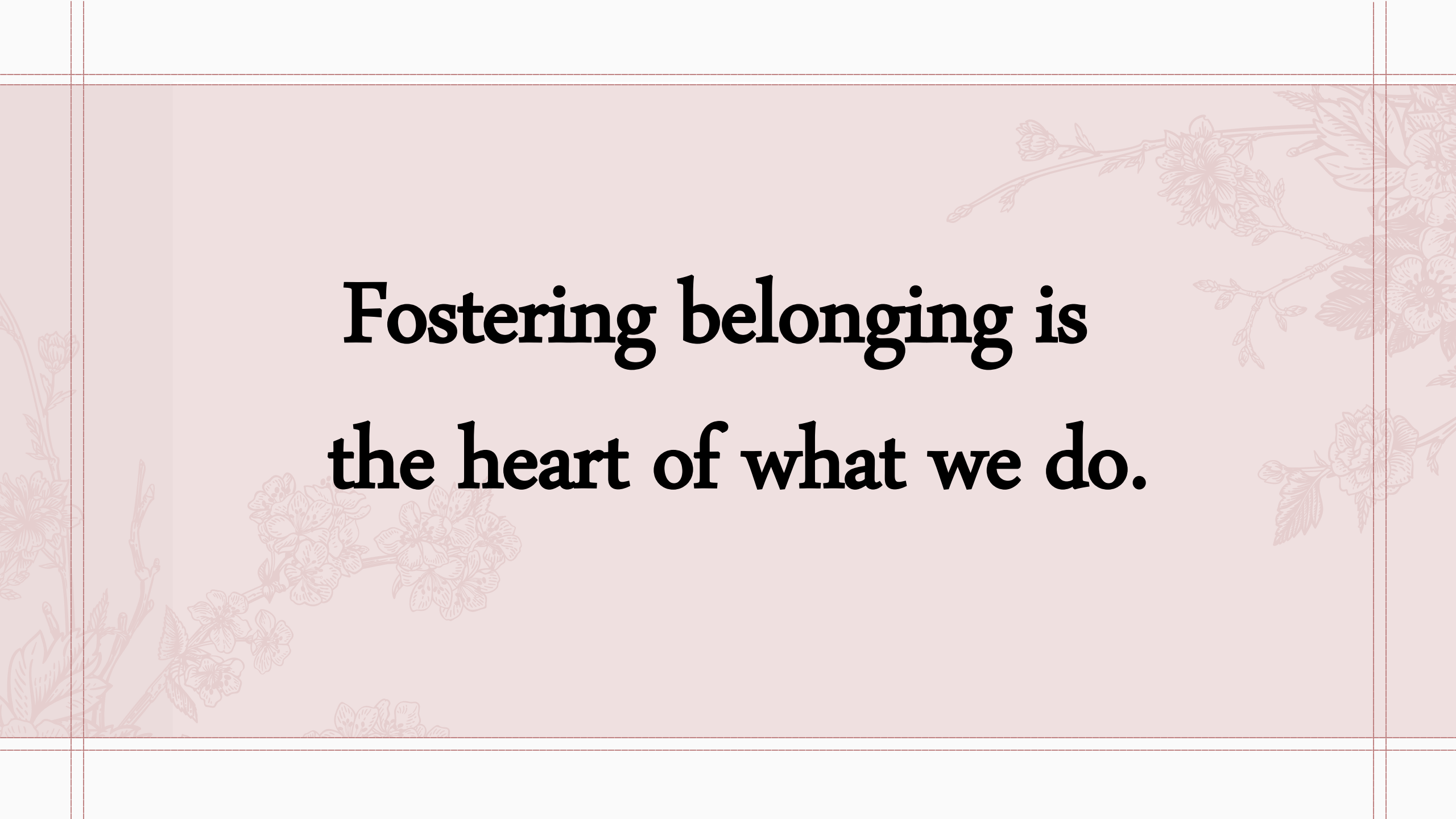




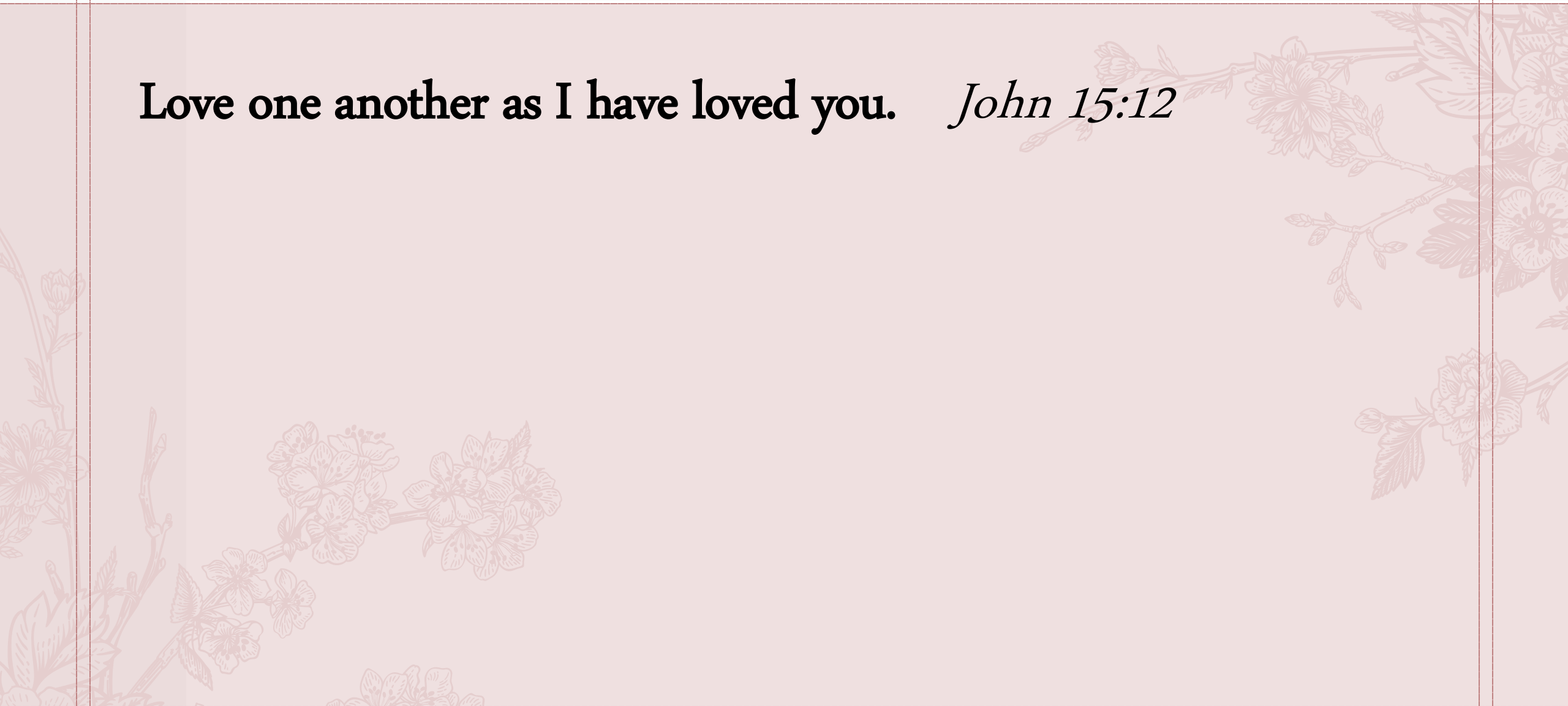
BELONGING

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION



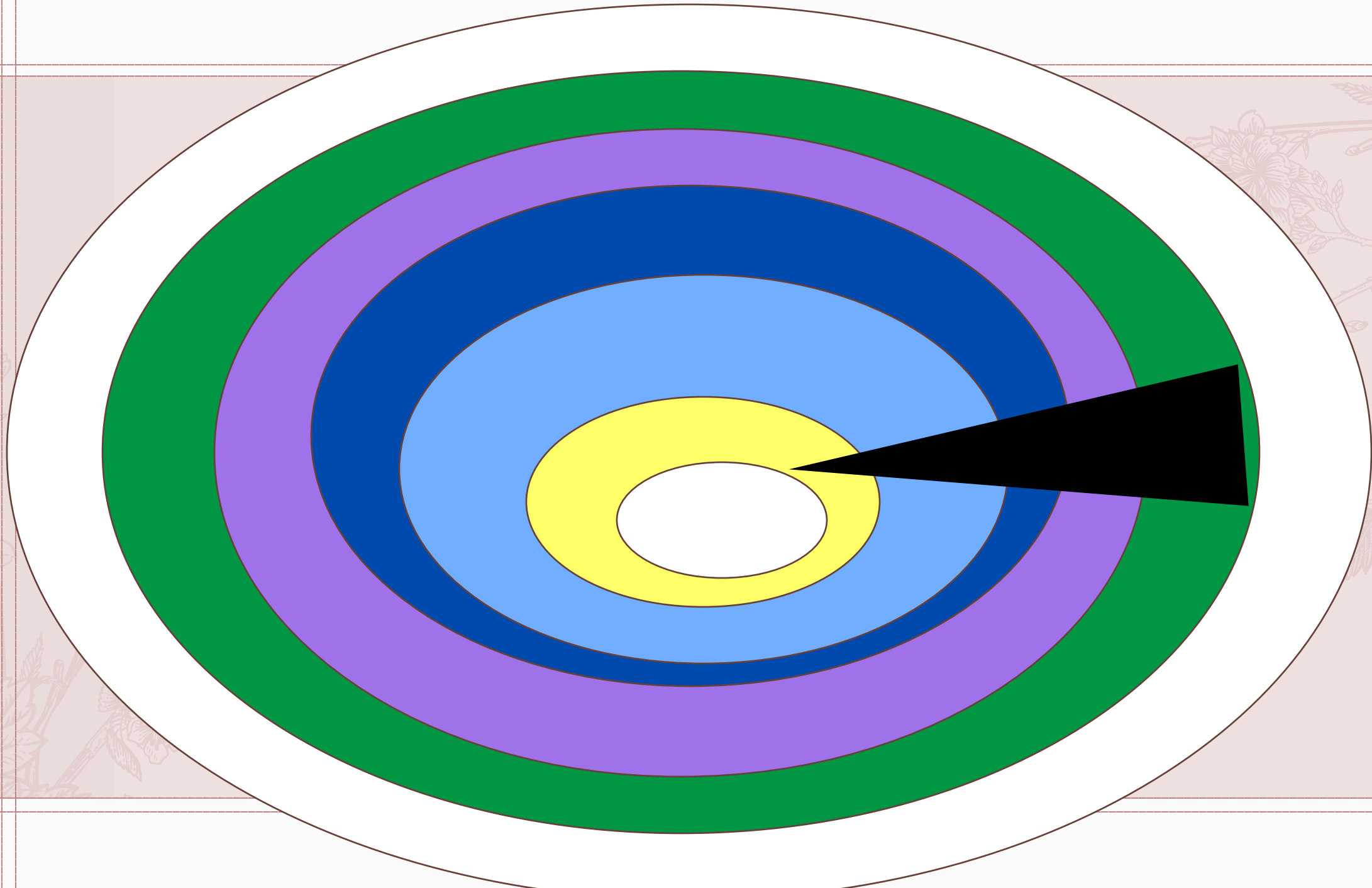
**Fostering belonging is
the heart of what we do.**

