

# Branson United Methodist Church

## Discipleship Pathway

The Branson United Methodist Church has developed a Discipleship Pathway to assist each individual in their path to becoming an effective Disciple of Jesus Christ. This pathway can be used as a guide to develop new and exciting opportunities to experience the love of Christ through the different ministries and relationships offered through Branson Church. Our hope and prayer is that through this process we can all continue to grow as disciples as well as help in the process of making other disciples.

First and foremost, it is important that we define the term 'disciple'. The Branson Church believes a disciple is someone who is both a believer and follower of Jesus. However, our goal is to assist you in your journey as you become an effective disciple. To us, an effective disciple not only follows and believes in Jesus, but also seeks to make him known and create other new disciples.

At Branson Church, we believe that an effective disciple is someone who is committed to:

- The ability to openly share your faith with others.
- The ability to share your faith story.
- A strong understanding of what grace looks like.
- Is both authentic and real.
- Is a good listener and invests in others both inside and outside the church.
- Is non-judgmental, understanding that none of us deserve the grace God so freely gives us.
- Understands their own shortcomings and believes in themselves despite those shortcomings.

Discipleship is practiced, never accomplished, so don't feel like you need to do all of these at once. And please don't expect everyone in this church family to have accomplished each of these either. Everyone is at their own place along the path.

To help you reach these goals along your Discipleship Pathway, we have created four categories – **Celebrating life**, **Transforming** our lives together, **Engaging** our area, and **Sharing** our faith walk with others. These categories (our values) serve as a map so that you can easily see the path and components of healthy discipleship. If you're new to a life of faith, then most of your time at first might be spent in the "Celebrating" category. However, if you've committed yourself to a life of following Jesus, then it is very important that you regularly check this list to make sure you aren't ignoring components of your discipleship practice.

We have divided nearly everything we offer as a church into these four categories. If you're new here, relationships are foundational for everything we do. As a matter of fact, our purpose is Building Relationships, Impacting Others, & Growing Our Faith, so literally, everything we do is to have our purpose be the focus of our ministries as we work to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. So we encourage people to focus on a few items in the "**Celebrating**" category to begin with. As you grow more interested in learning how to grow deeper in your faith walk, engaging in practical faith habits, you might join one of our options in the "**Transforming**" category. As you develop a desire to take part in serving our community, you might check out the opportunities under the "**Engaging**" category. And as you grow deeper in your relationship with Jesus Christ, those opportunities in the "**Sharing**" category would be awesome to help you, help others begin the walk on their Discipleship Pathway.

No one's path is the same. We simply want you to consider taking a proactive approach to developing your life of faith.

We are so excited to take this journey with you and can't wait to share the many great opportunities we have waiting for you here at Branson Church.

Again, Branson United Methodist Church exists to now make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The unique way we will do this is by fulfilling our purpose of building relationships, impacting others, and growing our faith.

## CELEBRATING LIFE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

The goal is that no one goes through life alone in this church. During some seasons of your life, you'll feel like faith is easy and God's presence is close. Other times, you might feel like life is all uphill and God is giving you the silent treatment. No matter what season you're in you are a child of God and you are NOT alone.

### Get Introduced & Get Involved

*Worship & Sunday School*  
*Attend Newcomer's Class*  
*Veteran's Breakfast (Nov)*  
*JULIET Breakfast*  
*Dinner for 6*  
*Blind Date with a Book*  
*Buddy Up Morning Call*  
*United Methodist Men – Iron Sharpens Iron*  
*United Methodist Women*  
*Grief Share*  
*Youth/Family Ministries*  
*Outreach Team*  
*Greeting Team*  
*Hospitality Team*  
*Men's Life Group (Wed morning)*

*Experienced Singles Group*  
*Celebrate Recovery*  
*Working Groups:*  
*AV Team*  
*Streaming Team*  
*Bell Choir*  
*Praise Band*  
*Chancel Choir*  
*Thrift Store Team*  
*Folding Group*  
*Kitchen Team*  
*Landscape Team*  
*Building & Maintenance*  
*Vacation Bible School*  
*Coffee & Conversation*  
*Monthly Church Dinners*

## TRANSFORMING OUR LIVES TOGETHER

Paul wrote to the church in Galatia that the "fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. These qualities don't just happen on their own. They take practice, accountability, and grace when we don't get it right. These are opportunities to practice habits of faithfulness.

### Stay Involved & Grow Deeper

*Worship & Sunday School*  
*Any Life Group:*  
*Grief Share*  
*UMM – Iron Sharpens Iron*  
*Sunday School Class*  
*Men's Life Group (Wed. morning)*  
*Prayer Team*  
*Church Family Membership*  
*Usher Team*  
*Thrift Store*  
*Youth/Children's Leader*  
*Communion Server*  
*Outreach Team*  
*Celebrate Recovery*  
*AA*  
*Al-Anon*  
*Motel Ministry*  
*Mission Team*  
*Vacation Bible School*

*Experienced Singles Group*  
*Celebrate Recovery*  
*Working Groups:*  
*Bell Choir*  
*Praise Band*  
*Chancel Choir*  
*Thrift Store Team*  
*Folding Group*  
*Kitchen Team*  
*Landscape Team*  
*Building & Maintenance*  
*Coffee & Conversation*  
*Monthly Church Dinners*  
*Worship Team:*  
*A/V Team*  
*Streaming Team*  
*Design Team*  
*Music Team*  
*Communion Servers*

## ENGAGING OUR AREA IN THE WORK OF GOD

The “Kingdom of God” is not something we wait on as much as it’s something we practice. We help people in our community, and we work to treat our money as a tool to be invested in mission. We begin leading and inviting others on a similar journey as we share our faith walk.

### **Grow Deeper & Get Engaged**

*Worship, SS, Life Groups*  
*Motel Ministry*  
*Mission Team*  
*Care 4 Kids*  
*Safety Team*  
*CAM Food Drive (Sept)*  
*Volunteer at CAM*  
*Socktober (Oct)*  
*Make-N-Take (Dec)*

*Adopt a Social Worker*  
*Child Care*  
*Leadership Team*  
*Nominations Team*  
*UM Foundation Team*  
*Continue in ministries stated*  
*above and add a Life Group that*  
*helps you continue to grow in*  
*your relationship with Jesus.*

## SHARING OUR FAITH WALK WITH OTHERS

The last command that Jesus said to his disciples was “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” This is the church family’s primary duty. It is literally the last command that Jesus gave to his disciples.

Everything that you have gotten involved with that has helped you grow deeper in your spiritual life should continue. Once you get involved in your Life Group, you should have relationships that help you continue to grow deeper and that you help others grow deeper. Now that you are an effective disciple, however, it’s time that you establish your leadership. It is time that you begin new things that spring out of the Purpose of BUMC that help individuals (and therefore the church family) to grow deeper in their faith. It’s time that you begin sharing your faith with family, friends, workmates, and new folks that have moved to the area. Make it a priority in your life.