

PLUG IN



Plug Into Church

Teacher Edition
Melanie Stone

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THE CHURCH FAMILY

Our aim is to be a place where people can feel loved, accepted, and valued by God and by one another. We view people as children of God, equal in worth, whatever their race, age, or gender. We recognize that God has a purpose for every person and has placed unique interests and gifts on the inside of each one. We want to see people rise to the potential that He has for their lives. Whatever a person's background or experience, we want to see them restored to the life God has intended for them. Whatever a person might be struggling with today, we want to help them and go through this journey of life together.

HOW THE CHURCH STARTED

I. OUR MISSION

II. OUR VISION

III. CHURCH LEADERSHIP

A. OUR LEADERSHIP TEAMS

We view leadership as a responsibility to help others find their position in the church, provide them with the resources and training that they need, and to encourage people to work together as a team.

B. ACCOUNTABILITY

Because we recognize that God has given us each other to support, encourage, and help one another, we don't ever want to do anything alone. We realize that it is dangerous for any leader to become separated from the people that God has given them for strength, guidance, and protection.

IV. FOCUS POINTS

A. CHURCH MINISTRIES

1. WORSHIP SERVICE

Our worship service is intended to provide an environment where people encounter God's presence through worship, prayer, and Bible teaching. The message of the Bible has not changed, but the methods that we use to present them has adapted with each generation. Today we use modern technology, contemporary music, and relevant illustrations to be effective in our ministry to today's world. We also want to provide opportunities for people to connect with other people through relationships and ministries. More than the methods we use, we hope that you see our heart to love God and to love people as we live life together.

2. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We offer children's ministry at the same time as our worship service. We don't look at our children's ministry as just childcare; we see it as an opportunity to minister to a younger generation. The ministry that we offer children is creative, dynamic, and age appropriate.

All Children's Ministry workers have gone through a screening and training process to provide a secure environment for your children.

3. YOUTH MINISTRY

As young people are developing and growing independent, we want to support families and be a part of what God wants to do in the life of their student. At a time when youth are being influenced by peers and trying to find their own way, we hope to help connect them with God and His plan for their life. We want to provide a place where young people can have good role models and form lasting relationships with true friends. We want to give them experiences in God's presence and show them how the Bible can apply to their lives.

All Youth Workers have gone through a screening and training process to provide a safe environment for students.

B. OUTREACH & MISSIONS

As a church we collectively get involved in community events, outreach projects, benevolence to the poor, and worldwide missions. We encourage individual and small group outreach as well as provide opportunities for us as a church family to help meet the needs of the people around us. When we come to know the love that God has for us and for others, we will want to show that love to the people in our city, our nation, and our world. True love is shown in actions, not just in words.

C. DISCIPLESHIP

For the purpose of unity in beliefs and values, we want everyone to go through the discipleship classes, whatever they are new to Christ or are an established Christian.

D. SMALL GROUPS

We are more than a church that meets on weekends. We also are a network of small groups that meet throughout the city at different times and locations through the week. Small groups are one way that we provide opportunities to build meaningful and lasting relationships with one another.

I. OUR FOUNDATION

A. We base what we believe on the whole Bible

II Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." See also John 8:32; Hebrews 4:12; Romans 1:16

B. We look to the Holy Spirit for revelation

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." See also John 16:14

I Corinthians 2:10-16 "God has revealed them to us through His Spirit."

C. The Word and the Spirit always agree

1. God does not change and His Word does not change.

*Malachi 3:6 "For I am the Lord, I do not change."
Isaiah 40:8 "...the word of our God stands forever."*

2. The Holy Spirit is not going to disagree with God and His Word.

John 16:13 "He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak..."

II. KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING

A. We focus on redemption

The main thing is what Jesus did for us at the cross.

B. We focus on relationships

John 13:34, 35 Jesus said, "...By this they will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." See I Corinthians 13:1-13

C. Not everyone will agree on everything, and that's okay

Romans 12:16b "Do not be wise in your own opinion."

