



FAIR HAVEN IS

DATE	September 15, 2019
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Build Deep Relationships
SERIES	If you take a close look at Fairhaven, what do you see? What's important to us? Why do we do what we do? And where do you fit in? Whether you're new to Fairhaven or have been with us for a while, you make us who we are.

To emphasize our need for community, John Donne wrote that “no man is an island.” Today’s sermon explores the Biblical truths behind this idea and encourages us to build relationships within a spirit-filled community.

1. Sheldon Vanauken, a friend of C.S. Lewis, says that the best AND worst argument for Christianity is...a Christian. What are some characteristics of Christianity that we as a church want to embody and/or avoid? Where can we start to undo the damage where we have been “somber, joyless, self-righteous, smug, narrow, [and] repressive?”
2. Fairhaven’s motto, “Find Hope,” embraces God’s will that we help people in our cities and world find hope by following Jesus toward life change. How has someone helped you find hope in the past? Why do we need relationships for any chance of finding hope?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12. Since Fairhaven is made of individuals, why is accountability so important? How does the health of individual members affect the church as a whole?
4. In conjunction with 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, read 1 Samuel 17:32-40. What would have happened if David had accepted Saul’s counsel in how to fight Goliath? How, in turn, could the Church hinder the development of individual, God-given talents? What are the consequences for community as a whole when this happens?
5. One reason for building deep relationships is because we need restoration (Galatians 6:1). If we regard sin as a bear trap, how does that change our attitudes and reactions towards those caught in the trap of sin? In contrast, how is it easy to fall into our own trap of judgement and self-righteousness?
6. Our current culture of isolation can be described as “crowded loneliness.” How do we combat this when it can be so difficult to connect with others despite our best efforts? What do the following verses say about the benefits of community: Proverbs 17:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Acts 2:44-47; 1 Peter 4:8-11?
7. We find hope when we build deep relationships. How do we respond to a friend or loved one who desperately needs and wants restoration, yet resists because he/she has been badly hurt by trusted members of the church?

This week, prayerfully consider how God wants you to build deep relationships. Do you need to: Pull the log out (confession); Help restore someone (pry open the trap for them); or take a step toward relationships (join a small group)?