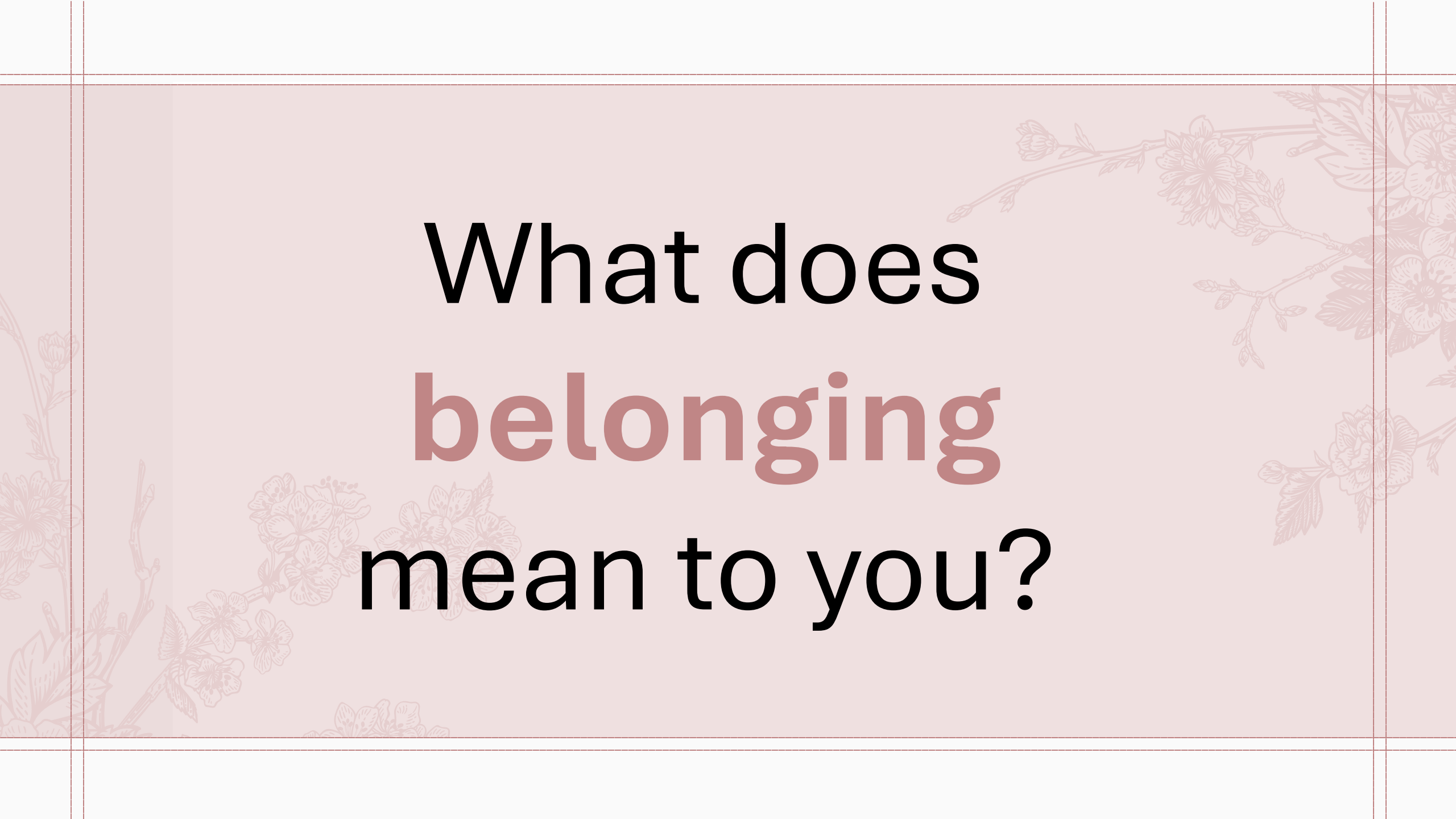
Love one another as I have loved you. *John 15:12*



Love one another as I have loved you. *John 15:12*

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. *Matthew 22:37-40*



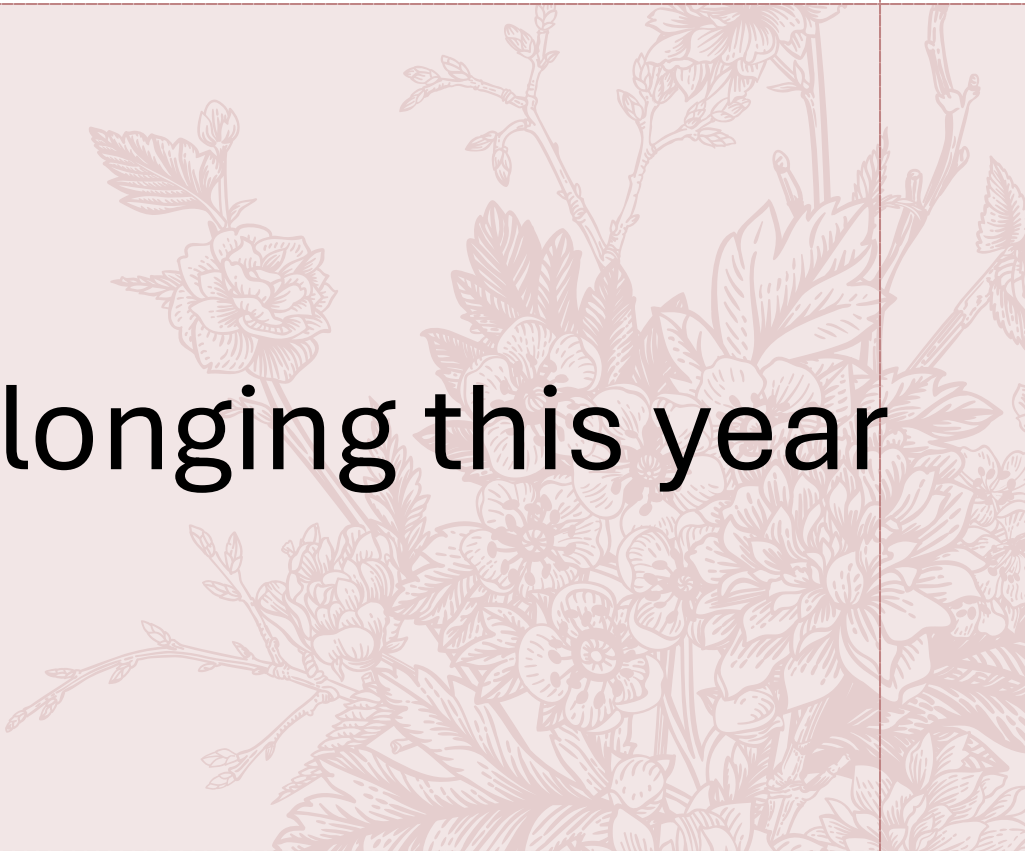


What does
belonging
mean to you?

BELONGING

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

**To increase awareness
about our focus on belonging this year**

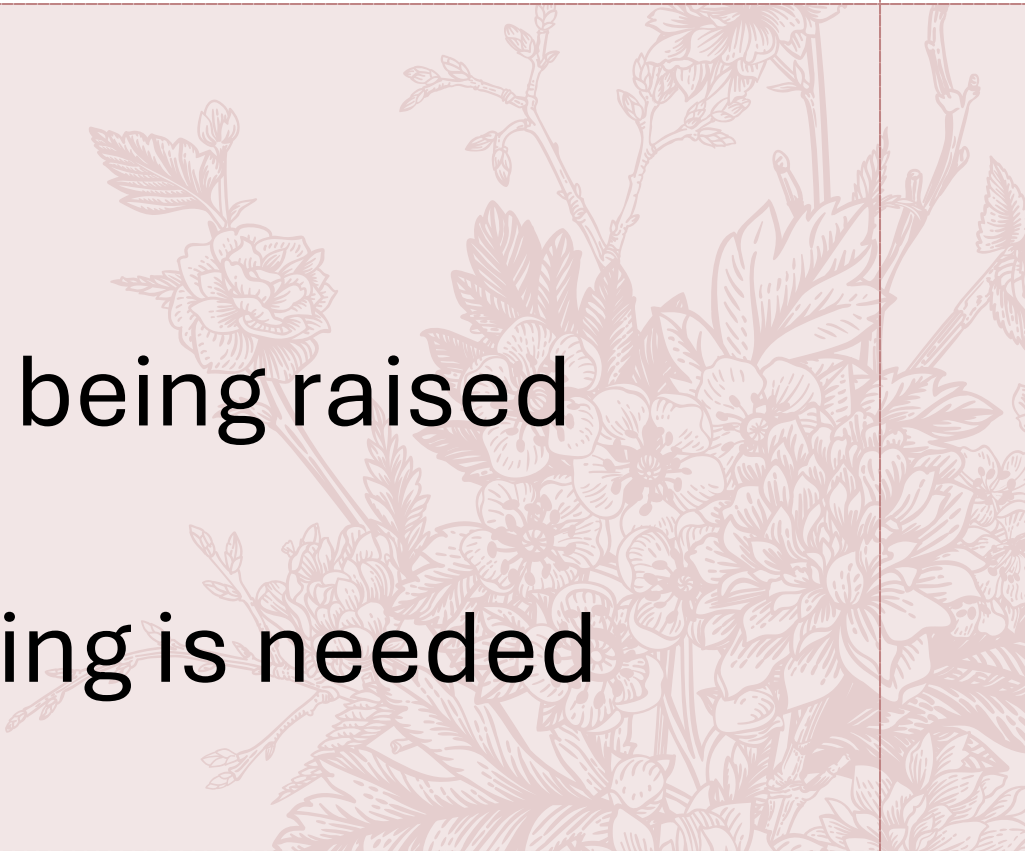


BELONGING

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

To invite us to notice

where the sense of belonging is being raised
skills for fostering belonging
where more attention to belonging is needed



