



When You Just Don't Feel So Joyful

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We spend our lives pursuing happiness, but it never seems to last. What we need is what only God offers us — unshakable, unwavering joy.

Beginning Dec. 11th we have a series called “Joy...Really?” My prayer is that it will show us why Jesus’ birth and his Word brings joy to the world and everyone in it, including you. Even in times of loneliness, sadness, feeling overwhelmed and confused we can be joyful. How? Because our joy depends on our savior not our circumstance...our assurance not our temporal situation.

One of my favorite Christmas songs is a version of Joy To The World by Chris Tomlin. The refrain of the song says the following, “Joy, unspeakable joy, an overflowing well, no tongue can tell. Joy, unspeakable joy. Rises in my soul, never lets me go”.

That is the joy we find in Jesus. A Joy that is overflowing. A joy that is hard to explain in human words and one that will hold us and never let us go.

We invite you to join us this Christmas season as we explore how this joy is available in hard times and even the most difficult circumstances of life.

Philippians 4:4 “Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again rejoice.” What are you going to be full of this time of the year? Jesus is longing to fill you to overflowing.

In Christ - Pastor Chris

Shepherds Staff

The elders recently gathered at our retreat to pray, plan, and discuss numerous topics that pertain to the spiritual well-being of our church. Our church is proud to recognize the authority of Scripture as one of our four core values. As a church body, we believe (and strive to teach and preach) that the Bible is true, it is God's Word, and it is how God reveals Himself to us.

As an elder team, we continue to be encouraged by the desire for our congregation to learn more about our Heavenly Father. For lack of better words, our church is hungry for the Good News! This is a true blessing. As we shepherd, the elders want to see our congregation to continue to grow in our spiritual walk with Christ and further our relationship with Him through the study of the Bible.

During our retreat, we began planning a church-wide devotional/Bible study/sermon series that will guide us through the Gospel of Luke. We plan for this to be a 12-week study that will begin before the end of the first quarter of next year. This will give our families, small groups, and congregation the opportunity to go through a book of the Bible together as a church-family. We are excited about the possibilities that this will create to grow spiritually, but also the expectation of what God has in store for our church to boldly share the unfailing love of Jesus with everyone we encounter.

Please pray for Pastor Chris and your elders as we start to put this material together.

We are also excited to welcome Kelley Cameron, Mark Long, and Greg York as our new class of elders that were elected by our congregation on November 20th. All three are excited to get started in their new role and we are confident that God is going to do some great things in and through them over the next three years. These three will be replacing Vince Brown, Steve Cranford, and Daniel Rich at the beginning of the year. We are grateful for their service to our church and thankful that God commissioned them into the role of elder two years ago. They will be missed. Please pray for this transition, the new admin council members, committee members, deacons, and all our church leadership. It is truly a blessing to see God's hand at work in our congregation.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Paul's words in his first letter to the church in Thessalonica embody our appreciation for our church-family: *"We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."* 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Thank you

Feel free to reach out to us in person, via email or phone.

Elder:

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Steve Cranford
Joe Hayworth
Eric Hilton
Kevin Logan
Jay Payne
Daniel Rich
Bo Sink
Jon Sloan

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CONNECT

YOUNG AT HEART

*Thursday, December 1 | 12pm
We invite you to join us for lunch and a time to fellowship in the church Banquet Room.*



MTP CONNECT

Wednesday mornings at 8am join us for a short devotional, coffee and snacks. After the devotion time, feel free to hangout with friends that have gathered or you have invited and gossip in Christian love or if you're really motivated, you can get a few steps in walking through or around the church.

SINGLES MINISTRY

*We meet on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month. We encourage all singles in the church and our community to join us!
Sunday, December 11 at 2pm our Singles Ministry will go to see a Christmas Play*



COFFEE WITH STARBUCK

4th Thursday of each month



WHAT'S HAPPENING

YOUTH GROUP

4th, 11th, 18th | 5 - 7:30P

"Youth" is our Sunday evening programming comprising games, a shared meal, music, message, and small group discussion time.

YOUTH BREAKFAST

7th, 14th, 21st | 7:00 - 7:30A

Every Wednesday morning, when Davidson County Schools have classes. Students 5th - 12th grade come together for breakfast and devotion.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

7th & 14th | 6:30 - 7:30P

YOUTH PRAISE BAND

7th & 14th | 7:30 - 8:00P

The Annual Flag Football game. All youth & parents are invited. (Pizza lunch at the end of the game.)

