

Decisions ... Decisions

Every day we make hundreds of decisions and make tons of choices. It starts with do I get out of bed, what clothes to wear, what to eat and it goes on and on. Some decisions are more impactful and carry greater consequences. When it comes to the "bigger" decisions, how do you go about deciding?

What do you do when you're facing a decision? Do you approach it logically or simply go with what feels right in the moment? Many of us do the latter and "go with our gut." This approach isn't necessarily wrong, but you must be sure your gut is informed by the right principles and teachings– all of which can be found in the Scriptures. Every page of the Bible is filled with principles by which the Lord wants us to live. Psalm 119:105 Your world is a lamp for my feet, a light to my path. The decisions we make today will decide the life we live tomorrow. If this is true, we need to be intentional about what we choose to focus on and commit to in life. Beginning August 7th we will start a new series called "Decisions...Decisions". This series will focus on how we can make God honoring decisions that prepare us to live the life he has called us to live. So if you are stressing over one of those big choices and life changing decisions... help is on the way. Begin today by praying for God's wisdom and direction.

James says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).

In Christ, Pastor Chris

### Love without Commitment is Not Love -Pastor Tim

"And at that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold..." (Matthew 24:10-12).

Allow me to be perfectly clear: there is no such thing as love without commitment. The measure of one's love is found in the depth of his or her commitment to others. How often have we heard people say, "I loved once, but I was hurt." Or, "I was committed to the church, but they used me."

When someone withdraws his commitment to a relationship, he is withdrawing his love. It is not one's commitment that grows cold; it is their love. It may not seem like they have become cold, they may still attend church, sing and look 'Christian' but inside they have become hard and separated from others. They have withdrawn from love because their commitment is shallow, they will be easily offended.

Jesus said, "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come" (Matt. 18:7). In our walk there will be times when even good people have bad days. As long as we live on earth, there will never be a time when "stumbling blocks" cease to be found upon our path. People do not stumble over boulders but over stones---little things.

Have you stumbled over someone's weakness or sin lately? Have you gotten back up and continued loving as you did before, or has that fall caused you to withdraw somewhat from walking after love? To preserve the quality of love in our heart, we must forgive those who have caused us to stumble. Every time we refuse to forgive or fail to overlook a weakness in another, our heart not only hardens toward them, it hardens toward God. We cannot form a negative opinion of someone (even though we think they may deserve it!) and allow that opinion to crystalize into an attitude; for every time we do, an aspect of our heart will cool toward God.

We may still think we are open to God, but the Scriptures are clear: "The one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 John 4:20). We may not like what someone has done, but we do not have an option to stop loving them. Love is our Love only choice.

What do I mean by love? First, I do not merely mean "tough love." I mean gentle, affectionate, sensitive, open, persistent love. God will be tough when He needs to be, and we will be firm when He tells us to be, but beneath our firmness must be an underground river of love waiting to spring into action. By love, I mean a compassion that is empowered by faith and prayer to see God's best come forth in the people I love. When I have love for someone, I have predetermined that I am going to stand with them, regardless of what they are going through. I

am committed.

We each need people who love us, who are committed to us in spite of our imperfections. The fullness of Christ will not come without Christians standing with each other in love. We are not talking about salvation, but growing in salvation until we care for each other, even as Christ has committed Himself to us.

### Love without Commitment is Not Love -...continued

Many people will stumble over little faults and human weaknesses. These minor things are quickly pumped up by the enemy into great big problems. Oh, how frail are the excuses people use to justify withdrawing from others. In reality, these problems, often with a church or pastor, are a smokescreen which masks the person's lack of love.

No one will attain the fullness of God's purposes on earth without being committed to imperfect people along the way. "Well, as soon as I find a church that believes as I do, I will be committed." This is a dangerous excuse, because as soon as you decide you do not want to forgive, or God begins to deal with the quality of your love, you will blame your withdrawing on some minor doctrinal difference.

The kingdom of God is not based on mere doctrines, it is founded upon relationships---relationships with God and, because of God, with one another. Doctrines only help define those relationships. We are not anti-doctrine, but we are against empty doctrines which seem like virtues but are simply excuses that justify cold love.