BELONGING

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

To reflect on

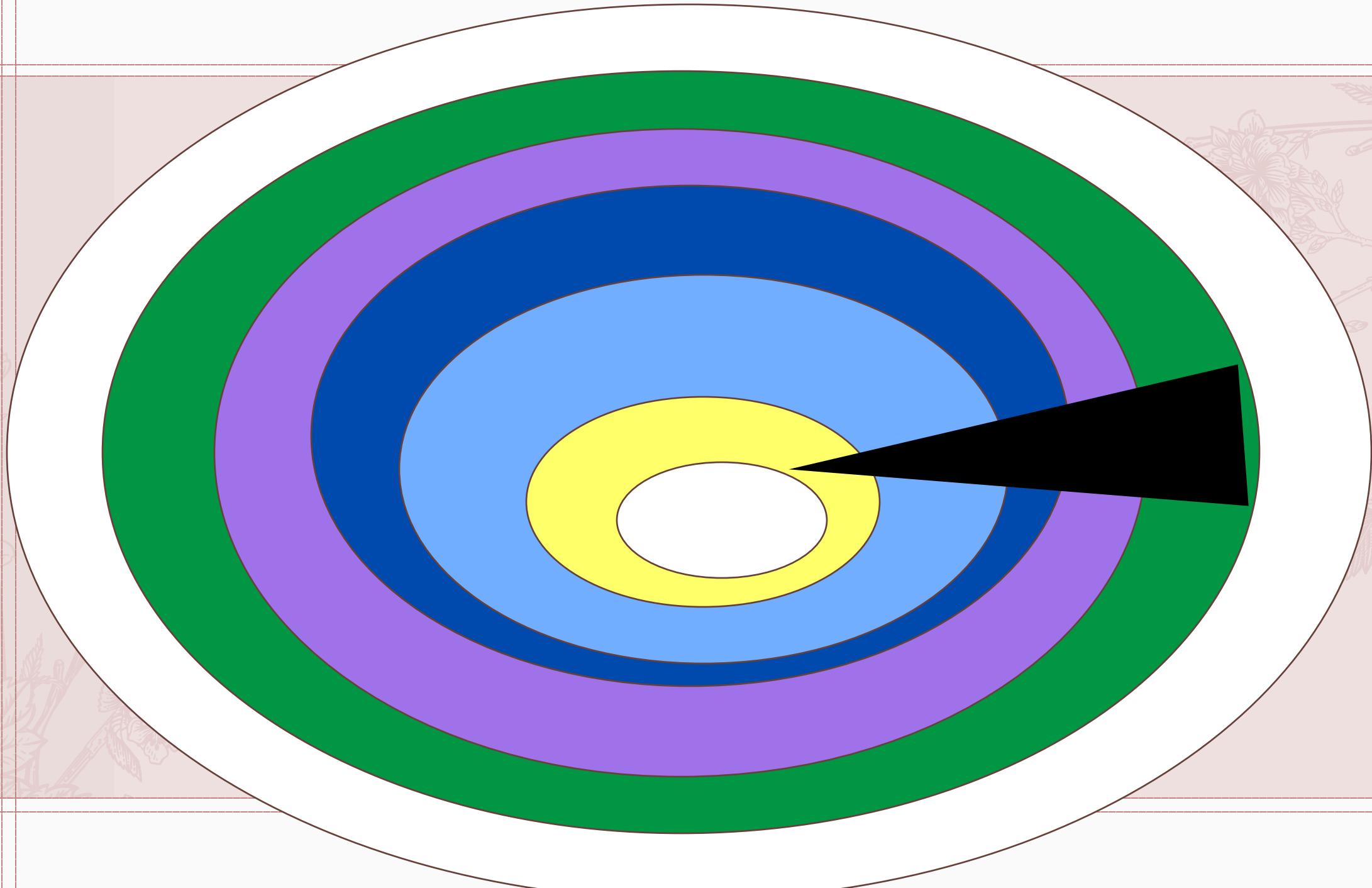
what *you* might need in terms of belonging

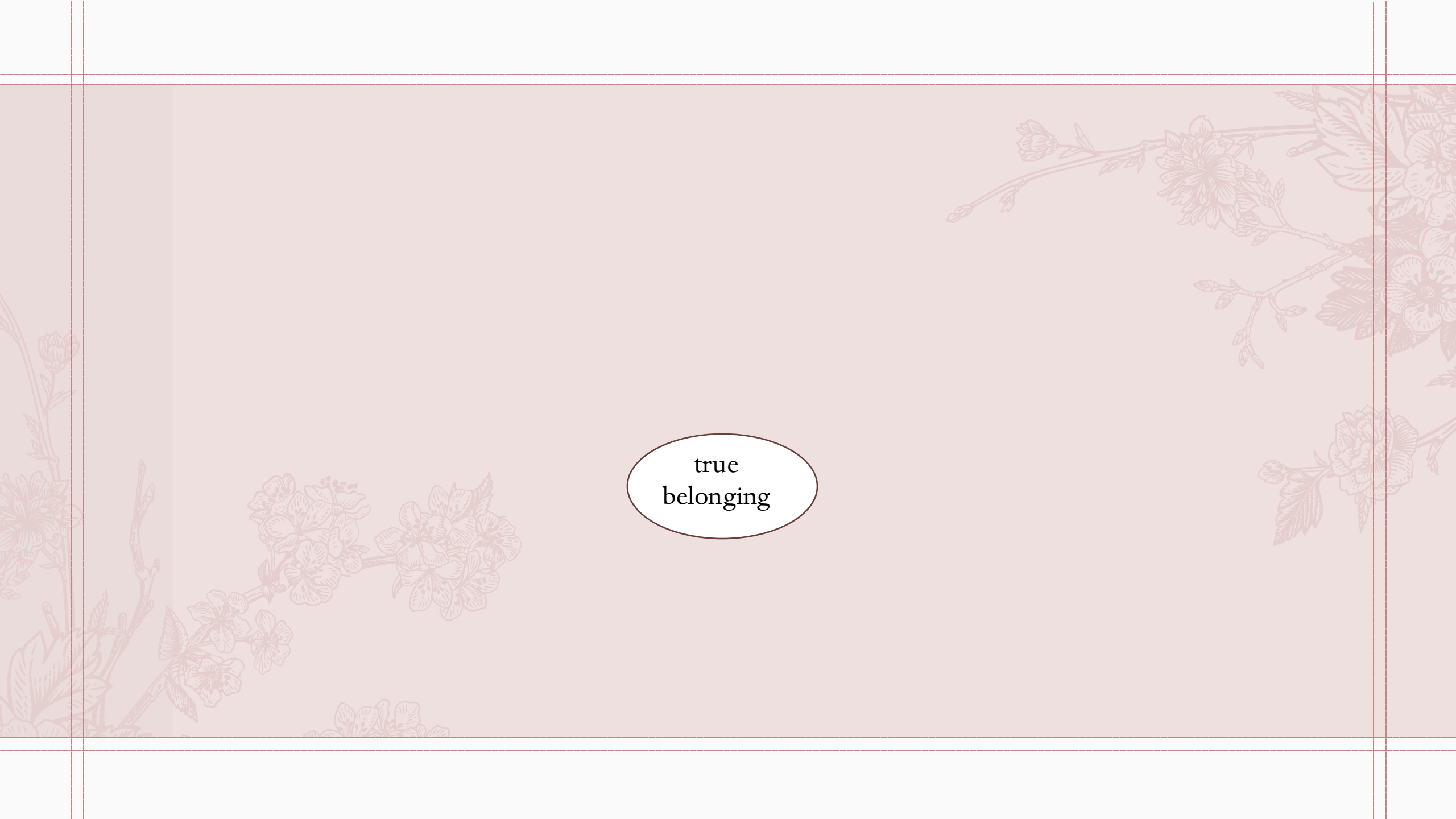
what your part may be in cultivating a sense of belonging

