

Sunday, January 9, 2022

Welcome to Life in Christ Ministry



Back To Basics

Who are we?

What do we do?

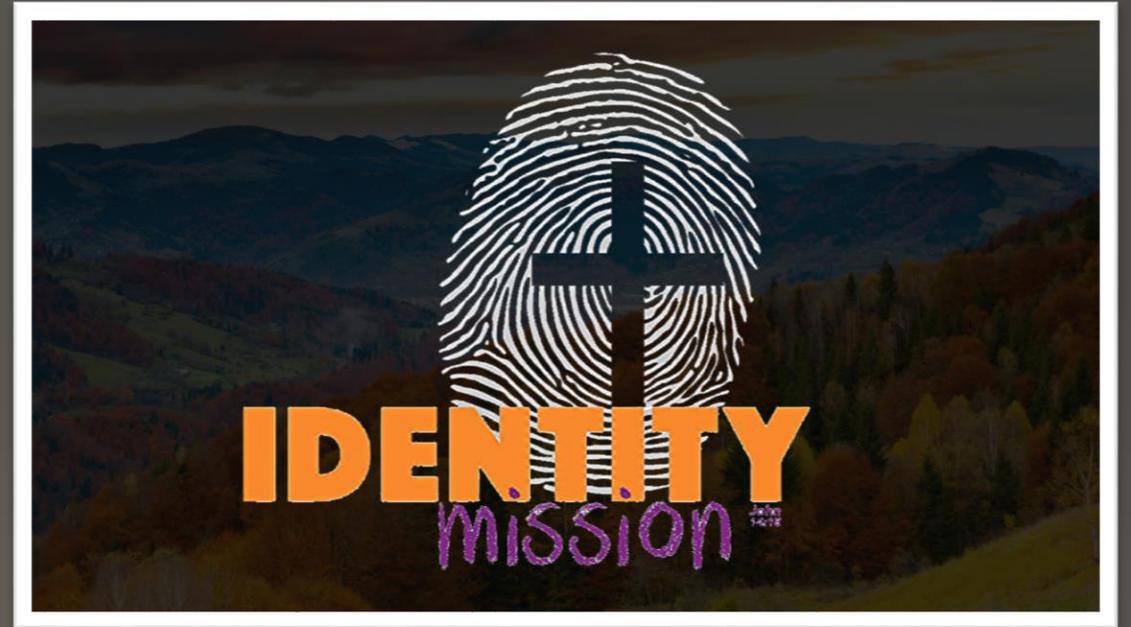
And why do we do it?

Back To Basics

As we begin a new year together, let's take a few moments to recall our identity and mission.

Let's answer three questions today:

1. Who are we?
2. What do we do?
3. And, why do we do it?

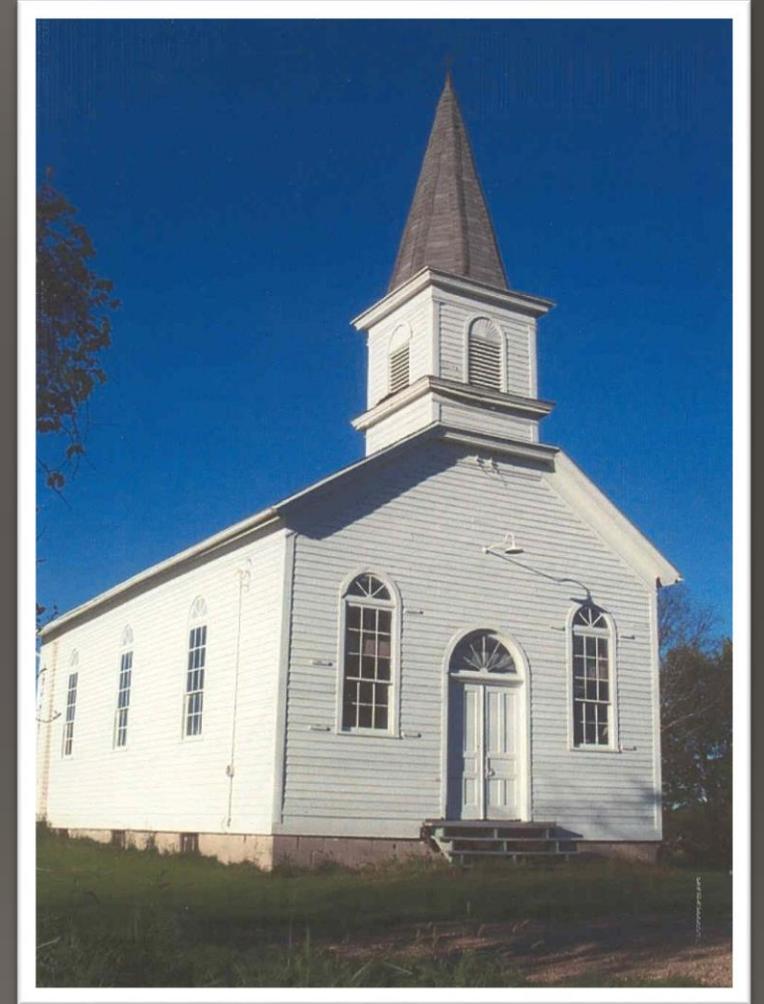


We are asking these questions, not because we don't know the answers but because we want to keep reminding ourselves.

Who Are We?

At first glance, one might be tempted to answer the question "*who are we?*" with a simple, "*we are a church*"--a group of people who meet together regularly for worship and other related activities.

But is this really who we are? Is this what compels and motivate us--being a church? Or can we not go deeper?



We Are Human Beings

Can we not say that we are... humans? Can we not say that at our core, we are wonderers and worshippers, and THIS is what compels us to become a church? We are human beings... people with frustrations and aspirations, people with questions and answers, people with joys and sorrows. We are creatures longing for a relationship with our creator.



We Are Wonderers

*"Where is he who has been
born king of the Jews?
For we saw his star when it
rose and have come to
worship him."*

Matthew 2:2



The Wise Men:
How Seekers
Find Jesus

Matthew 2:1-15

We Are Worshipers

This is part of the human condition--part of what it means to be human. In all times and in all lands, humans have wondered about and worshipped the creator. And we are no different. And having learned and being fully convinced that in Jesus Christ, the Creator is looking for us, we come to worship and learn from Him!



We Are Christians

*"Thou hast made us for thyself,
O Lord, and our heart is restless until
it finds its rest in thee."*

— Augustine of Hippo, Confessions



What Do We Do?

So then, if we are a **community of wonderers and worshippers who worship and follow Jesus Christ...**

- What is it that we do?
- What does our activity and our coming together look like?



We Build Bridges

In essence, we build bridges!

- We build bridges for ourselves and others--bridges that bring people together--together with God and together with one another.
- We facilitate relationship--relationship with God and with our fellow human being.



We Build Bridges

In essence, we build bridges!

- We remove obstacles and encourage communication, dialogue, with God and others.
- We foster the attitudes and atmosphere that make healthy relationships possible. This is what success looks like!



We Build Bridges

In essence, we build bridges!

1 Corinthians 5:17-19

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ **All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;** ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, **and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.**

Why Do We Do It?

Finally, why is it that we do what we do?

The reason is simple:
We care!



We Care!

Matthew 22:36-40

³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment.

³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”



We Care!

Jesus told us that the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, mind, and strength and the second is to love our neighbor as ourselves. In other words, Jesus taught us to care, to love.

We love God and we love our neighbor! This is our motivation. This is our core value--we care, we love. We love God and we love our neighbor.



Back To Basics

Who are we?

We are wondering, worshipping humans who found life in Christ!

What do we do?

We facilitate relationship with God and our neighbor.

And, why do we do it?

We do it because care! We love God and we love our neighbor.