An expert in the Law once asked Jesus which was the greatest commandment. His reply was wonderful: " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself' " (Mark 12:30-31).

Jesus said that the second commandment is like the first. When we love God, our love for others will actually be like our love for God. The more we unconditionally love God, the more we will unconditionally love others. To those whose attitude is, "I am content with just Jesus and me," I say it is wonderful you found Jesus. But you cannot truly have Jesus and simultaneously not do what He says. The outgrowth of love and faith in Christ is love and faith like Christ's, which means we are committed, even as He is, to His people.

You see, the kingdom of God is most perfectly revealed in our relationships with one another. We are being perfected into a unit (see John 17). To have the kingdom, we must be committed to one another as individuals and as the Church. If Christ accepts us while we are still imperfect, we must also accept one another. The people who possess the kingdom of God in its reality are people who overcome the obstacles of each other's faults. They help each other become what God has called them to be: the living body of Jesus Christ.

Remember, the goal of pulling down the stronghold of cold love is to see the oneness of Christ's body revealed. We will be challenged in this, but if we persist, we will discover the height and depth, the length and breadth of Christ's love. We will become a body filled and flooded with God Himself.

### "The Shepherd's Staff" Mt Pleasant Elder's Update | August 2022

In our recent meeting, the elders continued to discuss our study of Acts 20 in regard to how we deal with temptation and sin. In Acts 20:28, Paul challenges us to "guard ourselves and God's people." His challenge certainly applies to the Ephesian elders, but also to any believer. The challenge we face each and everyday is to be on guard against the enemy (aka Satan) that threatens our moral integrity through temptations that can lead to sin. The question is, what do we do when threatened? I'm glad you asked. Here are a few ways that the Bible recommends:

First, know what threatens you and be alert. Peter echoed Paul's message by saying "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). The temptations that each of us face can be very different from one person to the next. The devil is prepared to pounce when our tripping hazards present themselves, just like a hungry lion searching for the lame gazelle. By being alert and on guard, we are also prepared to flee when temptation comes our way (see 1 Corinthians 6:13).

Second, know God's Word. Nothing thwarts the devil like the words of our Creator. We even see that Jesus used Scripture when the devil tempted Him while in the wilderness (see Matthew 4:1-11); and He calls us to do the same. Jesus used Deuteronomy 8:3, 6:16 and 6:13 to turn back the tempting words of the devil. By knowing Scripture, we are armed and "able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11b).

Finally, seek and surrender to God in all matters. Our Heavenly Father is not surprised by our need, nor is He unprepared. He assures us throughout Scripture that He is with us no matter what. As Jesus ascended into Heaven, He left His followers with the promise that He would be with them until the end of the age (see Matthew 28:18-20). This message of a Heavenly presence is found throughout Scripture and we are called to seek that in our times of being tempted.

James sums it up very well:

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. (James 1:12-15)

The devil is cunning but He is not the supreme being, God Is. In times of temptation: be alert, seek God's Word and seek Him for all guidance.

As we move quickly towards the end of the year, the elders, deacons and admin council will be evaluating staff reviews, nominations, budgets and many other important tasks. Please be in prayer for our leadership as we prayerfully navigate these significant responsibilities.

<u>lder:</u>	<u>Email:</u>	Cell Phone:
/ince Brown	bama14@northstate.net	336-963-4692
teve Cranford	secranford@gmail.com	336-848-7645
oe Hayworth	hayworthjc@gmail.com	336-687-4514
ric Hilton	ehilton@northstate.net	336-880-4926
evin Logan	kllogan61@hotmail.com	336-399-8482
ay Payne	jpayne@jcgreenandsons.com	336-847-5889
aniel Rich	daniel@tntrans.com	336-688-4011
o Sink	bosink22@gmail.com	404-218-7092
on Sloan	jonathans@cityofwsfire.org	336-848-2907



### Join us for a time to connect with other singles in our community.

- Friday, August 5 | 7pm
- Sunday, August 7 | 6pm
- Sunday, August 21 | 6pm

### All are welcome

Women Offering Worship

#### W.O.W. meets 3rd Saturday of the month

The vision for Mt. Pleasant's Women Offering Worship (WOW) is to equip women who are on the journey of reflecting Christ.

