



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Faithful to the Scriptures
True to the Reformed Faith
Obedient to the Great Commission



June 15, 2025
10:30 am

Welcome to Christ Community Church

*For God's glory, to make and deploy mature
and equipped disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Free wifi:
CCC Guest >
guest2020

This facility is
equipped with a
hearing
assistance
system. Please
ask a Sound
Technician for a
receiver.

Hymns and
worship songs
are used by
permission.
CCLI # 187771

S - denotes
congregation
Standing

Download the
CCC Simpsonville
app today!



Whether you are a visitor or a member, it is a joy to worship our Lord Jesus Christ with you this morning. Please consider participating in our Sunday School hour and Community Groups throughout the week as well.

We believe it is right and good for children of all ages to be with the adult community in worship. Please do not hesitate to keep your child with you. However, we do offer Children's Church for 3-5 yr. olds. Those children participating can be dismissed to Room 2 in the children's wing during the song prior to the sermon.

Because we live in a fallen, broken, sinful world, we can come to Sunday morning worship at times with hearts weighed down with burdens, struggles and concerns. It is not God's will that we shoulder these burdens and concerns alone. Each Sunday immediately following the worship service, there are people at the right front of the church who stand ready to listen to your concerns and to pray with you. So, whatever your concern, no matter how big or small, feel free to come, to share and to be prayed for.

Prepare yourself now for the highest calling of the people of God which is the worship of God in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)

Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

Westminster Confession of Faith: "The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from scripture."

Hebrews 13:7, 17: Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith....Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Ephesians 4:11-12: And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...

Ephesians 2:17-22: And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

John Calvin: "Revolt from the church is denial of God and Christ."

Unknown: "Church membership is a blood-bought gift of God's grace. More than most of us realize, it is a life-sustaining, faith-strengthening, joy-preserving means of God's mercy to us. I urge you not to cut yourself off from this blessing."

Luke 10:20: Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Call to Worship

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Responding to the Savior

§ Prayer of Invocation

§ Songs of Praise

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Wonderful, Merciful Savior, Precious Redeemer and Friend.
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men.
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

*Chorus: You are the One that we praise, You are the One we adore,
 You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for,
 Oh, our hearts always hunger for.*

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace.
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way.
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.
Chorus

Almighty, Infinite Father, faithfully loving Your own.
Here in our weakness You find us, falling before Your throne.
Oh, we're falling before Your throne.
Chorus

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

Pass me not, O gentle Savior - Hear my humble cry!
While on others Thou art calling, Do not pass me by.

*Chorus: Savior, Savior, Hear my humble cry!
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.*

Let me at Thy throne of mercy find a sweet relief;
Kneeling there in deep contrition, Help my unbelief.
Chorus

Trusting only in Thy merit, Would I seek Thy face;
Heal my wounded broken spirit, Save me by Thy grace.
Chorus

Thou the Spring of all my comfort, More than life to me!
Whom have I on earth beside Thee? Whom in Heav'n but Thee?
Chorus

Introduction of New Members

Terry Burd, Mary Hannah-Morris,
Mike & Kathryn Pendergrass,
David Michael Pendergrass, Travis Speer

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Three ways to give: the Giving Box, online through the website, or mail to the church at PO Box 80787, Simpsonville, SC 29680

Prayers of the Church

Mikael & Zuzanne Römer, MTW in Krakow, Poland

§ Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

*And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.**

*The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church**,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

The Apostles' Creed

*This refers to Jesus taking upon Himself the wrath of God for the sins of His people while upon the cross.

** This refers to the "universal church" that includes all the true elect of God from every tongue, tribe and nation throughout past, present and future history.

§ Song of Preparation*

The Church's One Foundation

**Parents who desire may bring their 3-5 yr. old children to Room 2 for Children's Church.*

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation by water and the Word;
From heav'n he came and sought her to be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder, men see her sore oppressed
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed
Yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up "How long?
And soon the night of weeping, shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish!
Her dear Lord to defend, to guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;
Though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,
against a foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war;
She waits the consummation, of peace for evermore.
Till with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest.
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won;
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we, like them,
the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.

Hearing from the Savior

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Paul Sanders

"Church Membership: Biblical & Beneficial"

Week after week we proclaim the Bible because we are convinced it is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God.
That means that it comes to us from God, so it is true in everything that it claims. Therefore, you can trust it with all of your

heart and it will not let you down.

Responding to the Savior

§ Song of Response

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

My faith has found a resting place, from guilt my soul is freed;
I trust the ever-living One, his wounds for me shall plead.
I need no other argument, I need no other plea,
it is enough that Jesus died, and that he died for me.

Enough for me that Jesus saves, this ends my fear and doubt;
A sinful soul I come to him, he'll never cast me out.
I need no other argument, I need no other plea,
it is enough that Jesus died, and that he died for me.

