

Cornwall United Methodist Church – Who Are We?

We are a community of folks striving to understand and implement more of what it means to be Christ-followers. Many among us are sincerely seeking to grow in a deeper relationship with Christ through a variety of spiritual disciplines, worship services, study of Scripture, times of prayer, individual and small group studies, and discussions. We also understand that there are those in our midst who are reluctant to make a commitment to the Christian walk, but we hold dear the fact that God loves us all regardless of where we are in our journey. We need to in turn be loving, avoiding judgment and divisive discussions that might be injuring and destructive.

A natural outgrowth of increased maturity in our faith as believers is that of reaching others in our community. We attempt to do this through communicating our own personal faith journeys, encouraging participation in church activities, and being present with others to truly appreciate their needs and how we can meet them where they are spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically. We also seek to be aware of needs beyond our community by responding to those beyond our borders and by supporting people who have committed their lives to serve where they are led.

Theologically, we continue to identify with "Wesleyan" tradition regarding the interpretation of the Bible, the inspired Word of God. Unapologetically we believe in the triune God-- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We believe that as human beings we are naturally born with a sinful nature that separates us from our Creator. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross and his resurrection were acts of Christ taking on the sin of mankind. God's grace and forgiveness are offered to all who repent and accept and seek to follow in the ways of Christ. The natural outgrowth of following Christ is maturity, increased obedience, and a sensitivity to the Spirit, that "still small voice" that guides and directs.

We live in an increasingly complex world. As believers we seek to discern God's will for our lives, seeking to understand and do what is right and just. We are to be both light that illuminates truth and salt that savors. As fallible people we can err by either being a blinding light or conversely a dim light that offers little in the way of truth. Hopefully, with discernment, we can be the salt that savors rather than embitters. It is reasonable that as an organization consisting of many members, there may be positions on a plethora of issues that range from "preferences" to "line in the sand" beliefs. It is not the purpose of this statement to delineate these in detail. Our heart is to lovingly, with grace, be present with others regardless of where they are in their journey, and in so doing, bring them into a closer relationship with Christ.

We choose, above all, instead of adopting an arrogant manner, to rely on the Holy Spirit as our guide in interpreting the inspired Scriptures.

Faith Statement for Cornwall United Methodist Church Fall, 2023

Cornwall United Methodist Church is a community of people from all walks of life seeking to follow Jesus by serving others within our own membership, our local community, and around the world.

What We Believe

We believe that God is the Creator, the giver and sustainer of life, giver of life eternal. God is unchanging, ever present and all-knowing. God is holy, perfect, just, and loving. The character of God is our standard for truth.

We believe Jesus is fully God and fully man, the only Son of God. He lived, taught God's truth, and performed miracles. He lived a sinless life. He was crucified, died, was buried, and physically rose from death. After His resurrection, He appeared to His disciples and many others. After 40 days, He returned to His Father in Heaven. We live with the hope and promise that Jesus will come again.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is one with Jesus and the Father as God. The Holy Spirit has been sent to lead people to Christ, to guide us in truth, and to empower us to live in accordance with God's will for our lives.

We believe that God loves all people no matter how sinful. But sin separates human beings from a holy God.

We believe that God has reconciled us to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Those who have repented of their sin and have put their trust in the saving death of Jesus Christ are brought back into a relationship with God and are set free from the consequences and power of sin.

We believe in eternal life. For those who have put their trust in Christ, they will enjoy an eternal presence with God. For those who reject Christ, they will experience an eternal separation from God.

We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and was given for instruction in our lives. We attempt to live according to that instruction in a community of faith called the church, our Christian family on this earth.

We believe that we are called to make disciples. The Great Commission of Jesus found in Matthew 28:19-20 is a call to all believers to share the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ to those who have yet to encounter Him. Our responsibility to share the Gospel extends from our local community to the ends of the earth.

We believe in God's plan for marriage and family. We were all created male and female. Marriage is a covenant before God between one man and one woman to provide companionship, intimacy, and family. Marriage mirrors God's covenant relationship with His people.

As we continue to grow in grace and faith, we need to be humbly open to examination and correction in our journey as individuals and as a church, moving towards deeper spiritual maturity.