III. REDEMPTION

A. GOD LOVES US

John 3:16 God loves us.
I John 4:18 Perfect love casts out fear.

B. WE HAVE A NEED FOR A SAVIOR

Romans 6:23, Romans 3:23
Every person has made a wrong choice, a mistake.

C. JESUS PAID THE PRICE

Colossians 2:14, 15

God raised Jesus from the dead.
I Corinthians 15:3-6

D. MAKE JESUS LORD

Romans 10:9, 10
We don't try to fix ourselves, instead we surrender total control of our lives, trusting His love for us. Return to God and become complete.

Water baptism is an outward expression of an inward work. It is not a requirement for salvation. *Romans 6:1-5; Matthew 28:19*

E. RECEIVE FORGIVENESS

Forgiven by GRACE; we can't earn or deserve salvation.
II Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 2:8, 9

No more condemnation. God does not hold us to our past.
Romans 8:1,2

There is forgiveness if you sin after becoming a Christian. *I John 1:9*

F. THE NEW BIRTH

The life of God changes our nature. Our hearts are made new. We call it being "born again." *II Corinthians 5:21*

IV. STATEMENT OF FAITH

Our Statement of Faith will introduce you to what we believe. We encourage you to take Plug-In 201. In this 10-week class we will share in depth about the foundational beliefs of our faith.

Statement of Faith

We believe in one God who is seen in three persons: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

(Matthew 3:16,17; John 1:1,14; John 14:9; Genesis 1:2,26; John 4:24, John 10:30; John 14:16-20)

We believe in God the Father, Creator of all things visible and invisible.

(Genesis 1:1; Acts 17:24-28; Hebrews 11:3)

We believe Jesus was born fully human and fully divine, conceived of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary.

(Philippians 2:7,8; John 1:14; Romans 5:15-17; Colossians 2:9; I John 1:1; Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:26-38).

We believe that mankind was meant to have fellowship with God, but through Adam's disobedience, sin separated us from God, our source of life.

(Isaiah 59:2; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12)

We believe that hell is a place that was made for Satan and his demons. Those who do not accept salvation will be thrown into the Lake of Fire without another chance for repentance.

(Matthew 25:41, Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 19:20; Hebrews 6:1,2).

We believe that Jesus suffered and was crucified to pay the price for our sins and to undo the works of the devil.

(I John 3:8; Galatians 3:13 Colossians 2:14,15).

We believe Jesus was buried and resurrected in bodily form on the third day.

(Luke 23:44-24:8; John 20:24-29; I Corinthians 15:3-8)

We believe that salvation and forgiveness of sins is only received by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

(Matthew 26:28; Romans 5:17; Ephesians 2:8-9; I Peter 1:18-19; I John 1:7-9).

We believe that when someone chooses to give their life to Christ, their spirit nature is made new and they receive eternal life.

(II Corinthians 5:17; John 3:3-5; I John 5:12,13; John 3:16; Romans 10:9,10)

We believe that water baptism is an outward expression of the inward work of salvation.

(Romans 6:4; Matthew 28:19; Colossians 2:12)

We believe that Jesus ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of the Father.

(Luke 22:69; Acts 1:1-9; Colossians 3:1).

We believe that Jesus will return to the earth to judge both the living and the dead.

(Matthew 24:36-42; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:10-11, 10:39-42; I Peter 4:5; I Thessalonians 4:16,17).

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who indwells every Christian.

(John 15:26; John 16:5-15; I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19; II Timothy 1:14)

We believe in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, an experience that empowers the Christian.

(Acts 1:7-8; Romans 8:26-27)

We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, written by men who were moved by the Holy Spirit.

(Mark 12:36; John 14:26,16:12-15; Acts 1:16; I Cor. 2:12-13; II Timothy 3:14-16; II Peter 1:20-21).

We believe that the Bible is final authority for all matters of faith and conduct.

(Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:18, 24:35; Romans 15:4; Hebrews 4:12).