in yourself

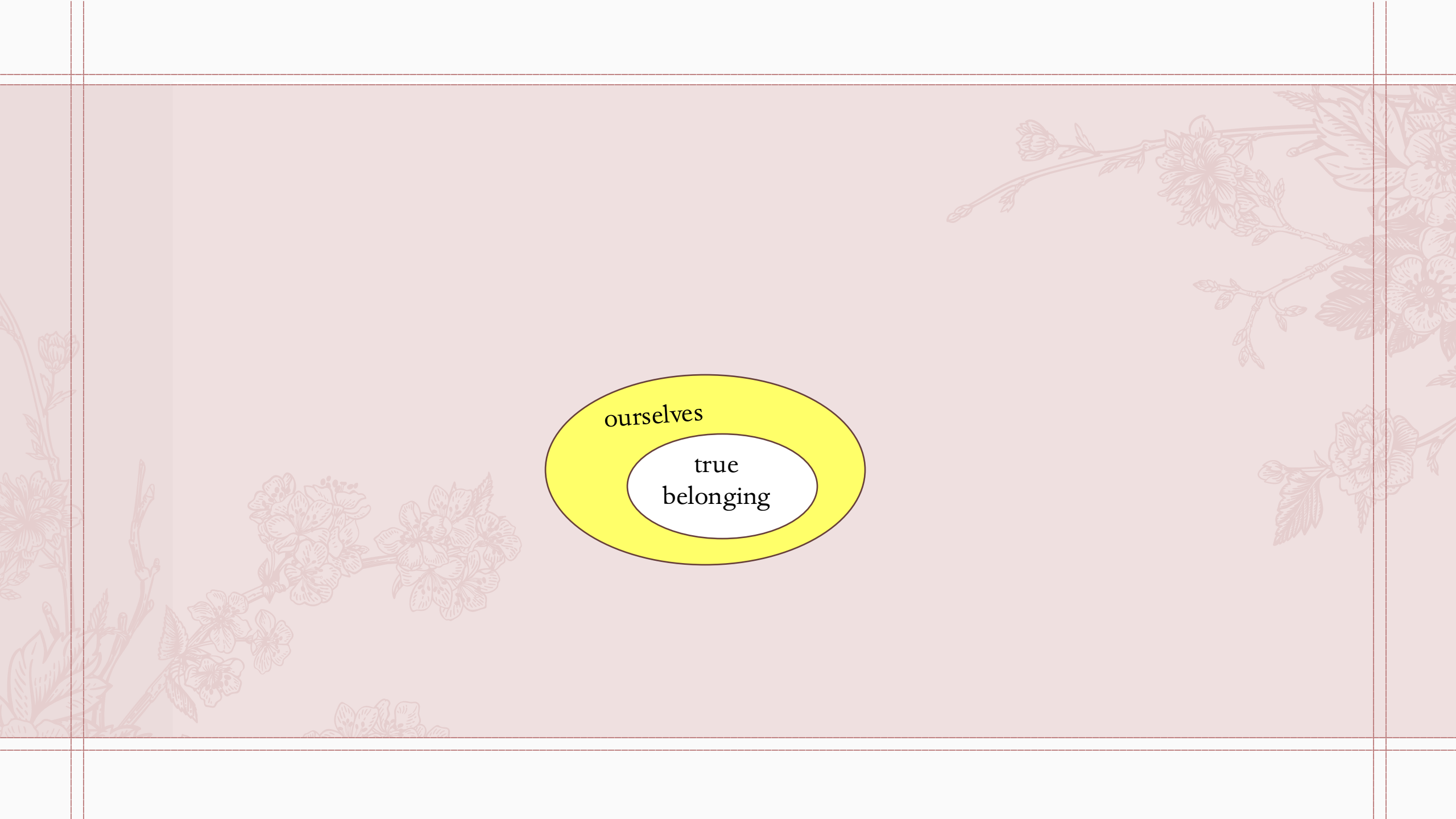
at St. Paul's

in the world and with our neighbors near and far



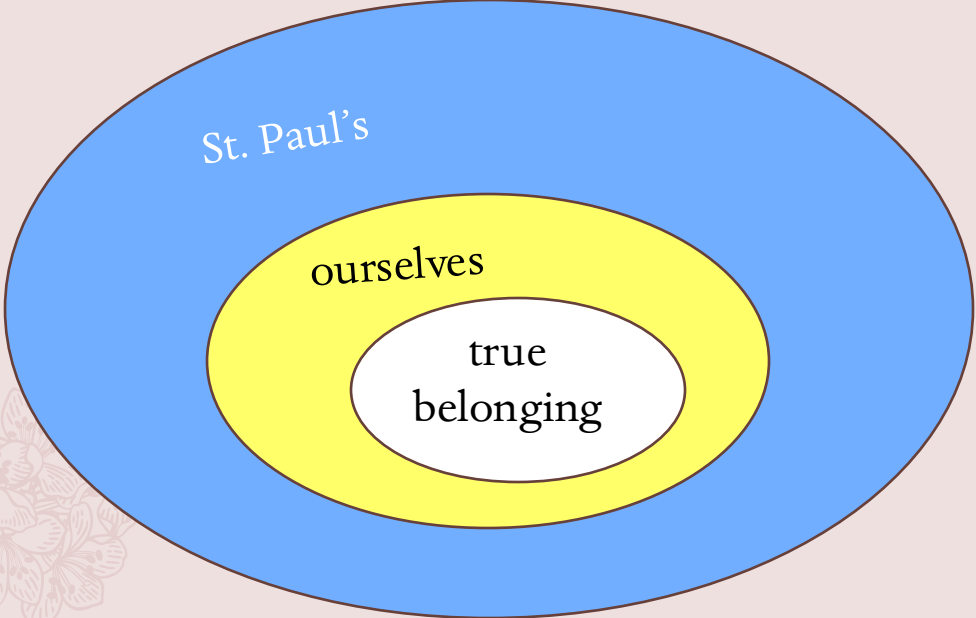


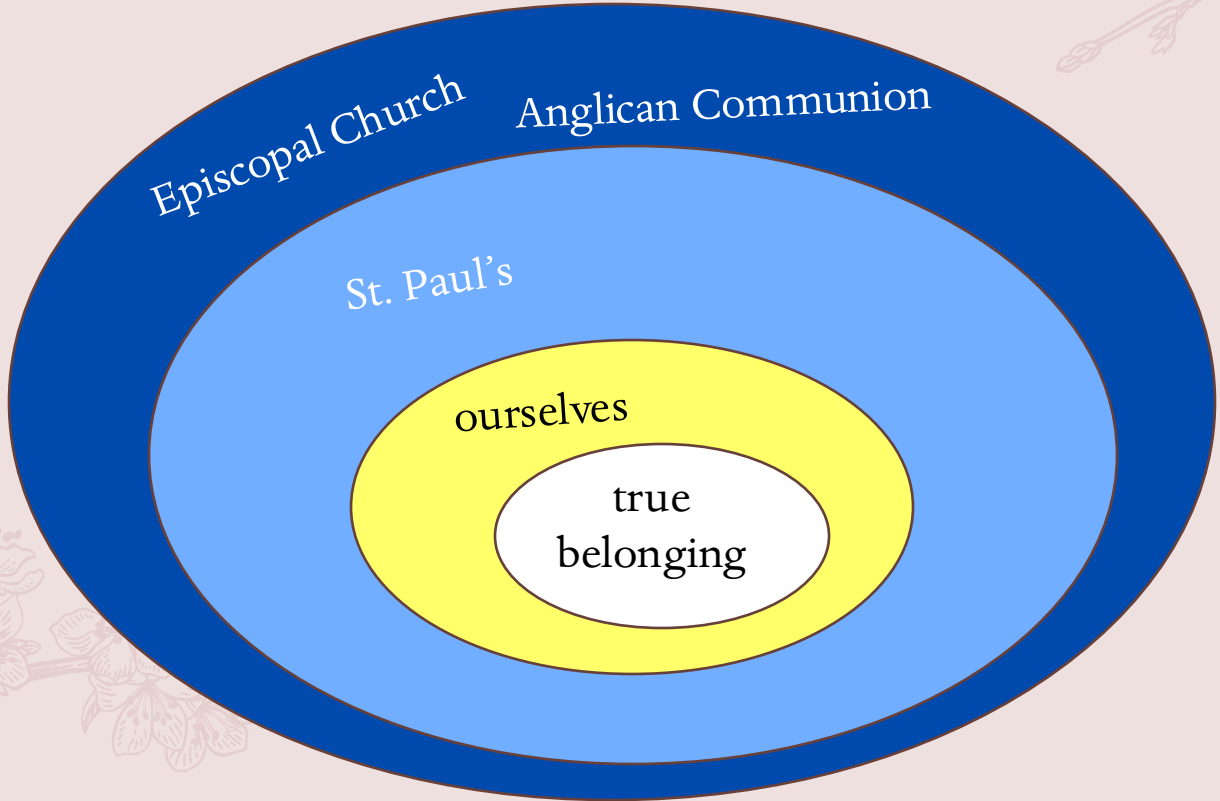
true
belonging

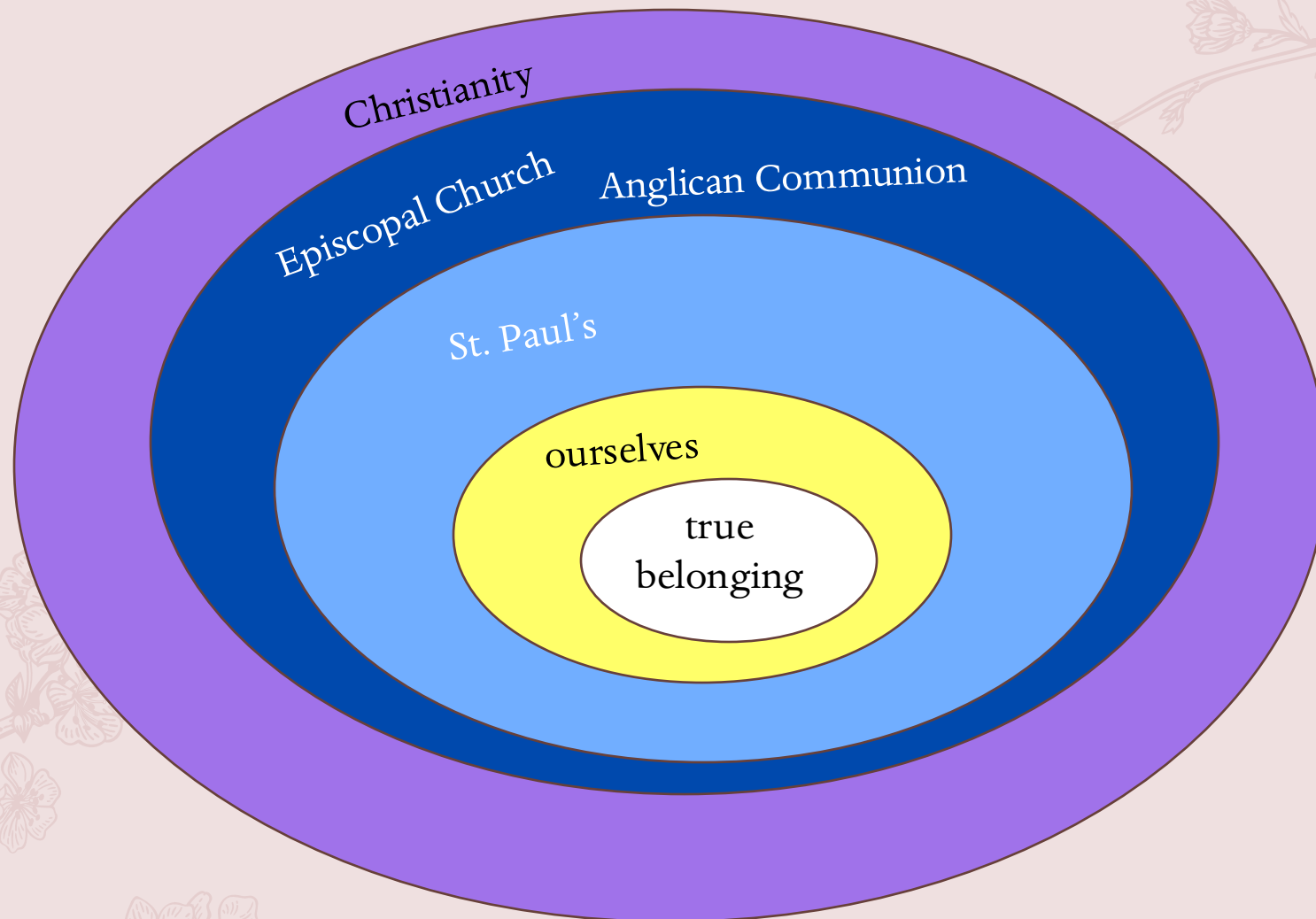


ourselves

true
belonging







Christianity

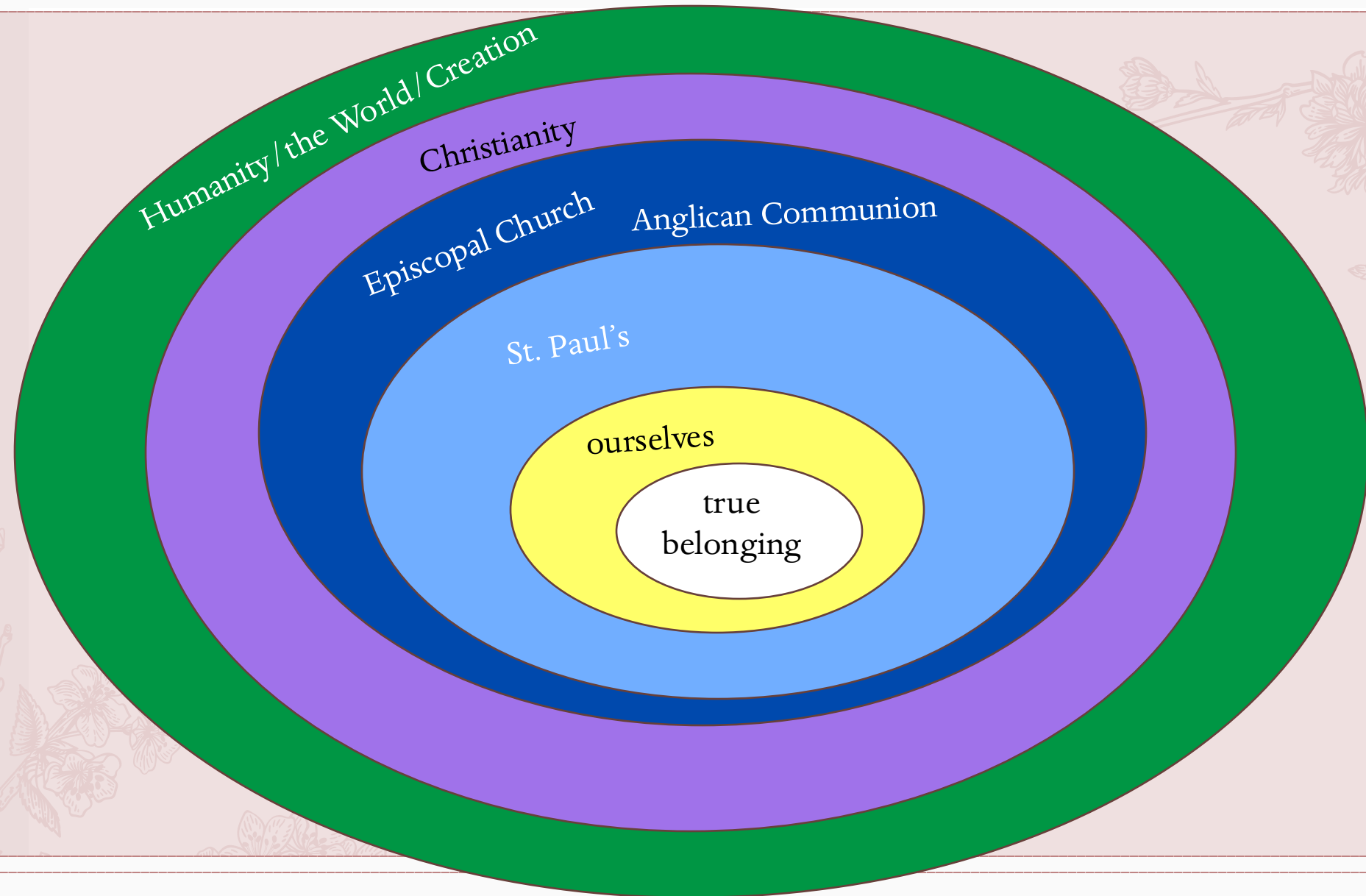
Episcopal Church

Anglican Communion

St. Paul's

ourselves

true
belonging



true belonging

Humanity / the World / Creation

Christianity

Episcopal Church

Anglican Communion

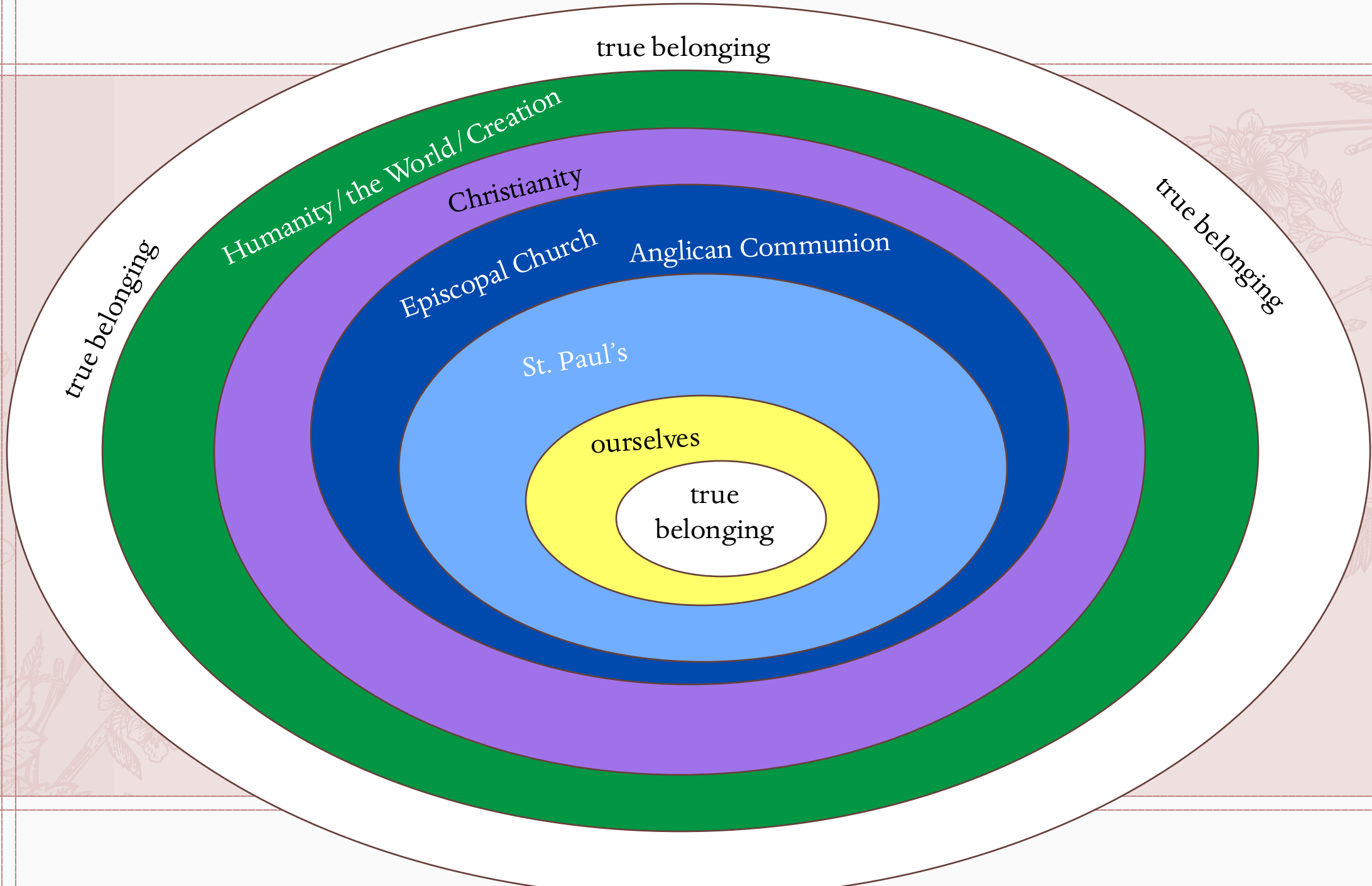
St. Paul's

ourselves

true
belonging

true belonging

true belonging



true belonging

true belonging

true belonging

Humanity / the World / Creation

Christianity

Episcopal Church

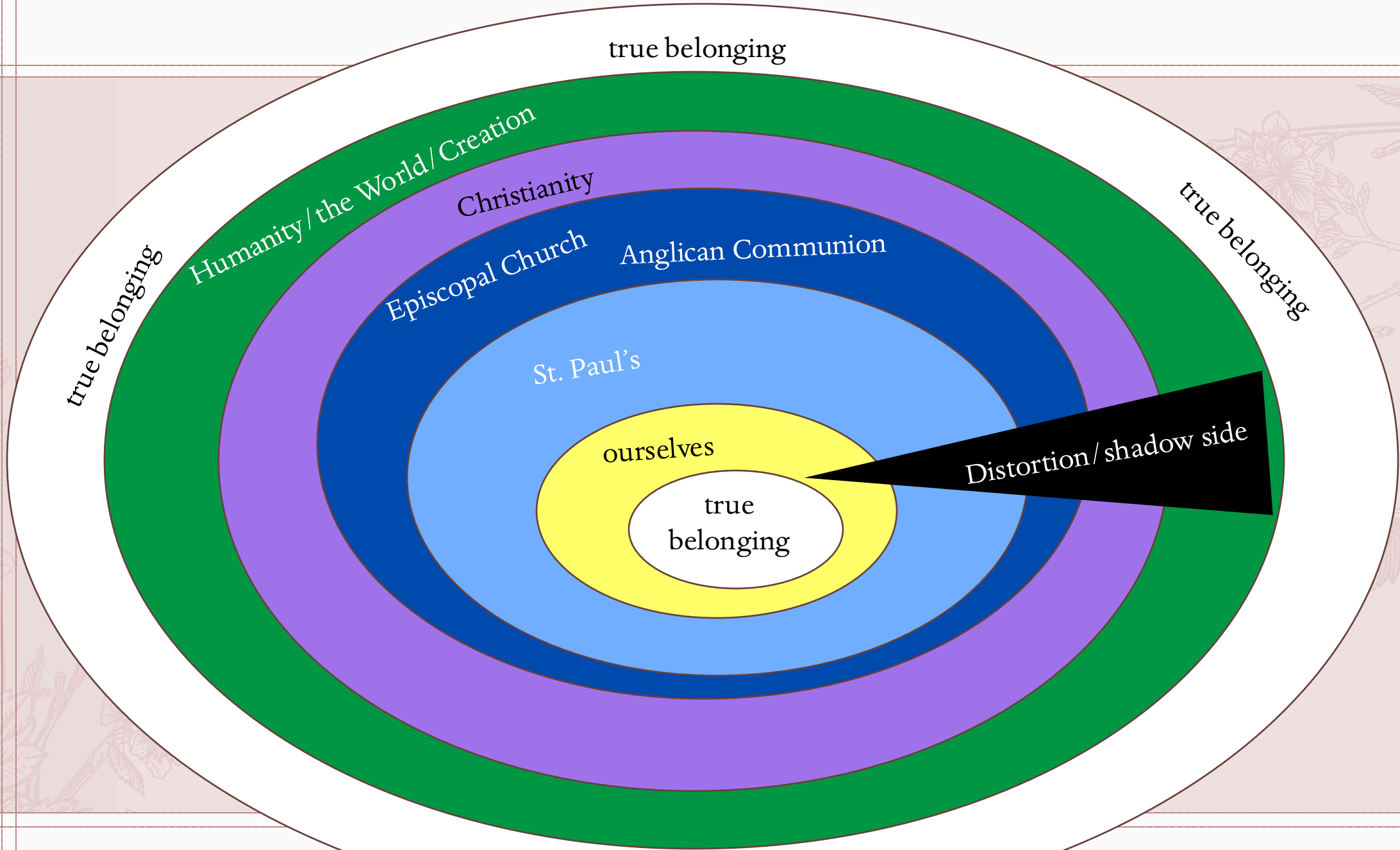
Anglican Communion

St. Paul's

ourselves

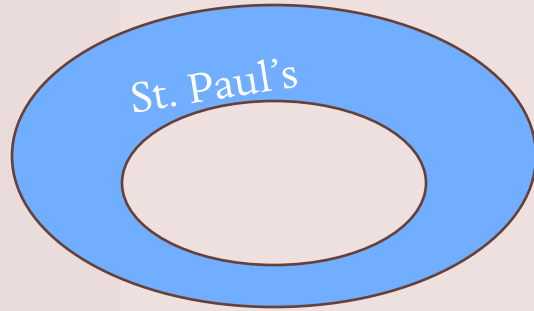
