

WAYSIDE FRIENDS CHURCH CORE VALUES

Creator God is the Source of life

All life is sacred, having its origin in the creative and loving work of God. Life is our greatest gift, sustained by God's active and loving presence. Recognizing that all persons have equal value and are created in the image of God, we treat others with respect and dignity, regardless of human measures of merit or value. Recognizing that all of life belongs to and is a gift of God, we treat all of Creation with respect and dignity.

Jesus Christ is Present

Jesus Christ is always present with us as Teacher, Healer, Redeemer, and Friend. Jesus revealed the full measure of God's love to humanity by becoming fully human, experiencing birth, life, joy, suffering, disgrace, and death. Jesus's resurrection in his body carries the promise that we too will live again. Jesus Christ is the Word of God speaking within every human, and his life, death, and resurrection draw us all into a loving relationship with God. Individually and collectively, we seek to follow Jesus Christ, the Light within, as we live in the world justly, with mercy, compassion, and love.

Holy Spirit transforms and empowers

Holy Spirit enlightens our paths, transforms our lives, and is our Comforter, Counselor, and Guide. As we accept the invitation to yield our lives to God and become immersed in the life of the Spirit, the gifts and fruits of the Spirit proliferate. We gain freedom to live into our true selves. Hatred gives way to love, selfishness to generosity, fear to courage, shame to acceptance, and self-centeredness to humility.

Our Community is invited to live out love as represented by our Triune God.

The essence of God is defined as a loving mutual three-in-oneness relationship. This loving community within God models the paradox, challenges, and gifts of life in community. We hold oneness (unity) in tension with three-ness (uniqueness) as we seek to live out of loving unity while honoring our unique distinctions as individuals. As humans endowed with God's image, we are invited to participate in reflecting this relational love throughout all our relationships—with God, with each other in community, with other creatures, and with creation.

The Bible as the Church's scriptures

The Bible is a record of God's self-revealing presence, action, and love, particularly among the Hebrew people and in the early Christian community. God guided the gathering and conveying of scripture, and God continues to guide the community of faith in understanding and applying its teaching to our lives today. As the Spirit continues to teach the listening community, our shared knowledge of the Bible deepens both spoken ministry and inward listening, and it is a welcome touchstone against which to test our leadings.

Jesus calls us to be agents of God's kingdom in the midst of brokenness

Whether situations of conflict and confusion are personal, national, or global— within the church or beyond it—God calls us to act justly towards all, to love and give mercy to others, and to be humble in our relationships with others and with God. As receivers of God's grace, we are invited to give to others, to all creatures, and all creation as we have so generously received. Through our actions, which are made possible by the indwelling Holy Spirit, we shine light into darkness, bring love into places of brokenness, and invite all to know and respond to that of Christ within.