



THE
COMPASS

Current Series:



January 17, 2016



THE
ASCENT
CHURCH

Get Connected

If this is your first visit, thank you for joining us. We hope your visit is meaningful! Please fill out a Connection Card and drop in the offering or at the Welcome Areas so we will know you were here. For all guests and attenders, below are steps you can take to engage in our community.



Explore I

Learn more about our church, meet our Campus Pastors and others on our leadership team. Woodmoor Campus: every 2nd Sunday at 11:00 am in Room 214. Northgate Campus: TODAY at 10:45 am in the lobby. *No pre-registration required.*



Explore II

Go deeper into the vision and mission of our church. Become an active part of our church community, learn our trail map for each person, ministry values, doctrine, and connecting with a Base Camp. Held quarterly at 10:45am at both campuses.



Base Camps

Base Camps are neighborhood-based groups that meet regularly around our community. To build deeper relationships with your neighbors, visit our website at theascentchurch.com/basecamps.



Serving

Use your talents and interests to serve with others in your church, accomplishing common ministry goals. There are always teams you can join! Contact Joel Witzel at joel@theascentchurch.com.



Equipping

Our Equipping Classes are designed to help further your walk with Christ. There are many short-term classes offered at both campuses, as well as ongoing women's and men's bible studies. For more information, visit our website or contact Joel Witzel at joel@theascentchurch.com.



Worship Team & Technical Arts

Join our Tech Team or Worship Team. For more info, contact carson@theascentchurch.com.



Sunday Morning Team

Serve as an usher or host with the welcome team. Meet new people, serve together and grow in Christ as you serve our community. Contact joel@theascentchurch.com

Community Life

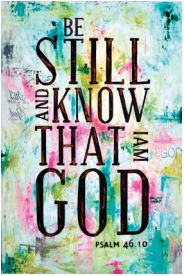


Woodmoor Campus: 2nd Sunday
Northgate Campus: Today at 10:45am
Join us for an introduction to
The Ascent Church!
No pre-registration required.



Explore II is a workshop for those ready to make The Ascent Church their church home and be involved in God's mission and vision in our region. Explore II includes why and how to become a member, our trail map for each family member, ministry values, doctrine, and connecting with a Base Camp.

- January 31 at 10:45am at both campuses (this is a date change)



Thank you to all who have been praying with others in our services the past two weeks.

Women's Retreat

March 11-13, 2016

Springs Canyon

RANCH

Buena Vista, CO



Ascent Student Ministries

New Year

MIXER

Who: All Middle and High School

When: Jan. 31, 11:00am

Where: The Ascent Church Woodmoor Campus

What: Come find out what ASM is doing in 2016!

Free lunch & rides from Northgate Campus provided.

Contact: Micah & Taylor at

ASM@theascentchurch.com

Ascent Student
Ministries

Worship Night

the REFLECTION of WORSHIP

Who: All Middle and High School

When: Jan. 26, 6-8:00pm

Where: The Ascent Church Worship Center

What: A special night with all of ASM celebrating and worshipping our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Contact: Taylor at

ASM@theascentchurch.com



Response Time

Each Sunday service, after the message, we have a time of response to God. We invite you to engage in worship through some tangible ways throughout our worship space.

- Communion: Available to all who profess Jesus Christ
- Prayer: Pastors or Prayer Partners available in the room
- Song: Engage in singing and expression to God
- Offering: Offering boxes and kiosks are available for giving
- Other: At times we will offer artistic/tactile worship stations

We invite you to move around the room at your own pace and in freedom to worship and respond to God as you feel led. You may engage these areas of worship in any order and at your own pace.

Financial Update

Last Week's Offering: \$21,074.24

As of 12/31/2015:

YTD Giving:	\$622,006
YTD Actual Expenses:	\$506,553
YTD Budget:	\$554,933

Fiscal Year 2015-16:

Avg. Weekly Giving:	\$34,673
Avg. Weekly Budget:	\$36,995
Min. Weekly Need:	\$34,000



Giving @ The Ascent

- (1) Offering Boxes: cash/check (in our worship service)
- (2) Online from our website
- (3) Kiosk: In the lobby/back of the worship center
- (4) Mobile/Text: The Ascent Church App (download from your App Store)

Connection Opportunities *This Week*



Ascent Student Ministry (ASM)

ASM welcomes all middle schoolers and high schoolers to deepen their walk with God on Tuesdays and Sundays.

Upcoming ASM Tuesday Dates: Jan. 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 at the Woodmoor Campus.

- Middle School: 5:30-6:45pm
- High School: 7:00-8:30pm

Upcoming ASM Sunday Dates: Jan. 17, 24, Feb. 14, 21, 28 upstairs at both campuses. **The White Stag Scavenger Hunt** for middle schoolers is *today*, Jan. 17, 1-3pm at the Chapel Hills Mall.

