

Mission Moment

January 5, 2020

“A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” came to U.S. theaters just before Thanksgiving, and Discipleship Ministries is playing a key role in helping congregations respond to the film.

Sony Pictures invited this United Methodist agency to produce a faith-based study guide to accompany the movie. The discussion companion guide is designed to help groups learn to process feelings, understand forgiveness, talk about hard things, seek reconciliation and practice positive spiritual discipline. The guide and a film trailer are available on the movie’s website.

Two-time Oscar winner Tom Hanks portrays the beloved children’s TV host, Mister Rogers. “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” is a timely story of kindness and forgiveness triumphing over cynicism. It is based on the true story of a real-life friendship between Rogers and a journalist. After this jaded magazine writer is assigned to write a profile of Rogers, he is confronted with his own skepticism and learns about kindness, love and forgiveness from America’s favorite neighbor.

“Mister Rogers demonstrated the love of Jesus Christ in every action of his life,” said Junius Dotson, top executive of Discipleship Ministries. “He was a source of inspiration for millions of children and adults.” Dotson has encouraged United Methodists to view the film and use the resource Discipleship Ministries produced.

Thanks to generous World Service Fund support from United Methodist congregations, Discipleship Ministries enriches annual conference and local church leaders for their task of equipping world-changing disciples.