

TIME OF REFLECTION

“...you cannot truly repent of your sins without at the same time trusting entirely in Christ of the forgiveness of your sins, and your acceptance with God.”

~Thomas H. Gallaudet in *The Child's Book of Repentance*, p. 123

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.”

~C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

~Romans 5:8

“God’s unfailing love for us is an objective fact affirmed over and over in the Scriptures. It is true whether we believe it or not. Our doubts do not destroy God’s love, nor does our faith create it. It originates in the very nature of God, who is love, and it flows to us through our union with His beloved Son.”

~Jerry Bridges

“By the cross, we know the gravity of sin and the greatness of God’s love toward us.”

~John Chrysostom

“But the man who is not afraid to admit everything that he sees to be wrong with himself, and yet recognizes that he may be the object of God’s love precisely because of his shortcomings, can begin to be sincere. His sincerity is based on confidence, not in his own illusions about himself, but in the endless, unfailing mercy of God.”

~Thomas Merton

Worship through the Word

SERMON – “Love Story” – *Abrm McQuarters*

SERMON PASSAGE – *1 John 4:7-10 (ESV)*

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Worship through the Sacrament

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Philippians 2

LEADER: Christian, what do you believe about your Lord Jesus Christ?

CONGREGATION: Though He was in the form of God, [He] did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HOW ARE THE BREAD AND CUP DISTRIBUTED?

The BREAD IS TAKEN INDIVIDUALLY when you receive it, as an expression of your personal faith in Christ. The CUP IS TAKEN TOGETHER after all have been served, as an expression of our corporate faith in Christ. After you have finished the cup, pass it to the aisle, where the ushers will collect it. Gluten/allergen free communion bread is available in a box on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

MAY I RECEIVE COMMUNION TODAY?

At CRC we welcome all believers in Christ to receive Holy Communion with us provided that they are 1) forsaking their sin and self-righteousness, and 2) trusting in Jesus alone for salvation. If you are not able to receive Communion today, please use this time to meditate on who Jesus is and what he has done for us, even using this as an opportunity to put your trust in him. If you feel that God is calling you to faith in his Son, perhaps the prayer below will be helpful to you as you seek him:

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Please guide me and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you, as I consider the reasons for doing so. Amen.

If you would like to talk to someone about becoming a Christian, please let the pastor, one of the elders, or the friend who brought you know. You may also inquire by completing the contact form on the back of the bulletin and placing it in the offering box.

AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)

(John Newton, 1779, Chris Tomlin)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed.

CHORUS:

My chains are gone,
I've been set free.
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy rains,
Unending love, Amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.
(CHORUS)

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine.
But God, Who called me here below,
Will be forever mine,
Will be forever mine,
You are forever mine.

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**After you have finished the cup, pass it to the aisle, where the ushers will collect it.*

WONDERFUL, MERCIFUL SAVIOR

(Dawn Rodgers, Eric Wyse)

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.

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

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.

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)

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BENEDICTION – *Abrm McQuarters*

WORSHIPPING GOD THROUGH GIVING: *An offering box is located at the entrance of the service for worshipping God through financial giving. Gifts may also be made online through the church website.*

POSTLUDE

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Next week's sermon: Pastor Don Willeman will be preaching.

Summer BBQ for Young Adults: Friday, August 16th at Scott & Victoria Sottosanti's home. For time and place details and/or more information about other young adult events, contact Scott (scott.sottosanti@christredeemerchurch.org) or Victoria (victorialeesottosanti@gmail.com).

Medical Professionals Picnic: Sunday, August 25th immediately following the worship service at Storrs Pond Recreation Area. When you arrive, look for the Dimick Pavilion. All are welcome! Questions? Contact Marsha Davison (marshaldavidson@gmail.com) or Mark Abel (markabel1@hotmail.com).

Children's Sunday School: We're starting to put together a schedule for the 2019-20 school year. If you are interested in teaching or helping in the children's Sunday School program this year (PreK-5th grade), please contact Diane Fleck (dianemfleck@gmail.com).

Sunday School Breakfast: Will be held on Sunday, September 15th at 9 am to celebrate the start of Sunday School. Details to follow. Sunday School classes resume Sunday, September 22nd.

CRC Fall Cookout: Will be held on September 22nd in the Hanover High School lobby immediately following the service. Details to follow.

Community Groups: Resume the week of September 22nd. If you are not in a CG and would like to be, please contact the church office (office@christredeemerchurch.org). More details on page 13. Fall Community Group Weeks: 9/22, 10/6, 10/20, 11/3, 11/17, 12/1, 12/15.

