

Welcome Home

August 17 - September 28, 2025

Overview

Summary:

"Welcome Home" is a six-week series launching our new vision as Spanish Fort UMC, inviting the entire church family to step into a season of belonging and commitment. Built around our vision statement—to be a home connecting all people through worship, service, fellowship, and discipleship, guided by Christ's love—this series will explore what it means to move from "attending" to "belonging," and from "watching" to "committing."

Each week, we'll unpack a different aspect of life in God's household: the radical hospitality of Christ, the unique gifts of worship, the call to serve, the power of connection, and the ongoing journey of growth. Every message will call us to remember that church isn't just something we go to, but a spiritual home.

The series culminates on Commitment Sunday, when everyone is invited to offer their 2025-2026 pledge—not just financial, but a whole-life commitment to God's vision for SFUMC.

Series Goals:

- Cast a clear, inspiring vision for what it means to be "home" at Spanish Fort UMC—grounded in Christ's love and open to all.
- Celebrate and unify our four ministry values—worship, service, connection, and growth.
- Invite every person to a deeper sense of belonging and responsibility in the church's life.
- Encourage spiritual next steps for every person, from first-time visitors to longtime members.
- Receive annual commitments—financial, relational, and spiritual—grounding our church's mission in shared responsibility and faithfulness.

Sermon Schedule

Sunday	Sermon Title	Scripture
8/17/25	Welcome Home: Vision Sunday	John 14:1-6, Galatians 3:26-29, Psalm 84:1-10
8/24/25	A Place at the Table	Luke 14:15-24, Hebrews 10:19-25
9/7/25	Worship: Gather & Glorify	Luke 14:25-35, Psalm 84:1-10
9/14/25	Serve	John 21:1-14, Mark 10:42-45, Exodus 31:12-17
9/21/25	Connect:	Luke 24:28-35, Colossians 2:6-7,
9/28/25	Grow: Next Steps	Philippians 1:3-11, 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Summaries of the sermons created by ChatGPT.

Week 1 | Welcome Home | John 14:1-6, Galatians 3:26-29, Psalm 84:1-10

This Sunday, we cast a fresh vision for Spanish Fort UMC. This message frames our new season as an invitation for every person to “come home” to Christ’s love. Our story as a church isn’t about buildings or programs, but about people—making room for one another and experiencing God’s presence together.

Week 2 | A Place at the Table | Luke 14:15-24, Hebrews 10:19-25

God’s Kingdom is pictured as a feast where the invitations never stop coming. This week, we focus on the radical hospitality at the heart of our faith. Jesus’ parable of the great banquet challenges us to expand the table, not just to sit at it. We’ll reflect on the difference between attending church and truly making space for others—welcoming the stranger, the outcast, and the overlooked. Hebrews reminds us not to neglect meeting together, but to encourage one

another. Here, everyone matters, and everyone is invited to both give and receive the welcome of God.

Week 3 | Worship | Luke 14:25-35, Psalm 84:1-10

Worship is more than singing songs; it's the way we make God's presence central in our lives and our community. This week unpacks the beauty and challenge of worshiping together—embracing the call to commitment, sacrifice, and joy. Jesus invites us to count the cost of following Him, not as a burden, but as the pathway to true belonging and transformation. Psalm 84 reminds us how lovely it is to dwell in God's house. We'll celebrate both the variety and unity of our worship, and invite everyone to bring their whole selves to God—body, mind, and spirit.

Week 4 | Serve | John 21:1-14, Mark 10:42-45, Exodus 31:12-17

Service is at the heart of our church's vision, but Jesus also models the rhythm of serving and resting. This week, we look at how we serve others without burning out or losing joy. Mark reminds us that greatness in the Kingdom is measured by service, not status. As we launch new mission efforts, we'll explore what it means to serve deeply, sustainably, and together.

Week 5 | Connect | Luke 24:28-35, Colossians 2:6-7

We were made for connection—real, honest, life-giving relationships. On the road to Emmaus, the disciples meet Jesus in the midst of their journey, and their eyes are opened around the table. This week is about how God meets us in community: through fellowship groups, supper clubs, and the “holy accidents” of shared life. Paul's letter to the Colossians urges us to be rooted and built up together. We'll explore practical ways to move from surface-level acquaintance to genuine connection, making church a place where no one walks alone.

Week 6 | Grow | Philippians 1:3-11, 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Discipleship isn't a program—it's a lifelong journey. As we close the series, we invite everyone to take a next step in faith, by joining a new Discipleship Group. Paul gives thanks for a church that is growing in love and knowledge, and reminds us that God will finish what He started in us. Timothy is urged to continue in the faith, growing deeper in God's word. This Sunday, we'll invite concrete commitments—spiritual, relational, and financial—as we trust God to lead us into the next chapter of our church's story.