Worship is revealed in different ways, and we celebrate the uniqueness in how God has designed us. We also recognize how easy it is to allow daily life to interfere with a heart that has a posture of worship.

COFFEE WITH STARBUCK - 4TH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH



### What's Happening...

### Youth Canoe Trip

### AUGUST 11th | 8 AM - 3 PM

Pack a bag lunch and hop on the New River. Bring a life jacket if you have one you prefer, life jackets will be provided by Zaloo canoes. (\$20 per)

### **High School Mtn Biking**

### AUGUST 18th | 7 AM - 4:30 PM | For 9th-12 Grades.

Enjoy the scenic views of the VA. Creeper Trail. Pack a bag lunch for the trail. (\$20 per student)

### **Rock Quarry Swim Night**

### AUGUST 25th | 2:30 - 8 PM

Swimming in a deep, refreshing natural quarry is the perfect way to cool off in the summer. Bring cash for dinner. (\$15 per)

### **End of Summer Bonfire**

### AUGUST 28th | 5 - 7:30 PM

Hotdogs, S'mores, and the pond. Join us at The Rich's house and say farewell to summer.



### REGISTER FOR EVENTS ONLINE



### **STH GRADE CROSSOVER** AUGUST 24TH | 10:30A-2:30P

\$25 PER STUDENT | LUNCH PROVIDED | REGISTER ONLINE

**REGISTER ONLINE** 





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Thank vou so much to all that helped make our preschool playground so amazing. The kids love it

### August 2022

### Join us as we enjoy adventure and fun learning about and sharing God's love.

### **Sneak Peek!!!**

**August 9-Field Trip to Tanglewood Pool** Parents requested to attend)

Thank you I can never thank you all enough for spending a week sharing God's love at VBS. What a blessing you have been to so many. You will never know how much you mean to me and our Kids Klub. You have been a true light this week and we could have never done this without you. Thank you again from the www.mtpleasant.church/kids/ bottom of my heart. I love you

August 17-Field Trip to High **Point Children's Museum** 

**Register** @

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GRATITUDE SCAVENGER HUNT

- Find something that is your favorite color.
- Find something that makes you feel safe.
- Find something that smells good.
- Find something you love.
- Find something that tastes good.
- Name a place you love to go.
- Find something outside you like.
- Name an activity you love to do.
- Find your favorite toy.
- Find something you like to play with.
- Name 3 people you are thankful for.
- Find something that makes you smile.
- Name something you are proud of.
- Find someone you can help today.
- Name a good thing about YOU!

The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy. Psalms 65:8

### felllowship

### **MTP Women**

The Mt. Pleasant Women met on July 18 to do a visitation to some of our church family who aren't able to get out of their home as often now. Following the visitation, we went to Mayberry Ice Cream in High Point for food and fellowship.

The next meeting will be Monday, August 22, at 6:30 pm. We will do a Blessing Box and the mission project will be staple food items for The Cooperative Ministry in Thomasville.

Please continue to donate items for the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes. The boxes will be put together in early November, or you can pack a box to be given to the Operation Christmas Child Project. Watch the bulletin for the due date.

#### Yard Sale info . . .

A Yard Sale will be held at the church on August 27 – 7 am until 12 noon. The money earned will help support the Mt. Pleasant Women's mission endeavors.

If you would like to have a space to sell your merchandise you can rent a space that is the equivalent of two parking spaces for \$20.00. You must provide your own tables. To reserve your space or spaces, go on the church website to fill out the form and make payment at the time you fill out the form. You will be able to start setting up your space at 6:00 am.