true belonging

Distortion / shadow side



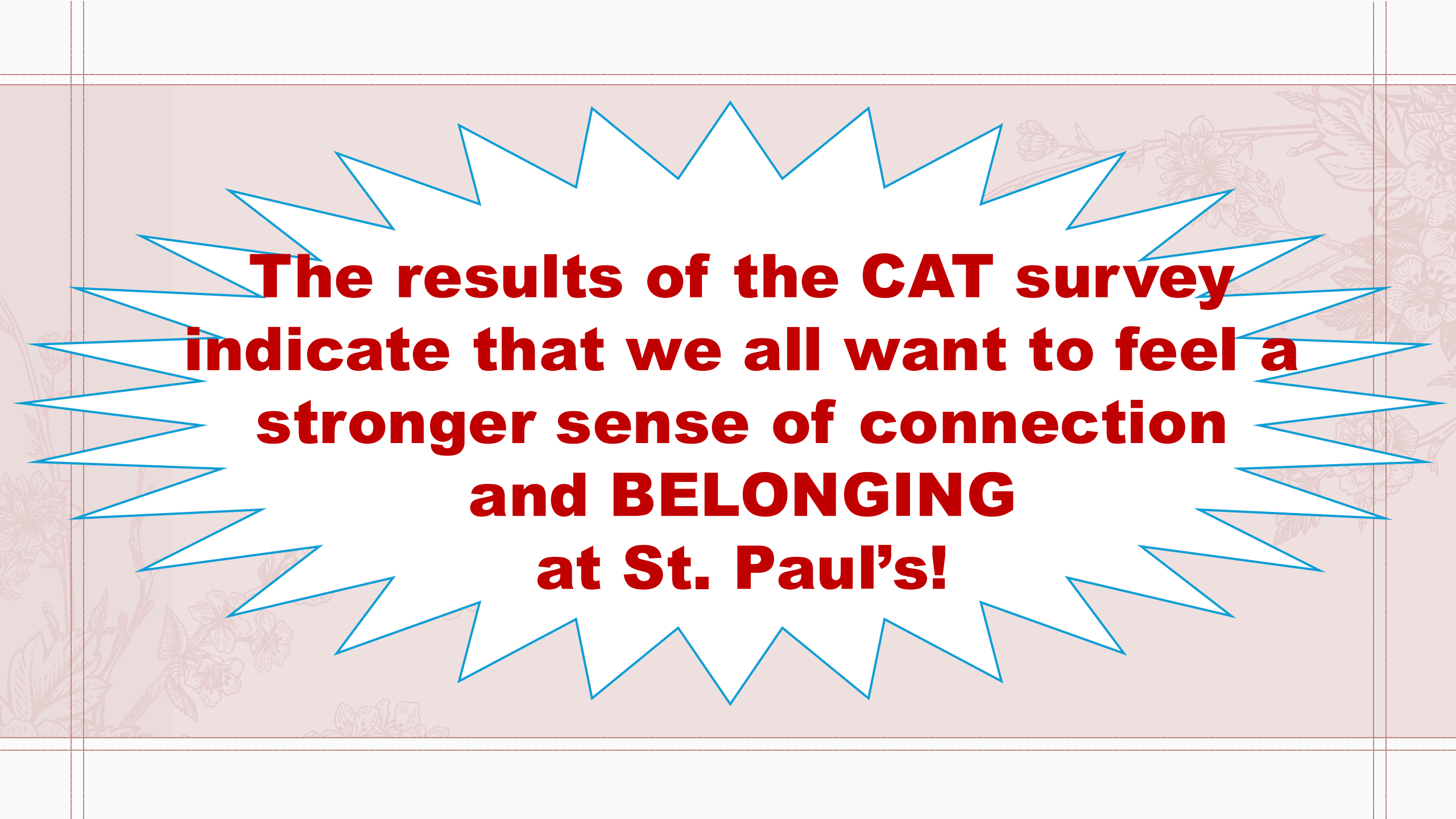


St. Paul's



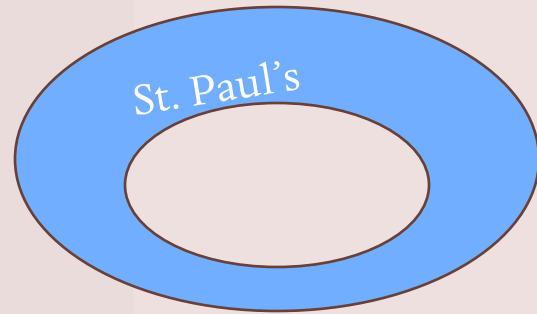
Reflection:

- How have you been engaged in the life of the church?
- What ways of engaging are most interesting to you currently?
- How does your engagement at St. Paul's affect your sense of belonging?



**The results of the CAT survey
indicate that we all want to feel a
stronger sense of connection
and BELONGING
at St. Paul's!**

Upcoming opportunities that foster a sense of Belonging at St. Paul's are plentiful and varied



Hospitality

Invite Welcome Connect workshop (10/4)

“Gather” forum from Gather Transform Send

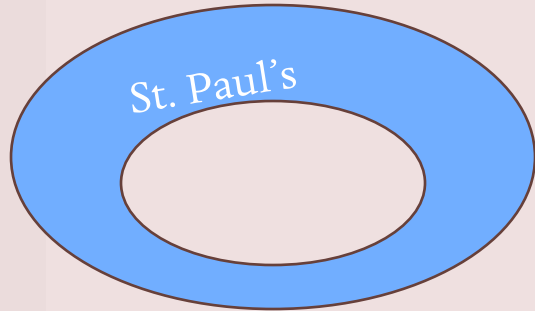
Welcome sign on the playground fence

“Beyond the Welcome Mat” forum (10/26)

Virtual tour on our website

Photo directory