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

18th | 5:00 - 7:30P

Fa la la la laa la la la la, Christmas is right around the corner, and what better way to celebrate than a Youth Christmas Party. **Wear your favorite Christmas PJs and bring a \$5 gift for our dirty Santa gift exchange.** Food, games, presents, and a whole lot more.

YOUTH NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

31st | 7:00 - 10:30P

Let's ring in the new year together! Play some Family Trivia, Amazing Race, and Musical Chairs and you could win a \$50 gift card.

MEMORY VERSE

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests."
Luke 2:14, NIV



Messy Christmas

What We're Learning...

Week One

Luke 2:6-14, 16-20

You're not alone when life gets messy.

Week Two

Matthew 2:1-3, 8,

Philippians 2:5b-7

You weren't meant to be the one that keeps it all together.

ENGAGE IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS TOGETHER



If your teen starts their day extra grumpy (it happens to all of us), be okay with the silence and, if possible, slip them an encouraging note in their bag or lunch for them to find later.



If you find out something unexpected about your teen, try not to let your fear determine your response. If needed, ask for some time to process what you find out and then make decisions on how to move forward.



At a meal this week, as everyone: "What is a decision or a situation in your life when you had the option to choose joy as a response?" If you have difficulty answering, maybe work together to find the joy in the situations you are facing.



Pray that both you and your teen will choose to find joy every day, even when things are difficult.





December 2022



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

Sneak Peek!!!

December 2-Kersey Valley Christmas Fun

December 9-Dinner with Santa & The Christmas Express-5:00-8:30

December 10-10:00-Kids Play Practice

December 10-11:00-Happy Birthday Jesus Party

December 11-Angel Alert Kids Christmas Program

December 25-Happy Birthday Jesus!!!
Christmas Day

Join us for
Dinner with Santa & the Christmas Express
Friday, December 9 | 5 - 8:30PM - floating

Enjoy breakfast for dinner, picture with Santa, crafts, ride on the Christmas Express train, movie time & more!

Purchase your tickets at:
MtPleasant.Church/Kids

MT. PLEASANT CHURCH 6516 OLD GREENSBORO RD. THOMASVILLE, NC 27360

Register @
www.mtleasant.church/kids

The Christmas Story

by Leanne Guenther

Once upon a time,
A long, long time ago.
Begins the story of a baby,
That most of you should know.



His daddy's name was Joseph,
And Mary was His mom,
This babe was very special
He was God's only Son.

Some angels came from heaven,
And they began to sing.
To the shepherds in the fields below,
"Glad tidings do we bring!"



A bright star lit the heavens,
To light the magi's way,
To the baby in the manger
Who was born on Christmas day.

And all who gathered round Him,
Rejoiced and praised His birth.
For the babe, the King, named Jesus,
Is our Saviour here on earth!



Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year from MTP
Kids Klub-May you always remember the true
meaning of CHRISTmas!!!



MTP Women

Happy Thanksgiving! Hope everyone gets to spend time with the special people in their life during this season when we focus on what really matters – really learning to change our thoughts to Thanks-Living and not just a one-day Thanksgiving event.

The pecan order came in the week before Thanksgiving and the bake sale items that were ordered were picked up on Wednesday before Thanksgiving. A special Thank You to everyone who put together an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox, or maybe more than one. Mt. Peasant provided 83 boxes. Hope everyone prayed for the child who will receive the box. We don't know where our boxes are going, but God does.

Our mission focus for November was providing food to a family. We will also provide gifts for the children and more food to them at Christmas.

At our November meeting we will prepare a Blessing Box to go to someone who is facing a difficult time in their life. The November meeting will be November 28, at 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited.

MTP Men

Greetings from MTP Men. Hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving.

We had a great turnout for our Turkey Shoot on November 12, great food and fellowship was shared by all who were there. Thank you Dick Jones for hosting this event.

Our December meeting will be a Spaghetti Dinner on December 10 at 6pm. We invite all men of the church and their significant other to join us. Our speaker for the December meeting will be Bradley Guyn.



Benevolence Committee

The Benevolence Committee continues to support CCM of Thomasville monetarily on a quarterly basis. In October & November our congregation filled 75 grocery bags of food for their food pantry. Our committee then supplemented that giving with a donation of \$500 from the benevolence fund.

We are grateful for a church congregation that loves people in our community. While the holiday season can be a time of happiness, it's also a difficult time for many around us. Continue to pray for the people you know, and may not know, who are hurting from loss of family, jobs, and other situations.