21 Days of Prayer: To kick off the new school year we will be implementing a focused time of prayer. Starting Monday, September 9th, we will be hosting "21 Days of Prayer". Each day will have a different prayer event/activity/focus that we want everyone to participate in. More details to follow.

Intro to CRC Seminar: October 27th from 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm at the RW Black Community Center in Hanover. If you're new to CRC, this seminar is key to understanding our church, the practical logistics, and how you can serve and connect with the body. Lunch is included. Please RSVP to the church office (office@christredeemerchurch.org).

Women's Events

Summer Book/Discussion Groups: Experience gospel life this summer with new friends and old in one of these book/discussion groups! All CRC women and friends are welcome. See "Women's Fellowship" page under the ministries tab on the church website for more details.

The Women of Christ Redeemer Church Facebook Group: We are testing out a Facebook group this summer to see if it will help facilitate relationships at CRC. Once you join the group you will be able to add events and see what others are planned. Questions or comments? Contact Faye Gillespie (faye.gillespie@christredeemerchurch.org).

Youth Activities

Youth Group: Will resume in September. Meets most Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Middle School meets at the Audino house; High School meets at the Willeman house. Contact Chris Audino (chris.audino@christredeemerchurch.org). Upcoming Dates: 9/9, 9/16, 9/23.

Family Devotional

Week 50

BASIC CATECHISM *Romans 6:4*

How is baptism a picture of our salvation? We are buried and raised just as Christ was buried and raised.

ADVANCED CATECHISM

How is baptism rightly administered? Baptism is rightly administered by immersion, or dipping the whole body of the person in water, (Mt 3:16, Joh 3:23) in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, according to Christ's institution, and the practice of the apostles, (Mt 28:19,20, Joh 4:1,2, Ac 8:38,39)

What is the duty of such as are rightly baptized? It is the duty of such as are rightly baptized, to join themselves to a local church that is assembled according to the dictates of Christ (Acts 2:47, 9:26; 1Peter 2:5) so that they may walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless (Luke 1:6).

General Ministries

COMMUNITY GROUPS: A network of small groups at CRC, each group is designed to be a mini-Christian community, providing an opportunity for prayer, fellowship, Bible study and service. If you would like to join a group, please ask a friend if you can attend theirs or contact Chris Audino (chris.audino@christredeemerchurch.org)

FOR WOMEN: For information about women's small groups, women's retreat and other women's events, please contact Faye Gillespie (faye.gillespie@christredeemerchurch.org).

FOR MEN: For information about men's small groups, men's retreat, the Father & Son Campout and Men's Leadership Breakfast, please contact Chris Audino (chris.audino@christredeemerchurch.org).

YOUNG ADULTS: For more information, contact Scott Sottosanti (scott.sottosanti@christredeemerchurch.org) or Victoria Sottosanti (victorialeesottosanti@gmail.com).

COLLEGE STUDENTS: For information about ways to be involved at CRC as a college student, contact Abm McQuarters (abrm.mcquarters@christredeemerchurch.org).

YOUTH MINISTRY: For information about activities, small groups, and retreats for middle school and high school students, contact Chris Audino (chris.audino@christredeemerchurch.org).

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: For information about our Childcare Program, Sunday School, and Summer Celebration Camp, contact the church office (office@christredeemerchurch.org).

MISSIONS: For more information contact, Vincent Mack (vilamack@gmail.com).

MERCY MINISTRY: For more information, contact Ryan Bouton (ryan.bouton@christredeemerchurch.org).

RADIO PROGRAM: Listen to CRC's "The Kingdom Perspective" radio program Tuesday and Thursday at 7:58am on 91.7FM and 96.3FM, or read it online at christredeemerchurch.org/home/blog/.

Church Leadership

ELDERS

Jason Achmoody	Doug Cooper	Lindsay Whaley
Tim Ball	Joel Eshbaugh	Don Willeman
Ryan Bouton	Dave Smith	

DEACONS

Leslie Achmoody	Christine Engert	Matt Lewis
Deb Alexander	Megan Eshbaugh	Kerry Roberts
Jim Alexander	Claudine Lefferts	Jesse Roberts
Eric Bish	Joel Lefferts	Chris Rogers
Andy Engert	Emily Lewis	Matt Smith

Church Staff

PASTOR

Don Willeman

OFFICE ADMIN

Emily Lewis
Becca Wistrom

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Andy Engert

EXECUTIVE & YOUTH

PASTOR

Chris Audino

PASTORAL INTERNS

Abm McQuarters
Scott Sottosanti

WOMEN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Faye Gillespie

PASTORAL RESIDENTS

Ryan Bouton (Quechee)
Doug Cooper (New London)

STUDENT INTERNS

Robert Moore
Yumi Naruke

COORDINATOR FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS

Lauren Groves

CRC Financial Updates

2019 OPERATIONAL BUDGET YTD	MISSIONS GIVING
Budgeted Giving: \$304,800	2018 EOY: \$166,780
Actual Giving: \$285,004	2019 YTD: \$58,374
Difference: (-\$19,797)	Updates as of 6/30/19

An offering box is located at the entrance to the service for worshipping God through financial giving. Online giving is available on the church website.