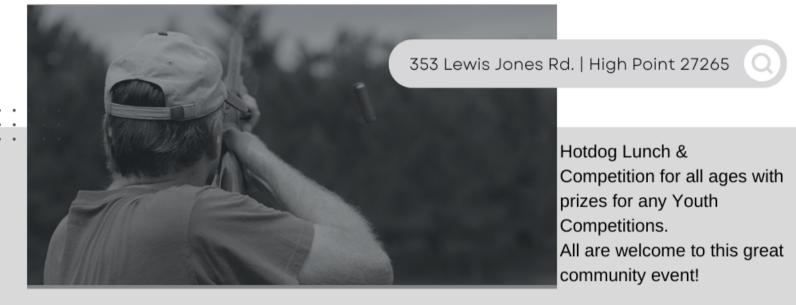
We will have biscuits, coffee and juice for sell at the yard sale.

If you would like to donate items to the yard sale instead of having a space, they can be dropped off between August 19 - 26. Drop off location to be decided. Watch the bulletin for info.

### MTP Men

Greetings from MTP Men. We had a regular business meeting on July 10th with 19 in attendance. Our speaker for this meeting was Len Blevins, great message Len, thank you. We will not have a business meeting in August but we will be having a Skeet Shoot on August 27th at Lewis Creek Shooting School from 12 - 3pm. All are invited for this great time of fellowship, hot dogs and gun powder, going to be a great day. Respectfully submitted, Greg Moore

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 27 | 12 - 3PM



RSVP ONLINE | MTPLEASANT.CHURCH/EVENTS

MTP MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL SKEET SHOOT



### ONGOING MISSION PROJECT -Each One Feed One Food

The Mission Committee will begin collecting coins for the annual Food Packing Event, during VBS this year.

Just 30 cents will purchase a pack of Mac n Cheese, that will serve a family of 6. Last year, we supplied organizations in Wallburg, Thomasville, High Point, Lexington and Jamestown with the 10,000 meals. Thank you for your continued support!

If you would like to help, please donate your money to the jar or Mission box in the church lobby or see a member of the Mission Committee. You may also donate directly to the Mission Committee you can write your check to MTP, just memo "Each 1 Feed 1"



tugust Birthdays

- 1 LeAnne Fleming
- 2 Vickey Borgman, John Howard, Betty Nifong
- 3 Dave Edwards
- 4 Kim Cecil, BethAnn Starbuck
- 5 Matt Miller, Laura Jarosz
- 6 Craig Fleming
- 10 Pat Shelton, Peggy Shelton
- 11 Jason Sloan
- 12 Lorrie Varner, Marshall Vining
- 14 David Godwin
- 15 Adam Dyles
- 16 Eva Lassiter
- 17 Larry Nifong, Wes Payne
- 18 Joey Ferree, Chris Miller
- 19 Joanne Baughn, Zoe Miller
- 20 -Norma Moore
- 21 Emily Alphin, Kayla Evans
- 22 Dwight Hilton
- 23 Allyson Logan, Richard Mendenhall
- 24 Brad Miller
- 25 Hannah Evans
- 26 Susan Jarosz
- 27 Ron Zenker, Lizzie Woychik
- 28 Phyllis Hilton
- 29 Danny Buckner, Rebecca Cecil, Tracie Conrad, Owen Moore, Kyle Godwin
- 30 Jerry Hilton
- 31 Dianne Baucom, Reese Mendenhall, Linda Murphy

### ATTENDANCE & STEWARDSHIP

#### <u>June 26, 2022</u>

8:30 Worship: 148 9:45 Worship: 367 11:00 Worship: 26 Total Weekend Worship: 541 Sunday Small Groups: Celebration Sunday General Offering: \$10,291.00 FLC Offering: \$1,345.00

#### <u>July 3, 2022</u>

8:30 Worship: 146 9:45 Worship: 248 11:00 Worship: 37 Total Weekend Worship: 431 Sunday Small Groups: 210 General Offering: \$16,588.00 FLC Offering: \$3,765.00

#### <u>July 10, 2022</u>

8:30 Worship: 157 9:45 Worship: 228 11:00 Worship: 26 Total Weekend Worship: 411 Sunday Small Groups: 261 General Offering: \$15,975.00 FLC Offering: \$835.00

#### <u>July 17, 2022</u>

8:30 Worship: 160 9:45 Worship: 201 11:00 Worship: 36 Total Weekend Worship: 397 Sunday Small Groups: 252 General Offering: \$16,272.20 FLC Offering: \$2,280.00