God bless you all - Benevolence Committee (Nicki Hilton, Barb Putnam, Wendy Harper, Melissa York & Jeanette Beck)

December Birthdays

- 
- 2 - Linda Hilton
4 - Robin Murphy, Zoe Starbuck
6 - Steve McDaniel
8 - Buddy Boatright, Lauren Cockrum, Jared Hall
9 - Ryder Cecil, Hollis Fitzgerald, Jane Mendenhall
10 - Becky Bruner
11 - Ann Leonard
12 - Mandy Creel
13 - Laurie Parks, Kaden Swaim
14 - Faye Baity, Marie Idol
15 - Drew Craver, Gary Hilton, Ronnie Russell, Brian Evans
16 - Mary Green
17 - Connor Sexton, Adam Prior
19 - Connor Peacock
20 - Glenn Payne, Jordan Sweeney
21 - Emma Hayworth Hilton, Jeremy Ray
22 - Garrison Lassiter
23 - Adam Hilton
24 - Karen Swaim
26 - Liss Jarosz
27 - Catherine White
29 - Adrienne Graeub, Sara Graeub, Leanne Roberts,
Charlotte Jarosz
30 - Sue Fitzgerald
31 - Carrie Jarosz, Katie Koontz

ATTENDANCE & STEWARDSHIP

October 30, 2022

8:30 Worship: 176
9:45 Worship: 248
11:00 Worship: 31
Total Weekend Worship: 455
Sunday Small Groups: 284
General Offering: \$19,509.00
FLC Offering: \$1,780.00

November 6, 2022

8:30 Worship: 203
9:45 Worship: 146 + 87 Youth Retreat
11:00 Worship: 32
Total Weekend Worship: 548
Sunday Small Groups: 345
General Offering: \$28,482.00
FLC Offering: \$1,775.00

November 13, 2022

8:30 Worship: 188
9:45 Worship: 298
11:00 Worship: 50
Total Weekend Worship: 536
Sunday Small Groups: 313
General Offering: \$29,382.84
FLC Offering: \$1,275.00

November 20, 2022

8:30 Worship: 177
9:45 Worship: 343
11:00 Worship: 33
Total Weekend Worship: 553
Sunday Small Groups: 361
General Offering: \$19,568.00
FLC Offering: \$20,640.00

Memorials & Donations

- Given to the Family Life Center in Memory of Edwin & Petty Smith by Paul & Anita Smith
- Given to MTP Youth in Memory of Jack Hartley by Timmy & Jill Hege
- Given to MTP Youth in Honor of Tanner & Allie Logan by Sandy Jordan
- Given to MTP Youth in Memory of Jack Hartley by Larry & Libby Essick
- Given to MT. Pleasant Church in Memory of Pat Fraley by John & Sharon Payne

SERVING THE CHURCH IN DECEMBER 2022

Ushers:

December 4: No 11am Worship

December 11: Greg Moore & Bryan Bray

December 18: Ronnie Russell & Gary Hilton

December 25: Gary Craven & Tim Starbuck

Greeters: 8:30AM

December 4: Doug & Gail Aderhold

December 11: Wendy Harper

December 18: Karen & Stan Bowen

December 25: Worship at 10AM

9:45AM

John & Kathy Butt

Danny & Denise Roberts

The Shufelt Family

11:00AM

No 11am Worship

Greg Moore

Ronnie & Dot Russell

Info Center: 8:15 - 9:45AM

December 4: Jay & Stephanie Payne

December 11: Sharon Payne

December 18: Josh & Chelsea Kearns

December 25: Bill Baughn & Jane Mendenhall

9:30 - 11:00AM

Adam & Sammie Jo Prior

Keith & Paula Knolmayer

Bo & Jescena Sink

FLC / Sanctuary Greeter: 8:15 - 9:45AM

December 4: Gayle Mabe

December 11: Jeff & Shelby Smith

December 18: Gail Aderhold

December 25:

9:30 - 11:00AM

Danny & Denise Roberts

Lee Koontz

Peggy Shufelt

John Butt

Coffee Bar: 8:15 - 9:45AM

December 4: Debra Casselbury

December 11: Ryan & Allison Martin

December 18: Kalyn Staton

December 25: Emily Campbell

9:30 - 11:00AM

Pam D. Hall

Casey Miller & Beth Meyer

David & Lauren Rathbone

Ashley Craven

Parking Lot: 8:15 - 9:45AM

December 4: Randy Wilhoit

December 11:

December 18:

December 25:

9:30 - 11:00AM

Jeff & Rebecca Tussey

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

December 4: Ellie Kiger & Peyton McDevitt

December 11: Brady Coons & Melody Murray

December 18: Holly Edwards & Maddie Wall

December 25: Cooper Clontz & Katelyn Brann



Sign up online to join the hospitality team! - MtPleasant.Church/Volunteer

KIDS KLUB SERVERS - NOVEMBER 2022

Nursery:	8:30AM	9:45AM	11:00AM
December 4:	Macie & Bryce	Garlicks, Charla W., Macie & Bryce	No 11am Worship
December 11:	MTP Kids Christmas Program		Jennifer Driggers
December 18:	Julie M. & Jane P.	Maddie W., Emily C. & Beth M.	Courtney Lake
December 25:	Merry Christmas		

2 Year Old:	3 Year Old:	4 Year Old:	
December 4:	Cameron & Katie Koontz	Melissa Swaney & Alura Trail	Brandy T., Alex P. & Kalyn S.
December 11:	MTP Kids Christmas Program		
December 18:	Micah & Jessica Moore	Tiffany W. & Tammy V.	Janet & Spence Wood
December 25:	Merry Christmas		

Kindergarten:	1st Grade:	2nd Grade:	
December 4:	Misty Carr & Victoria M.	Tiffany Brister	Eileen Sloan
December 11:	MTP Kids Christmas Program		
December 18:	Laura C. & Leandra G.	Tess R. & Whitney W.	Jane Mendenhall
December 25:	Merry Christmas		

3rd Grade:	4th Grade:	
December 4:	Sidnee Bruner	Jenny Hagee
December 11:	MTP Kids Christmas Program	
December 18:	Misty Petree	Jenny Hagee
December 25:	Merry Christmas	

Children's Church:

8:30AM:	11:00AM:	
December 4:	Diana Payne	No 11am Worship
December 11:	Christina Turner	Cindy Buckner & The Rathbone's
December 18:	Clay & Sara Fowler	Amy Johnson & Julie Butt
December 25:	Merry Christmas	