Sunday Service Schedule

THIS SUNDAY: August 11th (*MOD)(**first time in role)

Setup, Sound, Music 8:30, Nursery, 2s & 3s, Child. Sup 9:40

Setup/Packup: M. Roberts*, R. Ram, M. Abel, J. O'Leary, D. Allee

Sound: M. Bish, T. Arulmani **Music:** A. Engert

Greeters: E. Bish, M. Davidson, M. & R. Laubenheimer

Nursery: R. Guevara*, D. Allee, R. Seidler

2s and 3s: L. Groves*, P. Latona, A. Engert, **volunteer requested**

Preschool: M. & M. McFarland*, A. McFarland, L. Engert

Junior Church: W. Rudd*, R. Ram, **volunteer requested**

Discovery Class: J. Eshbaugh*, M. Abel

Elder: C. Audino **Deacon:** E. Bish **Child. Sup:** E. Lewis

Communion: C. Audino, E. Bish, M. Davidson, A. Groves, M. Roberts, B. Wistrom, M. & A. O'Leary

NEXT SUNDAY: August 18th (*MOD)(**first time in role)

Setup, Sound, Music 8:30, Nursery, 2s & 3s, Child. Sup 9:40

Setup/Packup: J. Breedlove*, D. Breedlove, J. Casale, D. Gusitch, B. Mayes, S. Sottosanti

Sound: J. Gillespie, J. Bachleder **Music:** J. & K. Schlogl

Greeters: C. Engert, D. & J. Breedlove, B. Mayes

Nursery: Elena Marshall*, R. Marshall, N. Marshall

2s and 3s: Emilie Marshall*, F. Marshall, J. Gilbert, K. Gilbert

Preschool: D. Willeman*, E. Ball, B. Ball, R. Breedlove

Junior Church: S. Sottosanti*, V. Sottosanti, J. Ball

Discovery Class: V. Mack*, D. Gusitch

Elder: T. Ball **Deacon:** C. Engert **Child. Sup:** H. Ball

Communion: T. Ball, C. Engert, P. & G. Lee, L. Burton, N. & A. Crane, B. Berwick

CHRIST REDEEMER CHURCH CORE VALUES

Christ Changes Everything • Christ Mandates Our Message • Christ Glorifies God
Christ Causes Us to Value and Care for People • Christ Reorients Our Hearts • Christ Reconciles Us to One Another
Christ Redeems All of Life • Christ is Victorious • Christ Causes Us to Look Outwardly

SPOTLIGHTED CORE VALUE FOR THIS WEEK

CHRIST GLORIFIES GOD

We value the Glory of God. We preeminently value the unique and holy God. All of history has but one purpose, to glorify God through the redemption of His people (Ephesians 1:6, 12, 13, 3:11; Revelation 4:11, 5:9, 7:9). We are committed to magnifying the praise and glory of God by delighting in His salvation and service while calling others to do the same. We will meet together with God weekly to worship Him, to confess Him, to hear from Him and to fellowship with Him around the table to which He calls us. We recognize this weekly meeting is a foretaste of the glory yet to be revealed (Luke 22: 15, 16, 28-30; Revelation 7:9-12 and 19:7-10).

HOW CAN I GET CONNECTED AT CHRIST REDEEMER CHURCH?

At CRC we welcome people from every background and every stage in their journey with Christ. CRC is comprised of people that are committed followers of Jesus as well as those just investigating. Wherever you might find yourself, there is a place for you at CRC. If you need help getting connected, just ask a friend, contact the church office or fill out the Contact Form on the last page of this bulletin.

Just Investigating: If you are just investigating the gospel of Christ, there are several points of connections you might find helpful:

- **Worship:** Every Sunday morning at 10:00AM, you'll find ample opportunity to learn about Jesus and what He has done for us.
- **Sunday School:** We offer classes for all ages including classes for adults. In these classes you are welcome to jump into the dialogue or just sit and listen. More information is available on pg. 2 of this bulletin.
- **Various Other Ministries:** For Men (Men's Breakfasts, men's small groups, retreats, etc.), Women (bible studies, retreats, etc.), Youth, Work Place (e.g. work place Bible studies). For more information, see page 13 or contact the church office.