My heart is leaning on the Word, the written Word of God
Salvation by my Savior's name, salvation through his blood.
I need no other argument, I need no other plea,
it is enough that Jesus died, and that he died for me.

My great Physician heals the sick, the lost he came to save;
For me his precious blood he shed, for me his life he gave.
I need no other argument, I need no other plea,
it is enough that Jesus died, and that he died for me.

Hearing from the Savior

§ Benediction

Romans 15:5-6

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you have a need or would like to find out more about the Gospel, the Post Worship Team stands ready to meet with you and pray. Simply make your way to the front right-hand side of the sanctuary after the Benediction, and a team member will be there to meet with you.

Space for Notes:

Questions for Families and Community Groups

Various Scriptures: "Church Membership: Biblical & Beneficial"

1. What was your top takeaway from this sermon?
2. When it comes to genuine Christ followers, what do you think is the biggest obstacle as to why they do not join a church?
3. Were the evidences for church membership presented in the sermon convincing that God does intend for His people to belong to a particular church? Why or why not?
4. Does everyone understand the difference between the VISIBLE and INVISIBLE church? Why should your part in the invisible church compel your belonging to a visible church?
5. Are there any additional Biblical reasons you could add to the view that a Christian ought to belong to a particular church?
6. What are the benefits of belonging to a church body?
7. What are steps we can take to increase the benefits of church membership both for us and the body we are connected to?
8. Review the vows of membership at CCC. Where can we encourage one another to greater faithfulness?

Why Do That in Worship?

Church Membership

Question: Where do you find church membership in the Bible?

Answer: While the words “church membership” is not in the Bible, the practice of “church membership” is blatantly clear.

Hebrews 13:17 says, “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

Two questions arise from Hebrews 13:17. If there is no biblical requirement to belong a local church, then to which leaders should an individual Christian obey and submit? The Scriptures clearly command Christians to submit to and honor an elder body (Heb. 13:17, 1 Tim. 5:17). If there is no understanding of local church membership, then to whom are we to submit and obey? Is it anyone with the title “elder” from any church? Of course not! There must be a clearly DEFINED leadership to whom we are accountable!

The second question is this: For whom are the leaders of the church (i.e. Elders) responsible to give an account? The Scriptures clearly command an elder body to care for specific people (See 1 Pet. 5:1-5; also, Acts 20:29-30). Are the Elders at CCC to be held accountable for all the Christians in Simpsonville, SC? Of course not! There must be a clearly DEFINED membership that we are responsible to shepherd and lead. Church shepherding and discipline will not work if local church membership doesn't exist.

Other evidences for membership include the following:

- Acts 2:37-47 - numerical record of those who have professed Christ and been filled with the Holy Spirit (v. 41) and an acknowledgement that the church was tracking the growth (v. 47)
- Acts 6:1-6 - we see elections take place in order to address a specific problem and accusation.
- Romans 16:1-16 – Example of an awareness of who is a church member.
- Timothy 5:3-16 - In this text we see criteria for who would or would not qualify for Ephesus' widow care program. The local church in Ephesus is organized, and they are working out a plan. There is a clear distinction of what widows belong to the church.

Obedience to commands in 1 Cor. 12 and Romans 12 imply membership being necessary!

“When church is just a place you attend without ever joining, like an ecclesiological buffet, you just might consider whether you're always leaving whenever your heart begins to be exposed by the Spirit, and the real work is beginning to happen. When you begin to look at these texts it

becomes clear that God's plan for his church is that we would belong to a local covenant community of faith. This is for our own protection and maturation, and for the good of others."

~Matt Chandler

Local church membership is a question of Biblical obedience, not personal preference.

Is it time you considered church membership? If you have an interest in pursuing membership at CCC, please see one of our elders to discuss this further.

Mark your calendars:

June

- **16-20:** VBS
- **17:** Youth Popsicles & Pool Party, 1:30pm
- **18:** Youth Mystery Lunch
- **23-27:** General Assembly in Chattanooga, TN
- **25:** Men’s Night Out, 6pm, Sheriff Burger, Simpsonville
- **29:** Promotion Sunday

More information can be found in the Update, on the app, and/or website.

- * *The first Sunday of each month we take a collection of personal care items for the Center for Community Services. Items can be placed in the wagon located next to the Information Desk in the foyer.*
- * *Members can pick up a monthly giving report summary in the Deacons’ office.*

Church office: 864.967.2815

Staff

Paul Sanders, Senior Pastor	864.431.6688	Rachel Beeson, Dir. of Children’s Ministry	864.617.6768
Ben Clarke, Assistant Pastor/Youth	770.328.6363	Kim Wallace, Dir. of Women’s Ministry	864.981.2449
Felicia Liddell, Dir. of Assimilation	813.335.7320	Jim Perry, Church Administrator	864.449.5609
	Joanne Heiser, Admin. Assistant	864.593.2424	
	Steve Britton, Clerk of Session	864.277.9248	
	Robbie McCoy, Chair of Diaconate	707.499.1560	