#### <u>July 24, 2022</u>

8:30 Worship: 157 9:45 Worship: 294 11:00 Worship: 31 Total Weekend Worship: 452 Sunday Small Groups: 257 General Offering: \$12.195.00 FLC Offering: \$1,175.00

#### Ushers:

August 7: Adam Buckner & Joe Hayworth August 14: Greg Moore & Bryan Bray August 21: Ronnie Russell & Gary Hilton August 28: Gary Craven & Tim Starbuck

<u>Greeters: 8</u>	3:30AM	9:45AM		11:00AM
August 7: Dou	ug & Gail Aderhold	John & Kathy But	t	Ester Skiff & Joanne Baughn
August 14: W	endy Harper	Danny & Denise I	Roberts	Greg Moore
August 21: Ka	aren & Stan Bowen	The Shufelt Fami	ly	Ronnie & Dot Russell
August 28: Lir	n & Terri Blevins	Chet & Lorrie Va	rner	Nell Ferree, Doris Blair & Patsy Foxworth
Info Center:	8:15 - 9:45AM		9:30 - 11	:00AM
August 7:	Jay & Stephanie Payn	ne	Adam & S	ammie Jo Prior
August 14:	Sharon Payne		Keith & Pa	aula Knolmayer
August 21:	Josh & Chelsea Kearr	าร	Bo & Jeso	cena Sink
August 28:	Bill Baughn & Jane M	Iendenhall		
FLC / Sanctu	<u>ary Greeter: 8:15 - 9:45</u>	AM	<u>9:30 - 11:0</u>	MAOO
August 7:	Gayle Mabe		Danny & D	Denise Roberts
August 14:	Jeff & Shelby Smith		Lee Koont	Z
August 21:	Gail Aderhold		Peggy Shu	ufelt
August 28:			John & Ka	thy Butt
Coffee Bar:	8:15 - 9:45AM		<u>9:30 - 11:0</u>	DOAM
August 7:	Debra Casselbury	F	Pam D. Hal	ll
August 14:	Ryan & Allison Martin		Casey Mill	er & Beth Meyer
August 21:			David & La	auren Rathbone
August 28:	Emily Campbell		Ashley Cra	aven
Parking Lot	8:15 - 9:45AM		9:30 - 11:(	ΩΩΔΜ
August 7:	Randy Wilhoit			ecca Tussey
August 14:				
August 21:				
August 21: August 28:				
, lugust 20.				

### Youth & Kids: 9:15 - 10:00AM

August 7: Ellie Kiger & Peyton McDevitt August 14: Brady Coons & Melody Murray August 21: Holly Edwards & Maddie Wall August 28: Cooper Clontz & Katelyn Brann

### Sign up online to help out! MtPleasant.Church/Volunteer

### **KIDS KLUB SERVERS - AUGUST 2022**

Nursery:	8:30AM	9:45AM	11:00AM
August 7: Pl	nil & Sue Fitzgerald	The Garlicks	Tricia Anderson
August 14:	Jescena & Allison Sink	Kim W., Pam H. & Laura G.	Jennifer Driggers
August 21:	Julie Motsinger & Jane Payne	Ellen H., Emily C. & Beth M.	Courtney Lake
August 28: \	Wendy Harper & Teresa Harden	Allison Martin & Steve & Mitzi T.	Jennifer Driggers
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2 Year Old:	3 Year Old:	4 Year Old:
August 7: Cameron & Katie Koontz	Melissa Swaney & Alura Trail	Alex Phillips & Brandy Thomas
August 14: Amy Johnson & Christian Craver	Megan W., Mae H. & Valerie N.	Josh & Chelsea Kearns
August 21: Micah & Jessica Moore	Tiffany W. & Tammy V.	Janet & Spence Wood
August 28: Amy & Samuel Nifong	Michael & Amber B.	Hyde's & Courtney B.