Layers of belonging at St. Paul's

Small formation groups

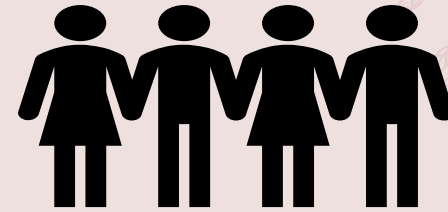
Worship ministries

Affiliation groups

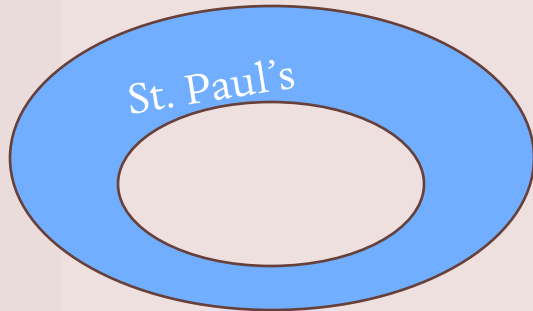
(age, gender, interest, etc.)

Outreach groups

(In-house and away from SPC)



Activities that foster a sense of belonging



Individual wondering

St. Paul's 101 (winter)

"Doubt and Belonging" forum (11/23)



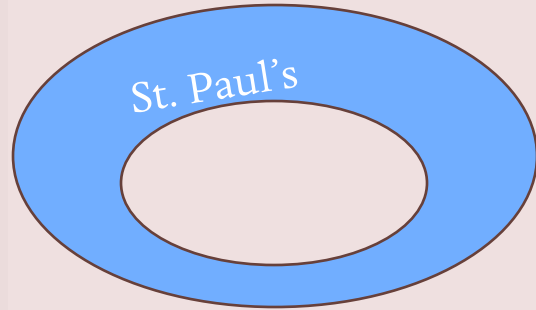
Making Music together

"Beer and Hymns" forum (TBA)

Lessons and Carols (12/7)

Choirs

CAST productions



Socializing

“Meet in the Middle” coffee hour

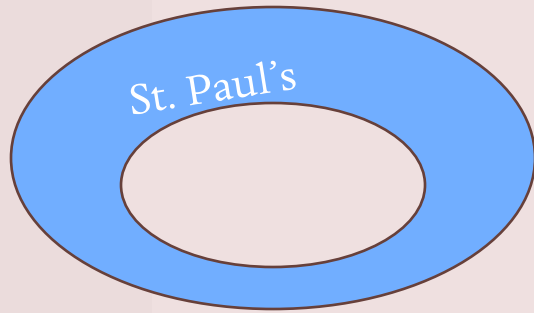
Parish Picnic (Sept.)

Chili Cookoff (winter)

Senior Saints luncheon (spring)

“Guess Who” gatherings





Sharing our personal stories

“Storytelling” forum (TBA)

“EpiscoPals”

Photo Directory

Stewardship testimonials

ECW Retreat (11/22)