Desiring A Greater Level of Participation: If you are investigating what it means to be a Christian, or have been a Christian for a while but are new to CRC, we strongly recommend that you become a participant in the life of the community. Experiencing life in the body of Christ is the best way to learn what the gospel is all about. Here are two key opportunities:

- **Sunday Service Rotation:** At many churches, opportunities for personal involvement are limited. At CRC, however, we take a very different approach; we invite anyone who considers CRC their "church home" to serve and participate in the life of the body. One of the practical ways that we do this is to schedule every individual or family for a "service Sunday" approximately once every three months in order to assist the leaders in each of the various responsibilities (i.e. setup and takedown for the worship service, greeting, and the children's ministries). Through this service rotation, we are not only working to accomplish these tasks, but also learning what it means to live together as the "family of God".
- **Community Groups:** It is our belief and experience that a servant-hearted community is the essential fruit that grows from believing the gospel. "Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ" (Dietrich Bonhoeffer). Therefore, the backbone of CRC is a network of small groups, each designed to be a mini-Christian community. Comprised of 8 to 14 people, they meet regularly during the week in individual homes. Trained leaders who are given on-going support lead each group. The groups are open to both believers and seekers—to anyone who wishes to grow in their understanding and experience of the gospel. Through Bible study, prayer and serving others, participants are able to come to know and to experience life in Christ for themselves, at their own pace. If you would like to join a group, please contact the church office or ask a friend if you can attend theirs. If you consider CRC your "church home", you should make faithful participation in one of these groups a top priority.

Desiring To Become a Member: At CRC we take church membership very seriously. For a person to be a follower of Christ, we feel it is necessary to be committed to a local church. If you have been a Christian for a long time but are new to CRC or if you have recently become a Christian, and would like to become a member, join us for our "Introduction to CRC" seminar that runs periodically or talk to Pastor Willeman.

Desiring To Lead And Serve Others: God calls many to be not merely faithful members in His church but also to serve the church through leadership. If you have traveled the path outlined above but are still looking for something more, we'd love to talk to you about opportunities for developing leadership skills and serving.

HOW CAN I SERVE LOCALLY?

At CRC we believe the primary way followers of Christ serve their community is in and through their local church. In addition to this commitment, we strongly encourage people to seek the betterment of life in the Upper Valley by supporting and serving organizations like the ones listed below. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the CRC office.

CRC Opportunities:

- **Financial Giving:** When you support CRC, you are "joining a team" committed to blessing the Upper Valley. The extensive service that CRC provides to our community is supported by your donations. In addition, since the beginning of CRC, we have given away over \$1,607,000 to other missions and charity, over \$166,000 last year alone, with much of that going to local community efforts.
- **Community Groups:** Each of our small groups is encouraged to find ways that they can serve the community. Therefore, it is not surprising to find them serving community dinners, collecting food for the hungry, doing work projects for local charities, etc.
- **Pioneering:** If you have a vision for pioneering an unmet need, we'd love to talk to you. Please contact the church office.
- **Prayer:** At CRC we do not underestimate the greatest power for good in our community, the gracious power of God. Therefore, in our worship, various ministries and small groups, prayer for the work of God in our community is a priority.

