



First Church of Christ
www.barbertonfcoc.org

MISSION AND VISION

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES...

Jesus said, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you."
MATTHEW 28:19-20 CSB

HOW WE DO THIS...

LOVE God – worship

LOVE people – ministry

The greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. The second greatest commandment is like it: To love everyone everywhere as we love ourselves. To love God and love people is top priority for us at First Church. Nothing else matters if we do not do this.

LEARN how to follow Jesus better – discipleship

Just because you become a Christian does not mean you become automatically perfect. We wish that were the case. We are striving every day to follow Jesus better and better. We believe we can become better Christians through reading the Bible, praying daily, worshipping with fellow believers each Sunday, and studying the Bible together. We do these things because we love Jesus.

LIVE as followers of Jesus every day – fellowship

It is one thing to read and hear what God wants us to do; it is another thing to actually do it. Being a Christian is not something you simply check off on Sunday morning just because you went to church. Being a Christian is a lifestyle; it is *the* way to live.

LEAD others to follow Jesus – EVANGELISM

God provides opportunities for us each day to plant the seed of Jesus into the lives of other people. God calls us to be more intentional in doing so. Whether we are with our friends or family, ordering a meal at our favorite restaurant, or just passing people by on the streets, we need to be showing the love of God to everyone everywhere.

In summary, we have reduced our mission to four memorable words:

Love, Learn, Live and Lead.

CORE VALUES

Core Values are the guiding principles that help us stay the course, both as a Church and as the followers of Jesus.

- Exhibits the fruit of the Spirit-love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control
([Galatians 5:22-23](#))
- Matures in faith through Bible reading, prayer, fasting, corporate worship, studying with other disciples, etc.
([Matthew 6:1-18](#); [Ephesians 4:13](#); [Colossians 1:28](#); [1 Peter 2:2-3](#))
- Repents of wrong actions
([Acts 3:19](#); [17:13](#); [2 Corinthians 7:10](#))
- Seeks reconciliation-forgives and is forgiven
([Matthew 5:23-24](#); [6:14-15](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17-19](#); [Colossians 3:13](#))
- Extends grace and mercy to others
([Matthew 5:7](#); [Colossians 4:6](#); [James 2:12-13](#); [1 Peter 3:15](#))
- Puts others first
([Philippians 2:3-4](#))
- Serves congregation and community despite race, color, creed, or lifestyle
([1 Corinthians 9:19-23](#); [Galatians 3:26-28](#))
- Tithes (gives 10% of gross income) to support the ministries of FCOC and gives offerings to support global missions
([Malachi 3:8-10](#); [1 Corinthians 16:2](#); [2 Corinthians 9:7](#))
- Exhibits excellence and professionalism
([Colossians 3:23-24](#))
- Produces fruit for God's Kingdom-leads people to follow Jesus
([Matthew 28:19-20](#); [Acts 1:8](#))

WHAT WE BELIEVE

We believe the God of the Bible is the only true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

([Matthew 5:16, 45; 6:1, 4, 8, 9; James 1:17; John 1:1; 4:24; 14:9, 16-20; Genesis 1:2; 2 Peter 1:21](#))

- God the Father – Creator of all things visible and invisible
([Genesis 1:1; Acts 17:24-28; Hebrews 11:3](#))
- Jesus Christ – God’s one and only Son and Savior of the world
([John 1:14; 3:16; 1 John 4:9; 2 Peter 3:18](#))
 - Born in Bethlehem, both fully human and fully divine, conceived of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
([Matthew 1:18; 21:11; John 1:14; 19:19; Romans 5:15-17; Colossians 2:9; 1 John 1:1; Luke 1:26-38](#))
 - Suffered and was crucified under Pontius Pilate
([Luke 23:1-46](#))
 - Died, was buried, and rose again from the dead on the third day
([Luke 23:44-24:8; John 20:24-29; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8](#))
 - Ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of the Father
([Luke 22:69; Acts 1:1-9; Colossians 3:1](#))
 - Will return to earth to judge both the living and the dead
([Matthew 24:36-42; John 14:1-3, Acts 1:10-11; 10:39-42; 1 Peter 4:5](#))
- The Holy Spirit – Active and operative part of the God-Head and lives within every Christian
([John 16:5-15; Acts 1:7-8; Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; 2 Timothy 1:14](#))

We believe God is involved in and cares about our daily lives

- God is close
([Matthew 1:22-23; John 16:7](#))
- God cares
([Psalm 121:3-8; John 3:16; Psalm 121:1-2](#))
- God has a plan
([Hebrews 12:1-2; Romans 8:28](#))

We believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ

([Matthew 26:28; Romans 5:9; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7](#))

- The path to salvation is only through Jesus
([John 3:17; Acts 4:12; John 14:6](#))
- We are saved by faith
([Acts 16:28-31](#))
- We are saved by professing Jesus

([Acts 2:21](#); [Romans 10:9, 13](#); [Luke 12:8](#))

- We are saved by surrendering all for Jesus
([Mark 8:35](#); [Matthew 10:22](#))
- We are saved by being baptized in Jesus
([Mark 16:16](#); [1 Peter 3:21](#); [Galatians 3:27](#))

We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God that guides our beliefs and actions

- The Bible is inspired – breathed out by God himself
([Mark 12:36](#); [John 14:26](#); [16:12-15](#); [Acts 1:16](#); [1 Corinthians 2:12-13](#); [2 Timothy 3:14-16](#); [2 Peter 1:20-21](#))
- The Bible is authoritative – it possesses the right to direct our lives
([Isaiah 40:8](#); [Matthew 5:18](#); [24:35](#); [Romans 15:4](#); [Hebrews 4:12](#))
- The Bible is infallible – unfailing in accomplishing its purposes
([Isaiah 55:10-11](#))

We believe we are significant because of our position as children of God

([John 1:12](#))

- We are loved by God
([John 3:16](#); [John 15:13](#))
- We are God's masterpiece, which makes us significant
([Ephesians 2:10](#))
- Our purpose is to love God and love people
([Mark 12:29-31](#))
- We belong with Jesus and his church
([1 Corinthians 12:27](#))

We believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish his purposes on earth

- Founded on the Day of Pentecost
([Acts 2:14-47](#); [Matthew 16:13-18](#))
- The church belongs to God
([Ephesians 2:20](#))
- The church is to be about God's business
([Matthew 28:18-20](#); [John 14:12](#))
- The church works best when we work together
([Ephesians 2:21](#); [Romans 12:4-5](#); [1 Corinthians 12](#))

We believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior

([John 3:16](#))

We believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

([Psalm 82:3-4](#); [Luke 10:25-37](#))

We believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus will return to judge all people

and to establish his eternal kingdom

([John 14:1-2](#); [Revelation 5:11-13](#))

Elders exercise authority over the local congregation

([Acts 20:28](#); [Philippians 1:1](#); [1 Timothy 3:1-7](#); [Titus 1:5-9](#); [1 Peter 5:1-4](#))