Email Micah, Rob & Taylor at asm@theascentchurch.com for any questions.

The Guatemala Missions Trip is accepting applications for the next trip in July 2016. For more information, email asm@theascentchurch.com.

Children's Ministry (Birth—6th grade)

Tiny Town is available for birth - PreK:

Adventure Quest is available for K - 4th grade:

Elevate is available for 5th & 6th grade:

- Woodmoor Campus: 9:30 & 11:00am
- Northgate Campus: 9:30am

For more info, go to www.theascentchurch.com.



Equipping, Women's and Men's Ministries

Connections Class: Sundays, 9:15-10:30am, Woodmoor Campus room 213. New series on the life of King David from I and II Samuel and I Chronicles.

Catalyst Equipping Class: Sundays, 11:00am, Woodmoor Campus room 212. Catalyst is for those seeking to get connected with others and be equipped for Biblical community.

Parents of Teens Equipping Class: Sundays, 11:00am, Woodmoor Campus room 210. Join other parents to learn and to help one another with raising our teens.

Men on the Ascent Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:15am, *Gospel of Mark* study.

- Woodmoor Campus: room 213
- Northgate: Cafe Communitas at Marcos Pizza

Women on The Ascent: The winter session of Bible Studies just began. Please visit the website for an updated list of Bible Studies. Neighborhood studies are also available. For more information, contact joel@theascentchurch.com.





Message Notes

Sermon Passage: Psalm 1.



Shared Engagement and Preparation

The Compass is a daily devotional and study guide for individuals, families, and Base Camps. The Compass begins devotions on Monday and leads up to the Sunday which will focus on the week's passage. In this way, the whole of the church engages in God's Word and prepares for our time of worship and preaching.

Deep Engagement and Doable Application

In order to allow for deep impact by God through His Word, The Compass centers on one passage in three ways — as individuals, with others, in our corporate gatherings — and focuses on applying what God is showing us, not biblical information itself. Life transformation happens when God's people depend upon and live out what He has revealed to us in His Word.

Consistency Over Time

With a tool such as The Compass, we can mistakenly measure personal spiritual success or failure based on whether we've completed a given day's devotion. Rather, use The Compass as a resource for individual and community growth. If you miss a few days, move on and seek growth; God will honor this.

Our prayer is that God will bless you as you seek to connect intimately with Him, intentionally with His people, and influentially in His world.

The Compass Passages for 1/18/16–1/23/16: Psalm 150.

Monday, January 18, 2016

Read: Psalm 150.

Reflect:

The psalmists were moved to write about many things, and the book of Psalms has been called “the Bible in miniature.” Yet, this psalm and many others focus mainly on **praise**.

Why is praise an important part of your relationship with God?

Where do you praise the Lord?

Where/when is it difficult to praise the Lord?

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

This psalmist writes as if praising God is natural—something anyone would do. Is it natural for you? This week, think about your praise relationship with God, and explore how to expand or strengthen your praise practices.

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Read: Psalm 150 and Job 1:21.

Reflect:

Name some reasons you praise God. Consider whether these are similar to the psalmists' reasons in verse 2.

Is your praise mainly thanksgiving or is it adoration/worship? Explain.

What was Job's motivation for praising God in the midst of his misery?

Matt Redman's song "Blessed Be Your Name" reads a bit like Job's praise:

Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness, blessed Be Your name
Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me
When the world's "all as it should be;" Blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your name

Do you praise God only when the "world's all as it should be"? Are you able to praise God and bless His name "on the road marked with suffering"? Give examples.

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

Read: Psalm 150; Exodus 15:20; and 2 Samuel 6:5, 14, 2.

Reflect:

This psalmist Aaron's sister, Miriam, and King David all show praise as an active, joyous state of being—something that consumes or perhaps overcomes you.

Considering David, Miriam, and the words of Psalm 150, name the ways you can involve your whole being—body, mind, and spirit—in worship.

Why is active, joyous worship good? Is there a sort of inactive worship? Is there quiet praise and worship?

What could be beneficial about—

singing? dancing? playing an instrument?

What does this say about how God made you? What is His intent for your praise and worship?

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

What part of you could be more involved in worship and praise? If you do not sing, play an instrument, or dance, how can you participate? (Ephesians 5:19 . . .)

Thursday, January 21, 2016

Read: Psalm 150 and Romans 12:1, 4-8.

Reflect:

Psalm 150 describes a worship and praise that's very physical (kinesthetic), and Romans 12:1 describes another sort of spiritual act of worship. Are these the same spirit of worship (or praise)? Why?