Local & Other Service Organizations

Bethany Christian Services: pregnancy and adoption services. www.bethany.org or locally at 603-483-2886 • **CCEF New England:** Christian counseling 802-356-9065 or newengland@ccef.org • **Christian Union:** ministry to Dartmouth College students. Christianunion.org/ministries/Dartmouth • **Cru Dartmouth:** ministry to Dartmouth College students. cru@dartmouth.edu • **Compassion International:** child sponsorship. www.compassion.com • **Cover:** home repair program. www.coverhomerepair.org • **The Family Place:** providing assistance to families with young children. www.familyplacevt.org or 800-649-3268 • **Food Pantry:** First Baptist Church of Lebanon: 603-448-5618, Valley Bible Church: 802-295-5000, Wellspring Worship Center: 603-643-2700 • **Good Beginnings:** program for families with newborns. www.goodbeginnings.net • **Habitat for Humanity:** creating affordable housing. www.uppervalleyhabitat.org • **The Haven:** A homeless shelter serving families. www.uppervalleyhaven.org or 802-295-6500 • **Lions Club:** Service organization: www.nhlions.org or Don Willeman 643-5588 • **Listen Community Services:** helping people in times of need. www.listencs.org or locally at 603-448-4553 • **More Than Wheels:** Helping people with transportation needs. www.bonnieclac.org • **NETS Center for Church Planting & Revitalization:** church planting organization: www.theNETScenter.org • **Pax Academic Exchange:** hosting foreign high school students. www.pax.org • **Pregnancy Center of the Upper Valley:** www.pregnancycenteruppervalley.com or 603-298-6123 • **Richard W. Black Senior Center:** activities and support for our Senior citizens. www.hanovernh.org • **Rotary:** Service organization; www.hanovernhrotary.org • **ServiceLink:** Serving Senior citizens in our community. 1-866-634-9412 • **Spark! Community Center:** community center where those with disabilities can develop their strengths. 603-678-8619 or www.sparkcommunitycenter.com • **Special Needs Support Center:** for parents of children with special needs. www.sns-c-uv.org or 603-448-6311 • **Tucker Foundation:** oversees services and religious opportunities at Dartmouth College. 603-646-3350 • **Upper Valley Hostel:** serving out of town patients. 643-3277 or www.uppervalleyhostel.org/ • **Upper Valley Land Trust:** promoting land conservation. www.uvlt.org • **Waterman Institute:** Integrating faith and learning in the Dartmouth community. www.watermaninstitute.org • **WISE:** crisis intervention for women. www.wisefoftheuppervalley.org or 603-448-5525 • **Young Life:** introducing youth to Christ. younglife@valley.net or 603-276-8718 • **Youth In Action:** teen volunteer program. 603-643-4313

Your Vocation:

Have you ever considered your job as a way to worship Christ and serve your neighbor? The gospel, as it is properly understood and applied, produces the most conscientious workers. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving" (Colossians 3:23-24). Imagine that! God counts your work as a doctor or dentist, electrician or engineer, carpenter or teacher, artist or accountant, mother or father, as service rendered to Christ. Indeed, the gospel elevates every aspect of our lives.

HOW CAN I SERVE GLOBALLY?

CRC Opportunities:

- **Short and Long Term Missions:** In the short history of CRC, we have sent out numerous individuals to do a variety of projects both long and short term. Through our connections with Converge Worldwide Missions (BGC) and numerous other agencies, we have a network of missions and relief opportunities that stretch around the globe.
- **Financial Giving:** By financially supporting CRC, you are "joining a team" that is directly helping those in need around the world. As a matter of fact, CRC has recently averaged giving away 20% of its budget to support other charities and ministries, and aims to increase that percentage every year.
- **Pioneering:** If you have an interest in pioneering an unmet need, we'd love to talk to you. Contact: Pastor Willeman.
- **Prayer:** At CRC we do not underestimate the greatest power for good in our world, the gracious power of God. Therefore, in our worship, various ministries and small groups, prayer for the work of God in our world is a priority.

HOW CAN I GET SPIRITUAL HELP OR PRAYER?

If you would like someone to pray for or with you, or need to talk to someone about spiritual issues, please consider the following:

- Share your request with your Community Group. If you are not currently in one, we urge you to consider joining one.
 - See one of the Elders or Deacons listed at the top of page 13.
 - Write your prayer request at the bottom of the Contact Form at the back of the bulletin.
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CONTACT FORM

Please use this section to inform us of your contact information or fill it out online at christredeemerchurch.org/home/contact-us/

PLEASE PRINT and deposit in the offering box at the entrance to the auditorium (check all boxes that apply)

- I would like more information on CRC
 I am interested in opportunities for involvement
 I am updating my information
 I am a college student graduate student
 Please subscribe me to "The Kingdom Perspective" (CRC's blog)
 I would like to talk to someone about becoming a Christian

Name (PLEASE PRINT) Mr./ Mrs./ Ms./ Miss

Spouse/Children

Address: mailing or street

City/State/Zip

Home/Cell Phone

Work Phone

Email Address

Community Group Sign up:

Community Groups meet throughout the Upper Valley and include worship, Bible study, fellowship, prayer and mission. Fill out the form above, and drop it in the offering box. We will contact you about group availability.

Days of the week that work best with your schedule

Prayer Request, Comment or Question:

AN AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

Adopted by Converge Worldwide (Baptist General Conference) in 1951

- 1. The Word of God:** We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- 2. The Trinity:** We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.
- 3. God the Father:** We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of each person, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.
- 4. Jesus Christ:** We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.
- 5. The Holy Spirit:** We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.
- 6. Regeneration:** We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.
- 7. The Church:** We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible confession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.
- 8. Christian Conduct:** We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.
- 9. The Ordinances:** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 10. Religious Liberty:** We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.
- 11. Church Cooperation:** We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary basis.
- 12. The Last Things:** We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

