

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## WEEK NIGHT STUDY

### *Faith and American Politics: Liberty and Justice for All*

This seven-session course of study, discussion, and reflection focuses on the value of faith in the exercise of our citizenship. Through the use of videos and readings, this theme is developed by examining:

- Our founders' understanding of liberty and how their founding documents seek to protect our liberty within the government they created to serve the people;
- The call of Jesus and the prophets for just societies;
- Diverse Christian responses to these ideas.

A key feature of *Faith and American Politics: Liberty and Justice for All* is to build small-group learning communities that practice civil discourse to support the expression of diverse opinions during potentially contentious discussions. The group develops a sense of community and trust. Participants express their ideas, questions, values, and beliefs while the group listens respectfully. Through group exercises and one-on-one conversations, participants help identify behaviors that promote common understanding and respectful dialog. They prepare themselves to engage actively in the extended community.

The course is comprised of a one-hour orientation and six two-hour sessions. Each session is designed to be self-contained, but builds toward the next, both in content and sense of community. It is highly recommended that participants attend all sessions. Even when a participant cannot view a video or read recommended text, the discussion questions provide ample background for everyone to participate.

#### **What *Faith and American Politics: Liberty and Justice for All* is Not:**

- It is not a debate between Republicans and Democrats;
- It is not a debate between liberals and conservatives;
- It is not an action community that focuses on solutions to specific problems.

#### **What *Faith and American Politics: Liberty and Justice for All* Hopes to Be:**

President Abraham Lincoln saw the United States as being “the last best hope of earth.” Much about the United States is good – our people and our government, from our neighborhoods to the broadest national and international arenas.

This course hopes to help each of us, as thoughtful and civil citizens, to do our duty to secure the blessings of liberty that we have inherited. Our liberties rest on all our citizens' duty and responsibility to work together for the common good. One of those duties is to understand what our faith and our history mean to us, both as individual citizens and as a nation.

We hope that this course will inspire further discussions and study groups.

Tuesday evenings beginning October 13  
7:00 - 8:30 PM