

our place in HIStory

SPECIAL INSERT:

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO WILLAMETTE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Willamette Christian Church Statement of Belief

Willamette Christian Church is a caring community that Loves God, Loves People and Serves the World. We see ourselves as the local expression of the Body of Christ located throughout the world.

We hold to the belief that:

- In essential beliefs, we have **Unity** (Ephesians 4:4-6)
- In non-essential beliefs, we have **Liberty** (Hebrews 12:1)
- And in all our beliefs, we show **Love** (I Corinthians 13:2)

We hold to two scriptural, essential truths; 1) that Jesus is the Christ, the savior of mankind through His death, burial, resurrection and exaltation to the right hand of God in Heaven, and, 2) that the Bible is the supreme authority as our guide to Christian faith and service. We seek to speak where the Bible speaks, and be silent where the Bible is silent.

The following statements are based upon our understanding of Scripture and are the basis for living the Christian life as a community of believers.

1. **God**

We believe that there is one true, holy God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – each of Whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity and the characteristics of personality. In the beginning God created out of nothing the world and all the things therein, thus manifesting the glory of His power, wisdom and goodness. By His sovereign power He continues to sustain His creation. By His providence He is operating throughout history to fulfill His redemptive purposes. (Matthew 28; John 14:26; II Corinthians 13:14)

2. **Jesus Christ**

Jesus is the Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, thus he is fully God and fully man. He lived a sinless life. He offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He rose from

the dead after three days to conquer sin and death. He ascended into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of the Father, where He, the only mediator between God and man, continually makes intercession for His own. He will return to earth visibly in his person, at the end of human history, to gather those who belong to Him, to judge the living and the dead, and to fulfill the eternal plan of God. (John 1:1, 14; I Peter 2:24; Philippians 2:5-11; I Corinthians 15:1-8)

3. **The Holy Spirit**

The essential accompaniment of a genuine saving relationship with Jesus Christ is a life of holiness and obedience, attained by believers as they submit to the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity. He was sent into the world by the Father and the Son to apply to mankind the saving work of Christ. He enlightens the minds of sinners, awakens in them a recognition of their need of a Savior and regenerates them. At the point of salvation, He permanently indwells every believer to become the source of assurance, strength and wisdom, and uniquely endows each believer with gifts for the up-building of the body. The Holy Spirit guides believers in understanding and applying the Scripture. His power and control are appropriated by faith, making it possible for the believer to lead a life of Christ-like character and to bear fruit to the glory of the Father. (Acts 5:3,4; Acts 2:38; I Corinthians 6:19)

4. **Human Beings**

People are created in the image of God, to be like him in character. Human beings are the supreme creation of God. While every person has the potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called 'sin'. All men and women have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Sin separates mankind from God eternally. Salvation from the sin condition can only be found in the grace of Jesus Christ. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:12)

5. **Satan**

We believe in the reality of the fallen, angelic person of Satan. He leads other fallen angels through evil intent and warfare against God and His people. Satan and all

who follow him are doomed to a certain, everlasting judgment from God. In scripture, this eternal death is called Hell. (Matthew 4:10, 16:23; Revelation 12:9)

6. **The Bible**

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors under the divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. It is the final and all-sufficient authority in all matters of faith and practice. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without error. (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20, 21; II Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105, 160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5)

7. **Baptism**

Baptism is one of two commands by Jesus that embody His death, burial and resurrection. We believe that your commitment to Christ in faith is to be accompanied by freely and publicly identifying with Christ through baptism by immersion. (Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)

8. **Communion**

Communion is the second command by Jesus, to honor his death, burial and resurrection, through remembrance of the Last Supper. We believe that it is an important practice of worship for all God's people. (Acts 2:42; 20:7; I Corinthians 11:23-29)

9. **The Church**

We believe in church unity and holiness. The Church belongs to Christ and his body in this world. Believers around the globe are spiritually united in Christ. While there may be difference in understanding and practice, we are called to unity. God will sort out the differences. (Matthew 16:18, Acts 20:28, Ephesians 1:22, 5:23)

10. **Salvation**

Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. Salvation is maintained through the grace and power of God. We can't make up for sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by accepting Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty – eternal death. (John 10:29, 2 Timothy 1:12, Hebrew 7:25, 10:10, 14; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

our place in HISStory

our Purpose

A Caring Community that Loves God, Loves People and Serves the World.

A Caring Community... means that Willamette Christian Church is a place where...

- everyone feels welcome and all backgrounds are embraced.
- the environment is safe for seekers.
- the atmosphere is warm and inviting.
- people are genuinely glad you came!

That Loves God... means that Willamette Christian Church is a place where...

- we have worship programs for Adults, Youth, and Children.
- we have worship that is designed for both the seeker and believer.
- we help you find out how to be a Believer and Christ Follower.
- you can easily seek, and learn how and why to receive baptism.
- you can easily plug into membership.

That Loves People... means that Willamette Christian Church is a place where...

- small groups help create a caring community.
- small groups are a place for fellowship and deep relationship.
- small groups are warm, welcoming, non-threatening and fun!
- small groups are the avenue to help you plug into serving.

That Serves the World... means that Willamette Christian Church is a place where...

- we believe we are all designed and gifted to serve.
- that serving our church, our community and world is why we are here.
- we have many opportunities to serve, and missions, ministries, global outreach and evangelism are some of those ways.
- that by serving, we share the love of Jesus Christ with others.

our Ministries

Portable Church Ministries

Contact John Jahns 503.656.1797.

