. God often does some of His deepest work in our lives through the people He places around us. Who are you connected to right now?

This Sunday, we will explore "How Jesus Connected" and what His example can teach us about our own relationships in 2026. Many of us know what it feels like to be surrounded by people and yet still feel disconnected or alone. Jesus offers us something deeper; and that is a life where we are truly known, loved, encouraged, and challenged as we follow Him together. I hope you will join us as we continue discovering the beauty, joy, and sometimes messiness of Life Together. See you Sunday! Love one another.

Blessings,

Ben Kendrew
Discipleship Director