God wants each of us to function as individuals and as part of a community. While we are individuals with our own interests, God also wants us as human beings to see the benefits and responsibilities we have as being part of a group. We are individuals with a sphere of family and friends, but we are also part of a neighborhood, a city, a country, and a planet. As believers we also are part of God's worldwide family, the Church, which is made up of thousands of congregations. God wants each Christian to commit to one of these local congregations so we can worship, learn, and connect with others. We believe that you belong to God, and we trust that the Holy Spirit will guide you to where He wants you to be. At this local church, we will love and welcome you here.

I. JESUS IS THE MASTER PASTOR

Read Ephesians 1:22, 23

Who is the head of the Church?

Jesus

Who is the body of the Church?

Christians

Read I Peter 5:1-4

Who is being compared to shepherds?

Pastors

Elders, or overseers, were pastors over churches in the New Testament.

Who is the Chief Shepherd?

Jesus

A human pastor might make a mistake. If a pastor fails, our faith still stands in Christ Jesus.

II. A BODY OF BELIEVERS

The purpose for the local church is not to replace our individual spiritual development, but to operate as a corporate body of believers.

A. TO FEED YOU CORPORATELY

God will inspire the pastor or guest minister to give a relevant message with practical applications. These messages should be based on the Word of God and they should encourage you in your faith. The Holy Spirit should be present to take the message and speak to your heart. Every church has the same message, but they don't all have same methods for presenting the Gospel. You need to be in a place where you can take what is presented with the ability to apply it to your life. However, these teachings are not to replace an individual's personal Bible study. God needs to be able to speak to His people individually as well as corporately.

B. TO WORSHIP CORPORATELY

The music of a local church should come from the heart of God for the people who are called to worship there. Corporate worship gives expression to people in that local church of their heart to God. Whatever the style or culture of the church group, the worship would be heartfelt, open, and relational. Corporate worship should provide an avenue of connecting people with God.

Corporate worship is powerful when we are united in our love for God and one another. However, corporate worship should not replace the worship that we offer to God in our homes and throughout our day. We have a variety of music available today to give us expression of yielding our lives to God.

C. TO LEAD YOU CORPORATELY

A pastor will have direction from God on the vision He has for that local church. Each church shares in the mandate to preach the Gospel and to encourage one another, but how they accomplish that vision will vary between congregations. You want to be in a church where you can participate in the church vision by helping in the church services or serving in one of the ministries.

God has a plan for your life. He has a purpose for you. There are things He will ask you to do individually, and there are ways you can participate corporately in your home church.

D. TO ENCOURAGE FRIENDSHIPS

In church we should give people the opportunity to form relationships with one another and to enjoy spending quality time together. We're encouraged when we're around people who share our beliefs and interests. We strengthen and edify each other through our genuine friendships. It's good to know that whatever we face, we're not going to have to go through it alone. We can help encourage one another to keep going forward with what God has called us to do.

Read Hebrews 10:24-25. According to this scripture, why do you think is valuable to become a part of a local church?

E. TO EXPERIENCE THE CORPORATE ANOINTING

The power of God should be present in church services to refresh and empower us. There is incredible corporate power available when God's people come together in love. Church should be a place where we can pray for one another and support each other through joys and disappointments in life. We also get fueled up at church and then take that anointing to the world.

F. TO INSTRUCT CORPORATELY

When you know you are in the right church, you will be able to trust your church leadership team. Their position will not be used to manipulate or control, but to love and to serve. When you know your pastor is committed to God, you can trust that he or she will teach you the truth, correct error, and encourage your liberty in Christ.

You also have the Holy Spirit to guide you personally. He will let you know if you are hearing a doctrine that is in error. He will try to keep you away from temptation and wrongdoing because He loves you and He wants you blessed.

G. TO CARE FOR NEEDS

There are a lot of hurting people around us (both inside and outside of the church) that God wants to tangibly show His love to. God sometimes speaks to us as individuals to help meet another person's tangible need. There are other times when God uses a local church or a group of churches to reach out and help others. We can accomplish much when we work together in unity.

