



FCCV is a special place of hope, acceptance, compassion, and great faith. You will discover outstanding worship, different traditions, missions and ministries, God's gifts and blessings for your life, and a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. All people are welcome here to share in the Lord's Supper, and unite in the love of our Savior. We can't wait to meet you!

OUR IDENTITY & DENOMINATION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

HISTORY

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.

PRACTICES

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 who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their life. 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 experience.

DISCIPLESHIP

Disciples advocate freedom and respect diversity. Creeds may be used from time to time, but none is seen as the test of a true believer. We hold true "Where the Bible speaks, we speak, and where the Bible is silent, we are silent", which means each person is challenged to study the scriptures and to seek God's will for their life. The unity of all Christians continues to be held before us as our "polar star." The Christian Church has always served as a "bridge church" or a common ground for people with diverse denominational backgrounds.

We practice unity and inclusion at the Lord's Table. All are welcome to the Lord's Table for the sake of mission and for the sake of the world as the one family of God. Most congregations do this by celebrating communion every Sunday. That's why we use a chalice as our logo.



BAPTISM

Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38 (NRSV) Just as the baptism represents the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, it symbolizes the death and burial of the old self of the repentant believer, and the joyous birth of a brand new being in Christ. Those who founded the Disciples movement taught baptism by immersion as the accepted form.* Baptism is a public act by which the church proclaims God's grace, as revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, through the use of a visible sign of God's gracious initiative and the human individual's response in faith. With other Christians we affirm that baptism is at once a divine gift and a human response... The meaning of baptism is grounded in God's redemptive action in Christ, it incorporates the believer in the community in the body of Christ, and it anticipates life in the coming age when the powers of the old world will be overcome, and the purposes of God will triumph.

*From "Word to the Church on Baptism," Commission on Theology, 1987

COMMUNION

For I have received of the Lord what I have also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way he took the cup also after supper saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread, and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. I Corinthians 11:23-26 (NRSV) The Lord's Supper or Communion is celebrated in weekly worship. It is open to all who are followers of Jesus Christ. The practice of Holy Communion has become the central element of worship within the Disciples tradition. Disciples' observance of the Lord's Supper echoes the Passover feast, when Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples on the eve of his crucifixion.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the living Christ is met and received in the sharing of the bread and the cup, representative of the body and blood of Jesus. The presence of the living Lord is affirmed and he is proclaimed to be the dominant power in our lives.

OUR CONFESSION

This confession is the opening paragraph in the Preamble to the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It is used by many Disciples congregations in worship as an affirmation of the faith of the church throughout the ages – not as a "test of fellowship," but as a statement of faith that identifies the Disciples' commitment to and place within the universal and ecumenical church. The preamble continues... "As members of the Christian Church, we confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and proclaim Him Lord and Savior of the world."