



## ***Making an Appearance***

**October 9, 2022**

*Hebrews 13:1-2*

### Connect:

- Talk about your typical response when you receive an invitation from someone. Are you an immediate “In”? Does it typically make you recoil? Do you like to get out or are you more of a homebody?

### Engage

- Read *Hebrews 13:1-2*. The Hebrew writer, who scholars leave unidentified as there’s not enough evidence to declare authorship, leads with this plea for hospitality as one of the primary characteristics of a person who claims Christ as Lord. Hospitality is more than hosting events – it’s a way of life that engages even the stranger with a spirit of kindness and welcome. Christians should be the warmest people walking around our city. Do you agree with this? Is there evidence of this in Columbia? How do you know who the Christians are?
- Chronic isolation is a term being used to describe the experience of many on this side of the pandemic. One church has zeroed in on this reality and has shifted their vision accordingly. Their vision is “*to eradicate social isolation and disconnection by practicing the faithful presence of the incarnate Christ.*” How does this vision strike you? How could we be part of eradicating social isolation?
- Author and theologian, Fredrick Buechner said, “*If we are to love our neighbors, before doing anything else, we must see our neighbors.*” Are the people who live on your street (or closest to you) people with whom you are in relationship? Why or why not?
- Some have argued that the hostility we experience in society today is because we’ve been taught fear ahead of love; distance over proximity; hostility over hospitality. The suggestion is that we’ve lost our ability to relate to each other, human to human. The more we distance ourselves, the easier it is to dehumanize, even despise, one another. A line from Det. Waters in the movie, *Crash*, describes this reality. “*It’s the sense of touch... nobody touches you. We’re always behind this metal and glass. I think we miss that touch so much that we crash into each other, just so we can feel something.*” Do you sense this is true in society today? How is it changed, if at all, given the pandemic?

### Next Steps:

- You need to get out more this week! Commit to a spirit of hospitality as you move about the city. Make an appearance! Engage someone you might have otherwise ignored or simply passed by. Create a movement of kindness in your life. If all Broadway members were out and about with intentional kindness this week, imagine the impact! Be part of the movement.

### Pray:

- Share joys and concerns about your lives with your group. Lift those in prayer.
- Pray courage for yourself and our church to be the most hospitable people in Columbia!
- “*Lord, help me engage my neighbors with love and kindness. Give me a curious spirit that I might listen more closely to the needs of those I meet. Help me be the answer to someone else’s prayer. Amen.*”