I. WE ALL HAVE A PLACE IN A LOCAL CHURCH

Most people enjoy sharing life with someone else. They want to be around a group of people that they experience life with – celebrating our good times together as well as supporting each other through the difficult times. We want a place where we feel like we belong.

How can someone feel like they belong? At this local church we encourage people to get involved in a Life Group or Ministry Team.

By getting involved in ministry, we would like to see you grow as a Christian and develop as a leader. However, you do not have to participate in ministry to be considered a part of this church. We recognize that some people have demanding schedules, and we think it's great that you set aside your time to worship God. We understand that some people who are coming to us need time to heal or be restored, and we want you to be able to come and rest in God's presence. Others are ready to become involved, but whatever you do, we want you to be led by the Holy Spirit in doing it.

There are different ways that people can become involved in their local church.

Read Romans 12:3-8

What are some of the ways that people can get involved in their local church?

Prophecy (proclaiming the gospel), ministry (serving), teaching, exhortation or encouragement, giver (financial or otherwise), leading, showing mercy and helping those in need,

A local church is about teamwork – people working together to accomplish goals. Like a team, each player has a place on the team. A team can do a lot when the members are in position and working together with the other players. In a church we have greeters, ushers, children and youth workers, singers, musicians, outreach, small groups, and many other positions. EVERYONE is valuable.

Read I Corinthians 12:12-18

What is Paul comparing church members to?

Members of a body

Is there anyone who does not have a purpose or a place in the local church?

No, EVERY person has purpose in the kingdom of God

Each person is valued equally in the church family because it takes a whole team to accomplish goals for the kingdom of God.

Read Ephesians 4:11-16

According to verse 12, why did Jesus set leaders (apostles, prophets, evangelists, teaching pastors) in the church?

To equip Christians to do the work of the ministry

According to verse 16, when every part is participating, what happens to the body?

The kingdom grows

Read I Peter 4:10-11

To minister means “to serve.” Who has received a gift(s) to minister?

Each of us

II. WE ALL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE

One way we can contribute to a local church is by obeying God with our giving. Because giving is a Biblical principle, we ought to take a look at the truth God says about it. Even though some other ministries have gone into error with money, we don't want to throw out the pure teaching of God's Word and miss His blessings. We want you to know up front that your giving is between you and God. You do not have to give your money to attend this church, and we do not give favoritism to anyone based on his or her contributions.

God has placed pastors in churches as His delegated authority to oversee the local church. At this church, the Lead Pastor has a Board of Directors that go over the financial records each quarter for accountability and advising the Lead Pastor on financial decisions. We see tithes and offerings as belonging to the Lord, so we look to the Holy Spirit to help us in distribution.

III. CORE VALUES OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

If you believe that God is leading you to become an active member of this local church, there are four areas of responsibility that we value:

1. **CONNECT**
Attend services with the purpose of both receiving and giving. Come to church to be an encouragement to someone else.
2. **SERVE**
Faithfully serve in a church ministry or outreach.
3. **GIVE**
Give your finances to help with the expenses of the ministry. The tithe is a Bible word meaning “tenth.” A tither sees the first ten percent of their income as belonging to the Lord and gives it to the local church to help grow and expand the kingdom of God. Offerings are above the tithe, given as a gift for a special project, missionary, guest speaker, etc.
4. **BUILD**
Speak and act in a way that builds the church and the people up, not tear down.

Whether you are an active member or not, you will always be welcome to attend our church services, classes, small groups, outreaches, and events.

If you are interested in becoming involved in a Ministry Team or joining a Life Group, we ask that you fill out a Connection Card. Someone from the church will contact you.

The next step is to attend Plug-In 201, a ten week course on the basics of what we believe and what we embrace for spiritual growth. We hope that you will attend. You can check our website for more information or contact the Church Office.