Kindergarten:	1st Grade:	2nd Grade:
August 7: Misty Carr & Victoria McCrary	Tiffany Brister	Eileen Sloan
August 14: Jill Murphy & Brenda Flack	Leandra Glance	Dianne Reid
August 21: Tobbie L. & Laura C.	Tess Robertson & Whitney W.	Jane Mendenhall
August 28: Keith & Paula Knolmayer	Josh & Heather Beasley	Emily Sanders

3rd Grade:	4th Grade:
August 7: Sidnee Bruner	Jenny Hagee
August 14: Bob & Jeanette Beck	Amy McDevitt
August 21: Misty Petree	Jenny Hagee
August 28: Erica Martin	Amy McDevitt

### Children's Church:

8:30AM:	11:00AM:	
August 7: Diana Payne	Josh & Chelsea Kearns &	Trina Sprinkle
August 14: Christina Turner	Cindy Buckner & David &	Lauren Rathbone
August 21: Clay & Sara Fowler	Amy Johnson & Julie But	t 📃
August 28: Lisa Lane	Kristin Hagee	icis iub

Operation Christmas Child

### YEAR-ROUND

By preparing shoebox gifts all year long, we will be able to send the Good News of Jesus Christ and the great joy of receiving an Operation Christmas Child shoebox to more boy and girls around the world!

JANUARY

#### Hats, Gloves & Scarves



Fashion Accessories

# MARCH

#### **Craft Supplies**

JULY

APRIL

#### **Stuffed Animals**



**Hygiene Items** 



Toys



Clothing



**School Supplies** 



WE WILL HAVE A DONATION BOX IN THE LOBBY FOR YOU TO BE ABLE TO BRING IN YOUR ITEMS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. OUR GOAL THIS YEAR IS TO PACK 200+ BOXES!

### AUGUST EVENTS

Tuesday's	Prayer Group Meeting	10 AM
Tuesday's (starting back 8/16)	Choir Practice	6:45 PM
Thursday's	Pickleball	6 PM
Friday's	Men's Bible Study	6:15 AM
Wednesday, August 3	Dinner with the Pastors	6 PM
Friday, August 5	CAST - Singles Ministry	7 PM
Sunday, August 7	CAST - Singles Ministry	6 PM
Tuesday, August 9	Kids Summer Field Trip	
Thursday, August 11	Youth Canoe Trip	
Monday, August 15	Pickleball	6 - 8PM
Tuesday, August 16	Kids Summer Field Trip	
Friday, August 19	LHS Football Pre-Game Meal	3 - 4:30 PM
Saturday, August 20	Women Offering Worship	9:30 - 11 AM
Saturday, August 20	C2 - Back to School Giveaway	
Sunday, August 21	Celebration Sunday	8:30   9:45   11:00 AM
Sunday, August 21	Administrative Council Meeting	3 PM
Sunday, August 21	CAST - Singles Ministry	6 PM
Monday, August 22	MTP Women's Meeting	6:30 PM
Thursday, August 25	Coffee with Pastor Starbuck	10 AM
Saturday, August 27	MTP Women's Yard Sale	7 AM - 12 PM
Saturday, August 27	MTP Men's Skeet Shoot	12 - 3 PM
Wednesday, August 31	Youth Breakfast & Devotion	7 AM

### **STAFF**

Rev. Chris Clontz Senior Pastor Chris@MtPleasant.Church Cell: 336-880-8847

Donny Baldridge Youth Pastor Youth@MtPleasant.Church

Jennifer Driggers Director of Children's Ministry Kids@MtPleasant.Church Cell: 336-847-4618 Rev. Tim Starbuck Pastoral Care Associate Pastor Tim@MtPleasant.Church Cell: 336-929-7163

Greg Moore Facilities Manager Facilities@MtPleasant.church

Felecia Motsinger Administrative Assistant Office@MtPleasant.Church 336-475-6757 OUR MISSION To Boldly Share The Unfailing Love of Jesus

OUR VISION To Turn Our Community Upside Down for Jesus Christ

OUR VALUES Authority of Scripture Authentic Relationships Obedient Surrender Expectant Hearts

NEXT STEPS Worship - Grow - Serve - Connect

### Sunday Morning Worship Opportunities: 8:30am | 9:45am | 11:00am