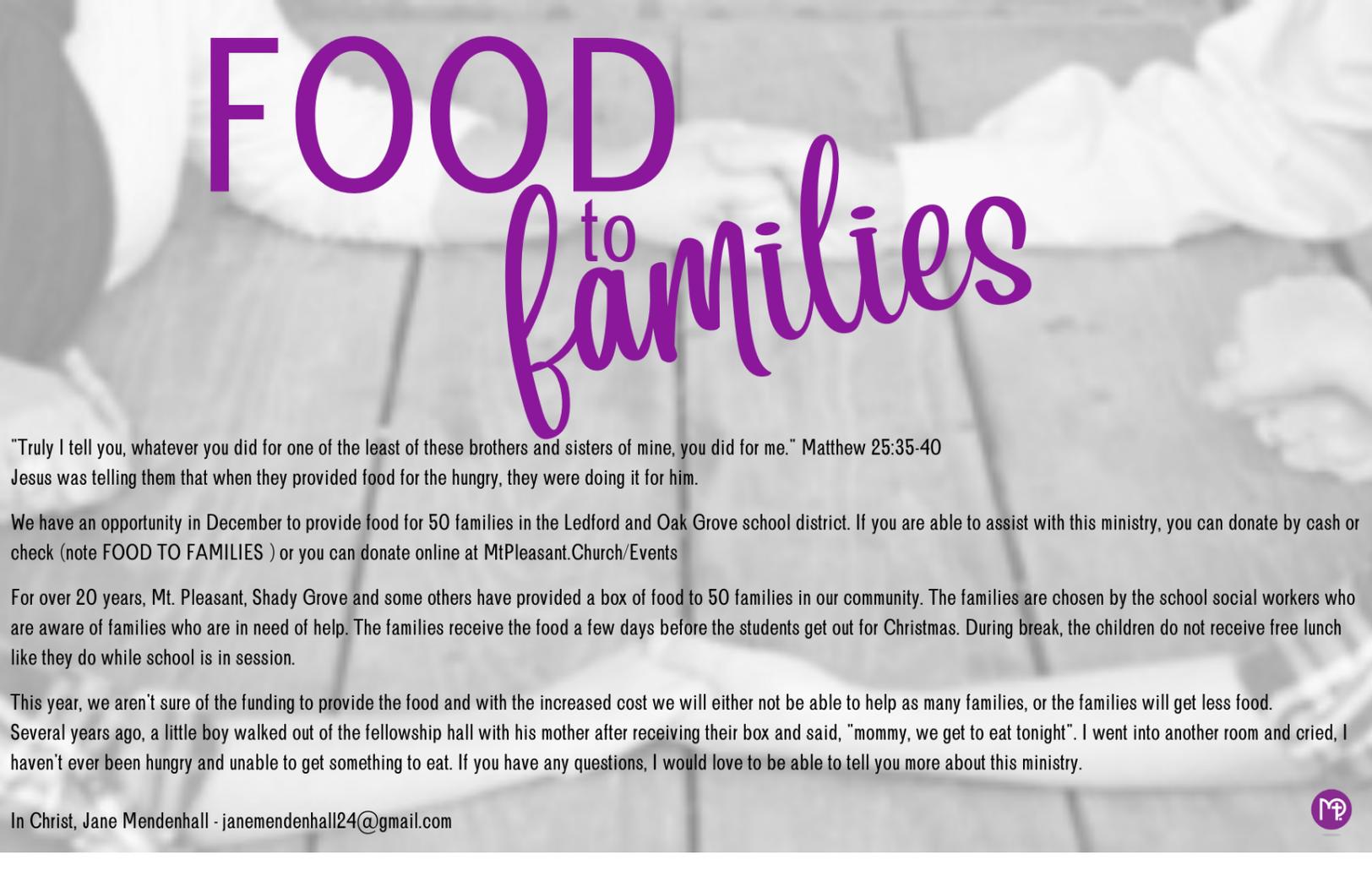




SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 | 8:30 & 10AM

Glorious Light of Christmas

MTP CHRISTMAS CANTATA



FOOD to families

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:35-40
Jesus was telling them that when they provided food for the hungry, they were doing it for him.

We have an opportunity in December to provide food for 50 families in the Ledford and Oak Grove school district. If you are able to assist with this ministry, you can donate by cash or check (note FOOD TO FAMILIES) or you can donate online at MtPleasant.Church/Events

For over 20 years, Mt. Pleasant, Shady Grove and some others have provided a box of food to 50 families in our community. The families are chosen by the school social workers who are aware of families who are in need of help. The families receive the food a few days before the students get out for Christmas. During break, the children do not receive free lunch like they do while school is in session.

This year, we aren't sure of the funding to provide the food and with the increased cost we will either not be able to help as many families, or the families will get less food. Several years ago, a little boy walked out of the fellowship hall with his mother after receiving their box and said, "mommy, we get to eat tonight". I went into another room and cried, I haven't ever been hungry and unable to get something to eat. If you have any questions, I would love to be able to tell you more about this ministry.

In Christ, Jane Mendenhall - janemendenhall24@gmail.com





ANGEL TREE

November 20 - December 18



Light ^{up} the Night

Special Needs Prom

FRIDAY
MARCH 10

AT MT. PLEASANT CHURCH
Doors open at: 06:00pm

SCAN ME



Throughout the Bible the idea of light is seen over and over. It represents life, joy and most importantly the presence of Jesus.

In fact, He is the light of the world! This year at Mt. Pleasant we will continue to experience life, joy and the presence of Jesus as we share the unfailing love of Jesus with our friends with special needs.

Deadline to Register | Monday, February 20
Guests & Volunteers

To Register & for more information:
www.mtpleasant.church

6516 OLD GREENSBORO RD. | THOMASVILLE, NC 27360

DECEMBER EVENTS

Tuesday's	Prayer Group Meeting	10 AM
Tuesday's	Choir Practice	6:45 PM
Wednesday's	Youth Breakfast & Devotion	7 AM
Wednesday's	MTP Connect	8 AM
Thursday's	Pickleball	6 PM
Friday's	Men's Bible Study	6:15 AM

Thursday, December 1	Young at Heart Christmas Lunch	12 PM
Sunday, December 4	Christmas Cantata	8:30 & 10 AM
Sunday, December 4	Lunch with the Pastor	11 AM
Friday, December 9	Dinner with Santa & The Christmas Express	5 - 8:30 PM - floating
Saturday, December 10	Happy Birthday Jesus Party	11 AM
Saturday, December 10	MTP Men's Spaghetti Supper with Spouses	6 PM
Sunday, December 11	MTP Kids Christmas Program	9:45 AM
Sunday, December 11	CAST - Singles Ministry - Christmas Play	2 PM
Sunday, December 11	Christmas Caroling	3 PM
Monday, December 12	MTP Women's Meeting	6:30 PM
Thursday, December 15	Food to Families	
Saturday, December 17	Women Offering Worship	9:30 - 11 AM
Sunday, December 18	Celebration Sunday	All Services
Sunday, December 18	Dancing Angels	All Services
Sunday, December 18	Youth Christmas Party	5 - 7:30 PM
Thursday, December 22	Coffee with Starbuck	10 AM
Saturday, December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion	4 PM ~ 6 PM ~ 8 PM
Sunday, December 25	Christmas Morning Service	10 AM

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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