Art Gallery Openings



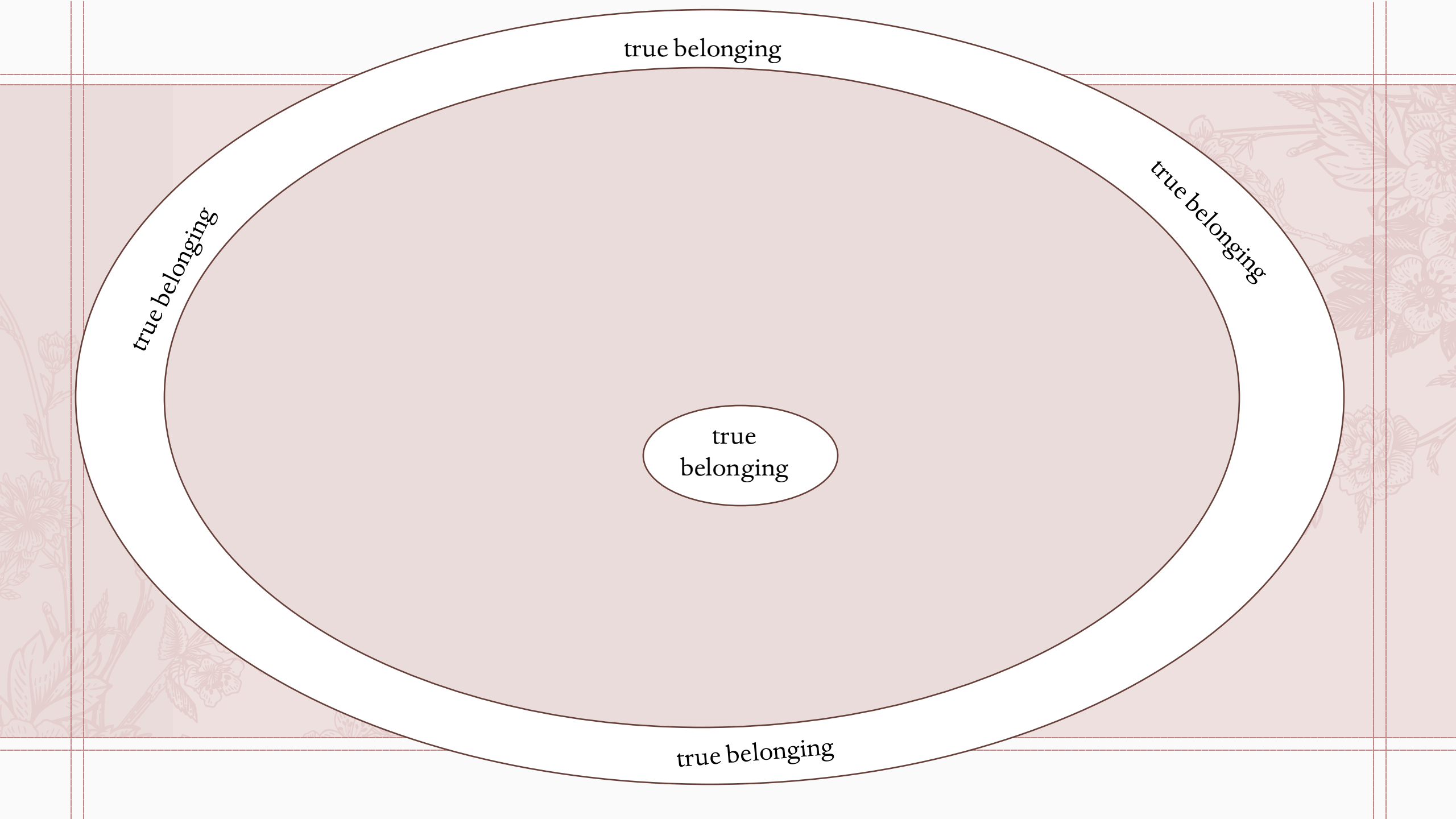
true belonging

true belonging

true belonging

true
belonging

true belonging





True
Belonging

- Our nature is **True Belonging**,
- It is within and all around us.
- We belong to God, one another, love, and life.
- When we know this True Belonging, it effects our sense of belonging everywhere.



True
Belonging

Related St. Paul's Happenings

Forum December 14. “True Belonging” with Rev. Patricia

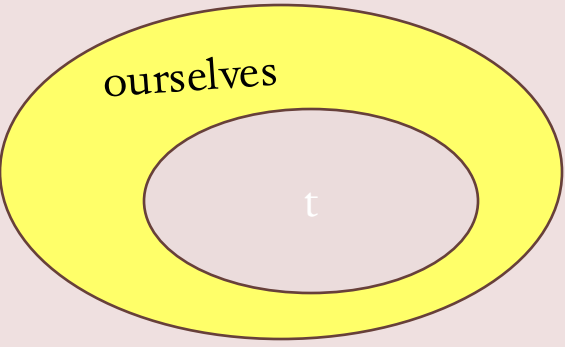
Forum January 4, Beloved Community with Canon Rosalind Hughes

Children's Wonder Room, 1st-3rd grade classroom, using *The Book of Belonging* – reminding kids that since the beginning, God's dream has been love, connection, and belonging.

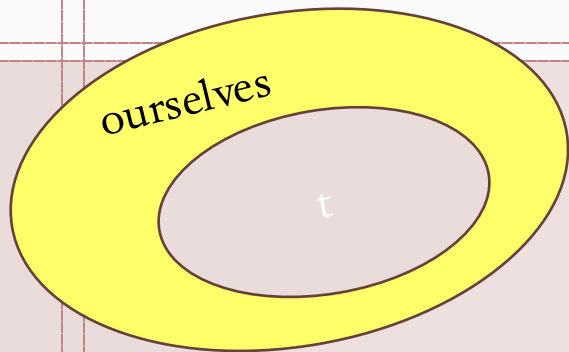
Other Resources

Everything Belongs, Father Richard Rohr

Cherished Belonging, The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times, Father Gregoy Boyle

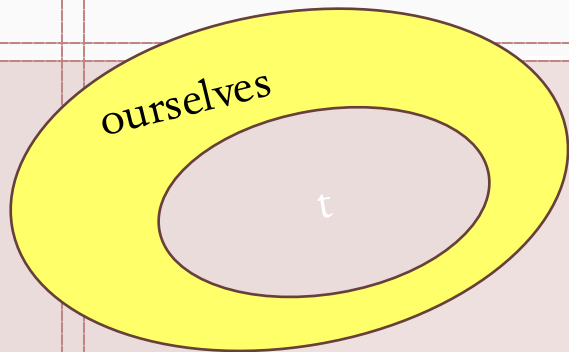


Distortion / shadow side



- How do you relate to belonging?
- What factors in your sense of identity, upbringing, or life experiences have contributed to a sense of greater or lesser belonging?





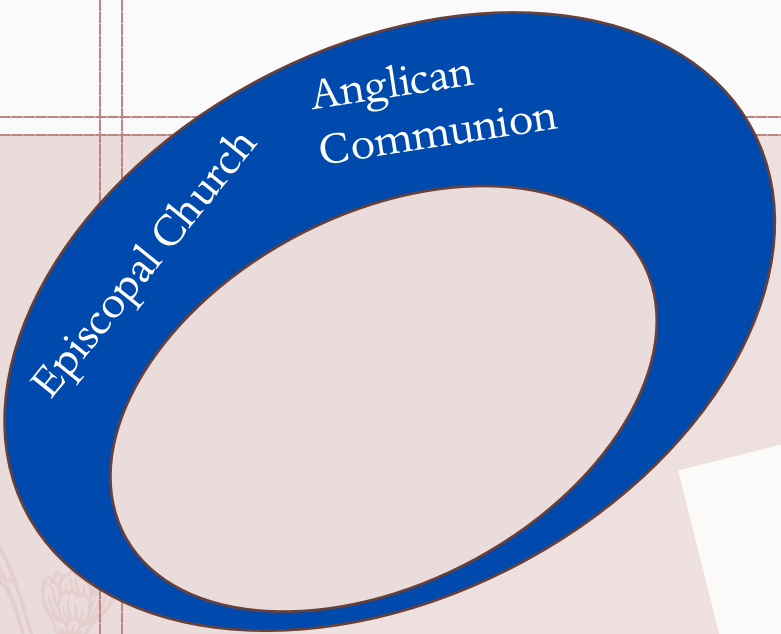
Related St. Paul's Happenings

Forum November 23 "Can I Still Belong Here if I Have Doubts? with Bill Hobbs, Spiritual Director and Director of the Jesuit Retreat Center (spoiler alert: The answer is yes.)"

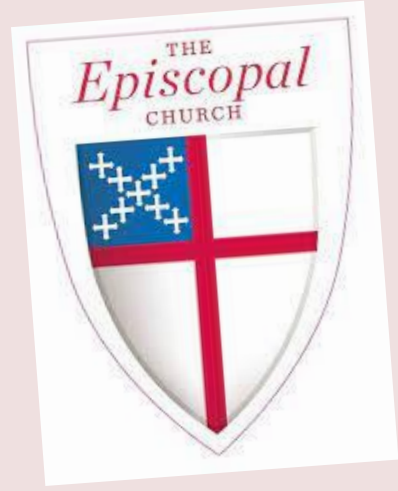


Episcopal Church

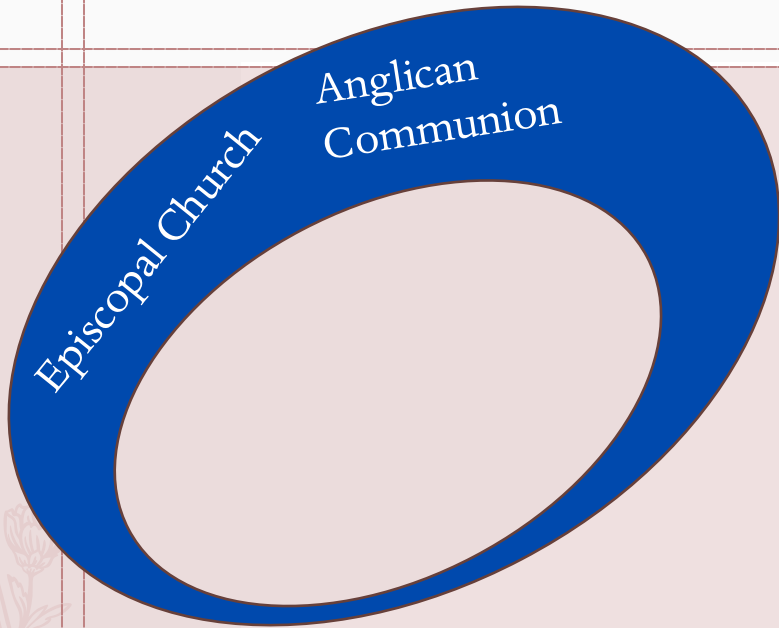
Anglican Communion



How do you relate, if at all, to the larger systems to which St. Paul's belongs?



