



# Strengthen the Church

## Scripture Study

It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.”

John 20:19-23 (CEB)

- What does Jesus repeat to the disciples? Why do you think this is repeated?
- Who were the disciples afraid of? Do you think they were afraid of anything else?
- How is Jesus an example for the disciples?
- Have you ever experienced a transformation from fear to joy?
- How can we encourage one another to live more fearlessly?

*Strengthen the Church is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ. Gifts to Strengthen the Church support initiatives in our regional Conferences and National Ministries to equip and inspire new and renewing congregations, leadership development, and youth and young adult ministries.*