Romans makes the case that serving with our various gifts is an act of worship. Is this also a sort of praise? Explain.

In what form do you worship God? Perhaps your praise is using some other method rather than singing, dancing, or playing an instrument.

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

Although you often participate in praise and worship at church gatherings, plan some ways to intentionally praise and worship God this week in a setting outside the church building.

Friday, January 22, 2016

Read: Psalm 150; Acts 16:25; and Ephesians 5:18-20.

Reflect:

Consider the outward demonstration of praise depicted in this psalm, and remember the dramatic praise displays of Miriam and David we noted earlier this week. In verse 6 it says, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."

Who benefits from this display of praise?

Does God need you to tell Him how wonderful and mighty He is? Why do you do it?

Why did the early Christians sing hymns? Who benefited? How?

When you lift your hands and voices in praise, is it for you, others, or for God?

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

Maybe you often declare, "Praise the Lord!" when someone shares good news.

How else could you encourage or declare praise for God in your daily conversations this week?

What opportunities will you have to declare God's goodness this week?

Saturday, January 23, 2016

Read: Psalm 150.

Reflect:

Is your Sunday visit to church mainly about community, teaching, worship, or something else?

Are there many different forms of worship and praise?

How will you participate in a Psalm-150-type praise at church or your base camp this week?

What transforming thoughts and/or actions were revealed to you today, and how might you put them into practice?

Although we often share prayer requests or supplications at base camp, plan to share a praise or a declaration of God's goodness or power with your group this week.

Building Our Base Camp Family

This is week four of our suggested four-week pattern for Base Camps: intergenerational, adult study, mixed, invitation/service. Each week will have an intergenerational element (such as the meal); then there will be a focus for the meeting that follows the pattern and is attentive to God's Word and the age mix.

Prepare: Many offer a prayer before meals, but I have friends who introduced me to praising God with a song before a meal. At first I felt a little out of place, because I've never done it before, but afterward it felt as if we all shared in it together. It helps us to all be a part of the thanksgiving we have for the meal, friends around us, and for what God has provided. Children tend to really enjoy singing together as well.

Invitation/Service: As you gather around a meal at base camp this week with friends you've know for a while and new friends who are participating for the first time, introduce the following song as a prayer before your meal. One suggestion is to stand in a circle, if appropriate. (Sing it to the tune of the traditional Doxology.)

Be present at our table, Lord;
be here and everywhere adored;
these mercies bless, and grant that we
may strengthened for thy service be. Amen.

Contact Us

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(WM-Woodmoor, NG-Northgate, CS-Central Support)

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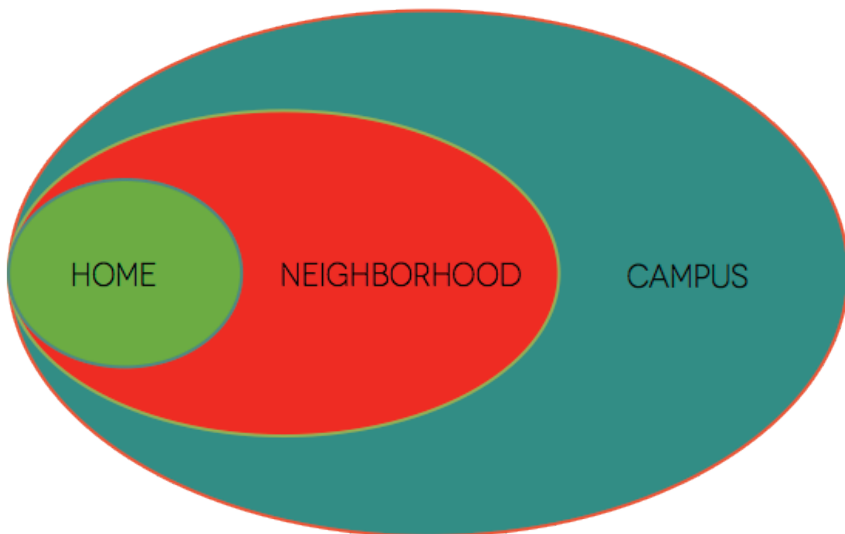
Visit us online at www.theascentchurch.com

Mission and Vision

The mission of THE ASCENT CHURCH is to help people connect: *Intimately* with God, *Intentionally* with God's family, and *Influentially* with God's world. Our vision is to develop genuine Biblical communities on every street in our region.

Our community lives out its vision and mission within three environments:

- Home - The best place for formation and nurture.
- Neighborhood - The best place for application and outreach.
- Campus - The best place for equipping, inspiration and celebration.



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Special thanks to all who contributed to The Compass.
If you have questions or comments, email:
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