

## STATEMENT OF CALLING

West Side Christian Church  
is a faithful and caring church family  
committed to making Disciples of Jesus Christ in our  
**Church, our Community,**  
and our **World.**

**Church:** *Equip* our church family through spiritual growth and leadership development.

**Community:** *Share* the love of Christ through service.

**World:** *Witness* through support of Disciples' missions.

## A VISION FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

### OUR VISION

To be a faithful, growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice. (Micah 6:8)

### OUR MISSION

To be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps "to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

### 2020 VISION

- 1000 new congregations
- 1000 transformed congregations
- The leadership development necessary to realize these new and renewed congregations
- All within a context of being an anti-racist/pro-reconciling church.

## Who is the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)?

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) originated on the American Frontier during the early 19th Century. Its first leaders were Barton Stone and Alexander Campbell, Presbyterians who reacted against sectarian frontier religion and urged a union of all Christians founded upon the restoration of New Testament Christianity. They advocated adult baptism by immersion, weekly observance of The Lord's Supper, and autonomy of the local congregation.

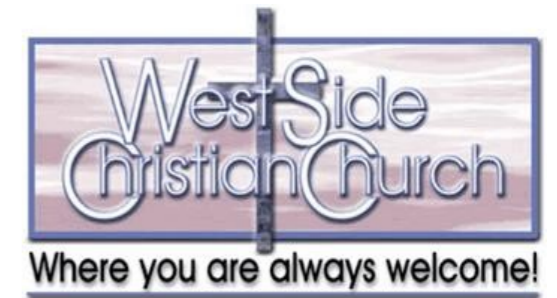
Congregations accept new members through a confession of faith and baptism or by transfer of membership from other denominations. Worship styles vary from congregation to congregation, but all observe communion each Sunday. The communion table is open to all. It is a place where we come to experience the power of God's love and the grace of Jesus Christ in the breaking of bread and the drinking of the cup. Our gathering at the communion table is the central focus of our worship service.

Disciples advocate freedom and embrace diversity. We are a non-creedal tradition which means that creeds and doctrines do not dictate how we are to live out our faith. Each person is challenged to study the scriptures and discern God's will for their own life. The Christian Church has always served as a "bridge church" or a common ground for people with diverse denominational backgrounds. We believe in welcoming *all* people into relationship with Jesus Christ.

## Who is West Side Christian Church?

The West Side Christian Church had its beginning on July 1, 1956 when 105 members of the Park View Christian Church, located on Hatton Street in downtown Portsmouth, were commissioned to organize a new Christian Church in the West End. The newly formed congregation held its first worship service on July 8, 1956 in the Grove Park Seventh Day Adventist Church on Winchester Drive. Attendance was 131. Those temporary facilities were utilized until the first unit of the present plant was constructed. In August of 1956, both the Christian Women's Fellowship and the Christian Men's Fellowship groups were chartered.

West Side Christian Church recently celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and has recommitted itself to doing ministry in the city of Portsmouth. We see ourselves as a loving and caring congregation open to where God is calling us. In many ways, we are like a giant family committed to one another and to Jesus Christ. With nearly 400 members, we are continuing to grow and hope you will consider making West Side your church home.



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DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Rev. Nathan Brown, Minister  
Becky Barclay, Music Director

**WELCOME**  
**West Side Christian Church**  
**June 8, 2008**



**\*\*GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PRELUDE "Amazing Grace" arr. Ray

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP Elder, Lynne Thomas

Elder: God calls us out of places known and secure.  
 God invites us into a living, trusting relationship.

**ALL: Happy are those whom God chooses as a heritage.  
 God's counsel to every generation comes to us.**

Elder: God continues to bring new worlds into being.  
 God is constantly offering new opportunities to us.

**ALL: We are called away from empty pursuits.  
 God wants to employ our talents for the common good.**

Elder: Let us worship God with our whole being.  
 Let us use all our talents to praise our Creator.

**ALL: Praise God with instruments we have made.  
 Sing praises with voices God has given.**

\*WORSHIP HYMN "Rejoice, You Pure in Heart" CH, 15

**\*UNISON INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**ALL:** God Most High, it is hard to hear you calling us, for there are many competing voices vying for our attention. It is difficult to believe your promises because we have been misled by so many empty commitments. We are hesitant to hope for healing and fulfillment amid the living death so many experience in our times. Yet, as we gather here to touch the Unseen Presence, we are moved to rejoice. We stand in awe before you, eager to live by faith, anticipating your mercy, giving thanks for your word. We ask these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray saying, *"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen."*

\*GLORIA PATRI CH, 35

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 12:1-9

MORNING PRAYER

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY "Meditation on the Kyrie" Langlais

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**ALL:** Thank you, God, for hearing our prayers and restoring our strength. Thank you for drawing us apart from our selfish ways and self-serving pursuits. Let our offering today fulfill your purposes, not ours. Let these gifts summon others to follow Christ. Let them know the joy of breaking bread with the Great Physician who offers healing to all who dare to trust your mercy. Amen.

\*THE DOXOLOGY CH, 46

COMMUNION HYMN "The Old Rugged Cross" CH, 548  
 (stz. 1, 2, 3)

*The Lord's Table is open for all who believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Christ has set the table before us. It is by His invitation we are fed. You may eat of the bread as it is passed and drink of the cup at the conclusion of the Words of Institution.*

PRAYER FOR THE BREAD Elder, Lynne Thomas

PRAYER FOR THE CUP Elder, Larry Hackler

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

ANTHEM "Seed Scattered and Sown" Feiten

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 8:42b-48

SERMON "A Spring of Water Gushing" Dr. Sharon Watkins

HYMN OF INVITATION "O Christians Haste" CH, 482  
*During the singing of the benediction, we invite anyone wishing to become a Christian or wishing to unite with this congregation, please come forward.*

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION "Let us Now Depart in Thy Peace" CH, 444

POSTLUDE "Alleluiah!" Mozart

**Diaconate Serving Today**  
 Bill Loftis, Diane Loftis, Kelly Terry, Stephen Milam

\* PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

\*\* *At the conclusion of the announcements, children ages 3-8 are dismissed to attend "Worship and Wonder", following a prayer with Rev. Brown*

**Offering for June 1, 2008**

WEEKLY BUDGET EXPENSES: \$3,418.00

Received for Budget:	\$ 4,922.98
General Building Fund:	315.50
Memorial Fund: (In memory of Barbara White)	170.00
Scholarship Fund:	70.00
Pentecost:	10.00
Other: (Coffee/Donuts, Flowers, FC, Cans, Visa)	238.12

**TOTAL for June 1, 2008** ..... **\$ 5,726.60**

