

What is Faith? *Take-home questions*
March 10, 2019, First Sunday in Lent
United Parish in Brookline

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1

Your faith background

What does the word “faith” mean to you?

Who first taught you about faith? What did they teach you?

Was it a net positive or negative effect on you? Why?

What about that understanding of faith have you kept? Let go of? Why?

Reflection on our anchor verse above, Hebrew 11:1

How does the working definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1 (confidence in our hopes and assurance of things unseen) land with you?

What does it mean to have this kind of faith?

Have there been times in your life when you have had to keep confidence in your hopes and assurance in things that were not yet visible?

Four aspects of faith (from Marcus Borg, *The Heart of Christianity*, 2004)

Belief (assensus)

What are some of your core beliefs? (e.g., there is a God, Jesus was both human and divine, the world is round, people are essentially good)

Loyalty (fidelitas)

Where do you place your loyalty? (e.g., God, your family, the nation, Love)

Which of these things is most sustaining over time? Why?

Trust (fiducia)

In what do you place your ultimate trust? (e.g., medical science, human kindness, God)

Why?

Worldview (visio)

What are some things that shape your worldview? (e.g., your faith community, your class, race, education, understanding of how the universe is structured, your ideas about humanity)

Your faith expression

Our confirmation classes write statements of faith that they then share with us in worship.

Why would you choose to make an expression of your faith at this moment in your life?

How could it be useful?

Would you want it to be in words, music, visual art or something else?

What are some things from this questionnaire that you would include in it?