- Trailer Team— hauls our church-in-a-box from our 10th St. parking lot to Rosemont Ridge Middle School, then back again after services. A heavy-duty pickup is a must!
- Set-Up & Tear-Down Teams— prepares everything from the chairs in the gym to the blocks in the nursery early on Sunday mornings. Then, after services, their “other half” packs it all up and turns Rosemont Ridge back into a middle school. Serve alternating weeks.

Sunday Service Ministries

Contact Lorraine Briggs 503.656.2328.

- Welcome Ministry— greets new visitors to Willamette Christian Church, answering questions while providing a welcoming, open atmosphere. Helps get people connected to other members of the church.
- Security Team— provides a visible presence of authority and coordinates the security of our members, children and property.
- Greeters— create a welcoming atmosphere and a sense of belonging at each service through a smiling face, a warm handshake and a friendly greeting. Gives first impression of Willamette Christian Church.
- Ushers— get services off to a good start by assisting people to their seats and answering a multitude of questions.
- Parking Lot Team— directs people to available parking at the middle school and senior center and coordinates shuttle service from Safeway parking lot.
- Communion Ministry— serves communion during worship services and works behind the scenes preparing the elements beforehand and cleaning up afterward.
- Coffee Preparers— make great coffee, serve it with a smile and make people feel warm and welcomed... awake for anything in the morning.
- Baptism Ministry— celebrates with new believers while attending and assisting at baptism celebrations.

Worship Ministry

Contact Bill Berry 503.656.2328.

This talented team leads our congregation into God's presence through music. You can be a part of the band, choir, ensembles, or support the behind the scenes efforts.

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Education Ministries

- Children's Ministry— serves as leaders, assistants or helpers for our kids. Shares Bible stories, music, drama and age-appropriate lessons with the children. Trained and supported by staff. Contact Dena Beymer or Robben Lyons 503.656.2328.
- Youth Ministry— provides age-appropriate ways for our youth to connect with each other and to connect with the love of Jesus. Shares in the awesome experiences our youth take on. From small group Bible studies to Sunday group worship, from international and local mission experiences to service projects and social events, our youth and leaders at WCC are impacting the world. Contact Sonny Varela 503.656.2328.
- Small Groups—foster friendship and faith through a biblical foundation. Your gifts can be well-used as leaders or hosts who open their homes and share hospitality to others in the church. Many find that their small group members become like family— sharing, serving, caring and growing together. Contact Ruth McClanahan 503.692.3299.

Encouragement Ministries

- Missions Team— supports and encourages missionaries and missions worldwide. Helps to implement special mission efforts, programs and short-term mission trips from our congregation. Contact Lee Dummer 503.656.0012.
- Men's Ministry, MAGMA (Men After God, Men Alive)— is devoted to fellowship for men. Joins together in ongoing Bible studies and events that develop friendship, accountability and focus. With programs like Saturday Golf Events, the annual Men's Retreat and Men's breakfasts, there are many opportunities to serve and participate. Contact Mike Wright 503.657.5817.
- Women's Ministry, WOW (Women of Willamette)— is devoted to fellowship for women. Friendships develop while spiritual growth happens through ongoing Bible studies. With special occasions like the Spring Luncheon, Christmas Dessert and the annual Women's Retreat, there are many opportunities to serve and participate. Contact Georgia Hanson 503.631.2998.
- Prayer Ministry— prays throughout the day and week as requests come in via phone or email. Is a powerful instrument of God in our church and the lives of our members. Contact Barb Marold 503.657.3416 or ibcreative@comcast.net.
- Care Team— reaches out with cards, letters, flowers, phone calls and support when someone needs that extra touch or is facing a difficulty in life. Makes the human connection we all need. Contact Lorraine Briggs 503.656.2328.

Helps Ministries

- Food Pantry Ministry— supplies food and other basic needs to the homeless in the area, as well as offers temporary assistance to members of our congregation and the community. Contact Suzanne Huss 503.557.0517.
- Follow-up Ministry— stays in touch with church family members who have received attention from our Care Ministry in the recent past.
- Moving Ministry— provides the “muscle behind the move” for church members who are in need of support. Contact Ron Elton, 503.650.6987.
- Meals Ministry— provides some “lovin’ from the oven” for our church families when needed. Whether it’s a family with a new baby or the hurting among us, our marvelous WCC cooks and small groups make sure they are physically fed. Contact Suzanne Huss 503.557.0517.
- Building Stewards— have servants’ hearts and handymen’s hands. Maintain our 10th St. building by painting, cleaning and doing repairs. Flexible hours, too!
- Office Support Team— acts as receptionists, prepares periodic mailings, assembles worship programs and seminar materials or is available to take special projects home and work on them. Provides a vital support to our wonderful office staff. Contact Lorraine Briggs 503.656.2328.
- Photo/Video Team— records the memories of someone's baptism, shoots film of special events and takes pictures of new WCC members. Uses photography/videography talents in service to the church family.
- Hospitality Ministry— prepares and serves simple, light buffet suppers offered during some special events. May welcome a visitor, host a missionary for a meal, or serve coffee at a key event. A smile and heart for service are all that's needed.
- Bus Driving— provides transportation for special events whenever a larger bus is required. CDL necessary.