- St Paul's – 1 parish
- The Diocese of Ohio - 82 parishes
- The Episcopal Church - 6,447 parishes, 111 dioceses, 1.5 million members
- The Anglican Communion - 42 autonomous provinces (1 of which is The Episcopal Church) in 165 countries, approximately 100 million members



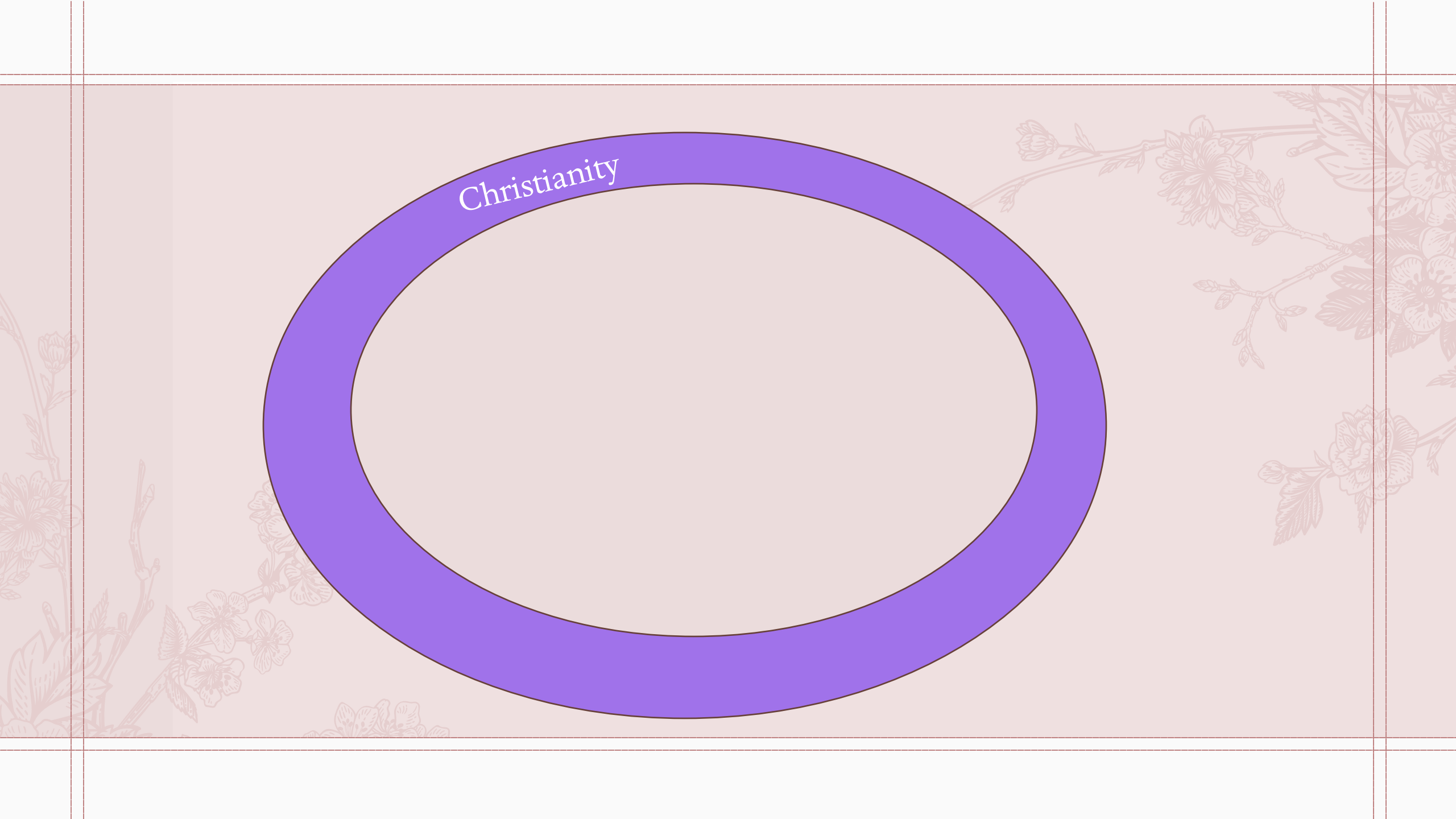
Related St. Paul's Happenings

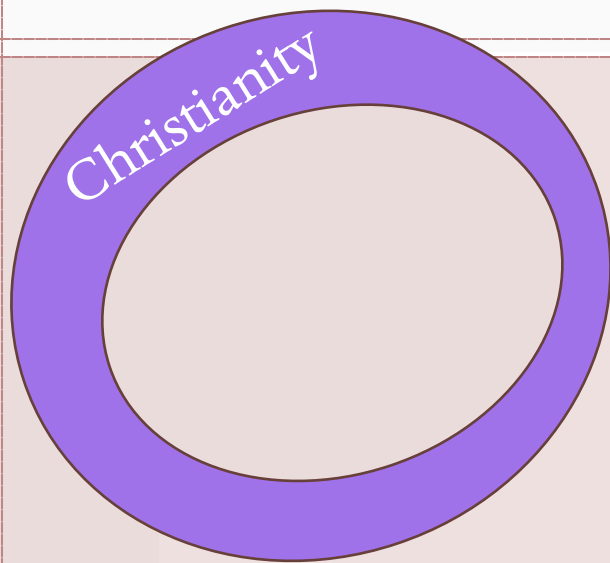
Forum January 11: The Episcopal Identity – temperament, spirituality

Forum October 19: The Senior Choir Pilgrimage to Salisbury Cathedral and Bath Abbey in the U.K.

Youth Engagement: Our 4th–6th graders will visit the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Lorain, where an urban farming ministry is transforming vacant plots into food sources. St. Paul's is funding a new orchard, and our kids will plant the trees, an act that connects them not only to Creation, but also to the wider Diocese and its mission.

Christianity





How do you relate to the diversity, unity, and fractures across Christianity?

- Estimated more than 45,000 Christian denominations worldwide
- 2.5 billion Christians

Related St. Paul's Happenings

Forum, January 18 "Ecumenism and Connection among Denominations" with Ed Hahnenberg, Professor, John Carroll University Department of Theology and Religious Studies

Humanity / the World / Creation





How do you feel belonging or connection with other faith traditions of the world? The whole human family? Nature, creation, the cosmos?

[Related St. Paul's Happenings](#)

St. Paul's Outreach Opportunities caring for our neighbors

Lay Weeders caring for our gardens

Holy Hikes in the summer

Youth: 4th–6th graders are diving into the life of St. Francis and his vision of Creation as sacred community. They're learning that belonging stretches beyond themselves to the earth and all living things. As part of this unit, they'll visit the Church of the Redeemer in Lorain, where an urban farming ministry is transforming vacant plots into food sources.



Distortion / shadow side

true belonging

Distortion/shadow side

The Distorted or Shadow Side of Belonging

- Human behaviors, rising out of fear, of excluding others, shutting others out, dehumanizing others, hatred, condemnation
- Runs through all layers from within our own selves through the increasingly wider circles of groups to which we belong
- Does not touch True Belonging
- Is critical for us to address when considering Belonging - including raising our awareness and accountability for those who feel unsure if they have a “place” at St. Paul’s, those who have experienced or are now experiencing a sense of *not* belonging here. How can we address this fundamentally important area of being the radical love of Christ in the world?

Distortion / shadow side

Related St. Paul's Happenings

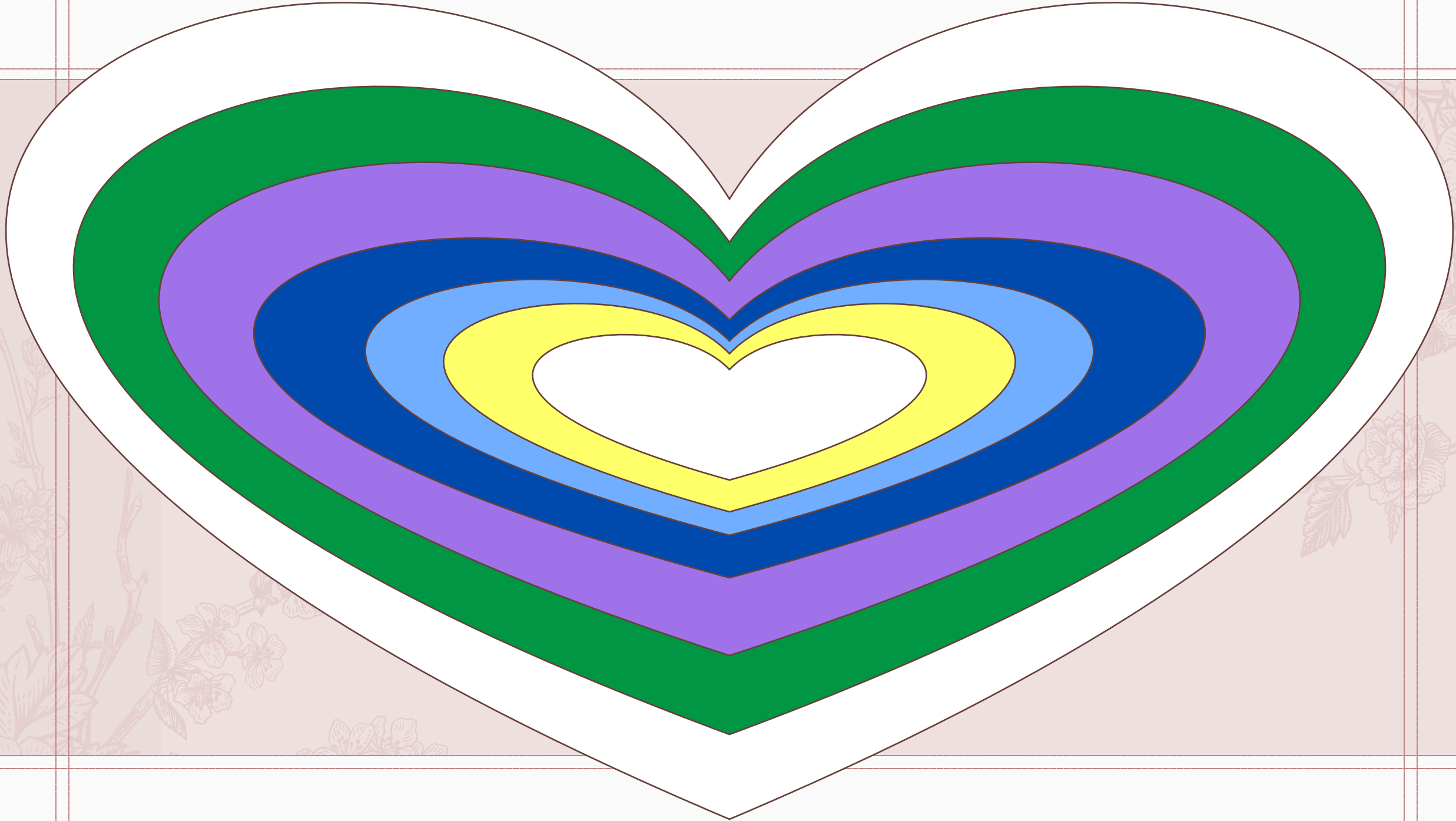
Forum December 7: “Strangers in a Strange Land, 16th – 18th Century Refugee Art of Europe” with Catherine Scallen, St. Paul’s parishioner and Professor Emerita in the Humanities at Case Western Reserve University,

Youth :Our high school youth curriculum is from the *Othering & Belonging Institute*, a non-profit think tank which aims to address marginalization and teach others how to promote belonging in the world. This curriculum points our youth towards Jesus’ ministry of radical inclusion, welcoming the other, and reconciling the world.

Outreach: St. Paul’s volunteer opportunities at *AMIS*, an organization working to contribute to the well being of immigrants and their families and at *GCC, Greater Cleveland Congregations*: 42 congregations and organizations working to dismantle systems of oppression and build better, healthier neighborhoods in the Greater Cleveland area.

Love one another as I have loved you. *John 15:12*

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. *Matthew 22:37-40*



true belonging

true belonging

Humanity / the World / Creation

Christianity

Episcopal Church

Anglican Communion

St. Paul's

ourselves

true belonging

true belonging

Distortion / shadow side

