



Chehalem Valley Presbyterian Church

Newberg, Oregon

Renewed by Christ, renewing one another, renewing our community in Chehalem Valley & beyond

MISSION, VISION, & CORE VALUES



The calling of Christians and churches is to worship God and enjoy Him forever. In light of this, Chehalem Valley Presbyterian Church seeks to fill its unique role in the Body of Christ guided by the following Mission, Vision, & Core Values.

Mission

To be a community who lives the message of Grace,
to communicate Truth with Love, to disciple Believers, to value the Arts, and to embrace
Newberg

Vision

To be Renewed by Christ, to Renew one another, to Renew our community in Chehalem Valley
and beyond

Core Values

Compassion, Community, Service, Generosity and Sacrifice

The foundation for CVP comes from the basic belief that humanity was created to be in relationship with God, and, therefore, all of life is oriented toward God. Genesis 2:26-31 tells us that we were created in his image, to be like him and to be in a personal and intimate relationship with him. Adam's and Eve's rebellion and sin broke this relationship with God, but it was restored by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God.¹

We also believe that he created us unique, both as individuals and churches. Just as God created us individually with almost infinite combinations of gifts and passions, in the same way, he brings churches together with different gifts, personalities, and passions. So, even as churches have the same basic foundation, each one will be unique and have a particular role within a community.

The Mission and Vision of CVP is what we believe God is calling us to focus on within the larger context of his plan.

¹ Romans 5:11-21



Mission: We are a community who lives the message of Grace by communicating Truth with Love, discipling believers, valuing the arts, and embracing Newberg.

We are a community:

CVP seeks to be a community bridging all the difficulties and challenges that come with diverse people from diverse backgrounds coming together.

♦ **Who lives the message of Grace:**

The message of Grace is the Gospel, which can be summarized this way:

- You are more flawed and lost than you ever dared believe, yet at the same time,
- You can be more accepted and loved than you ever dared hope, because Jesus Christ lived and died in your place.

It is good news to be able to admit your flaws, to no longer have the terrifying burden of having to be "good enough", while hiding your worst thoughts and actions. That is why the second part, the unconditional love of Christ, is the only context in which we can admit our sin without having it crush us. Our calling as a church is to actively live out both parts. First, we must be willing to admit our own flaws, but then, even more importantly, to accept one another in our flawed and broken state because of Christ's love. At CVP this is more than an ideal; we seek, in ever-greater degrees, to live this reality.

♦ **Who communicates Truth with Love:**

CVP is committed to the Truth of God revealed in his Word, but we are also committed to speaking that Truth in Love. It is when we must be most honest with one another that we need to make sure that the context is Love.² If we speak facts in anger to confront, convict, or make ourselves feel superior, what may be "true" becomes gossip or slander. It does not bring life; it brings only death. However, it is when, in loving humility, knowing full well our own flaws and sins, we speak difficult and/or painful truths to one another, that our words can bring life and comfort to the members of CVP, as well as our friends and neighbors.

The commitment to speaking truth with love is not an excuse to avoid speaking truth. Far from it! It is a commitment to taking the time to do so in a manner reflective of the way in which God speaks Truth to us.

² 1 Corinthians 13 is clearly about how we speak truth to one another in the community of faith.



We communicate Truth with Love by:

- Teaching which addresses the human heart's need for renewal with the truth of the Gospel, using language which is:
 - Accessible and respectful
 - Exegetical
 - Christ-Centered
 - Applicable
- Creating a welcoming and gracious environment for guests and members alike, from the front door, to worship, to coffee time, and to any other ministries that may arise. By means of:
 - Greeters
 - Well-organized, well-presented, and thoughtful materials & resources
 - A warm welcome
 - Engaging and explained liturgy
 - Worshipful, congregational-led music
 - Coffee time which is set up to make guests feel welcome
 - Nursery which is well-organized and well-staffed
- Taking the time to learn the way common questions and needs arise in individuals and our community to more wisely apply God's Truth to their needs
 - Pastor and congregation engage in the life and discourse of Newberg (eg. writing for local paper and other opportunities to know Newberg better)
 - Asking more questions, thus reducing the likelihood of giving canned answers
- Working to create a church culture hostile toward gossip, slander, innuendo, and any speech which seeks to build up one's self at the expense of others by:
 - Guarding against public generalizations and stereotyping
 - Applying the principles of Matthew 18 in human relationships
- Living the Truth in our actions within the church and Newberg by:
 - Remembering that our actions speak louder than words
 - Reaching out to guests in worship



◆ **Who disciples:**

The Bible describes the Christian community as a Body with different parts and functions all working together for the health of the whole, as well as each individual part, so that the various tasks the body is doing will be accomplished. The challenge is to know where each person fits best.

CVP is committed to helping Christians understand their gifts and passions in order that the people of God can serve in ways in which they were created to serve. We believe that the main reason for the 80/10 rule (80% of the work in the church is done by 10% of the people) is that we often ask people not only to work outside their gifting, but, more importantly, outside of their God-given passions and interests.

We believe discipleship (believers coming alongside one another, teaching, encouraging, and praying with one another) is so important. The Christian life is not easy. In fact, most of it seems to run contrary to normal human tendencies, which is why it is so important that we seek to build healthy, discipling relationships.

We disciple by:

- Recognizing that teaching and learning take place, not primarily in the classroom, but in the application of the Gospel in the "real world"
- Expecting to learn from each other as we minister to one another in worship, small groups, and one-on-one, using materials that not only teach Truth, but also challenge us in the wise application of Truth in the world
- Utilizing materials to understand our gifts, passions, and roles within the Body of Christ and by holding classes and conferences to aid in this process

◆ **Who values the Arts:**

God is creative and artistic. The diversity, beauty, infinite detail, as well as the function of his creation, speak to the reality of His character, which is the origin of our commitment to glorifying God through creativity and beauty.

We desire to support, value, and strive for excellence in music, architecture, writing, visual arts, and other areas of creativity, both within the worship and life of CVP and also in the Newberg community.



We value the Arts by:

- Making sure our printed materials, sanctuary, and music embody God's desire for beauty and aids, not distracts from, our worship and witness
- Committing a portion of the music budget to improve the sound quality
- Hiring and equipping a gifted and passionate person to lead the worship music team
- Promoting art shows, plays, and concerts in Newberg
 - In the worship folder and on the website
 - With funds, once a ministry team to oversee and distribute them can be established

◆ **Who embraces Newberg**

God has placed CVP in Newberg, which drives the emphasis of our ministry toward our community. We believe that it is our calling to love and serve Newberg, not because it is a wonderful and beautiful place to live (though it is), but because God loves Newberg. An unconditional love for our town allows us to not only enjoy and appreciate its good side and what it gives us, but also to serve and give to its needs and brokenness by loving God and our neighbors.

We embrace Newberg by:

- Individual members and/or the congregation partnering with organizations which promote community - from sports and the arts, to food banks and social service organizations, to addiction treatment and mental health services
- Although the focus of much of our ministry will be here in Newberg, we are committed to seeing new churches planted - churches which embrace love and sacrifice for other communities here in Chehalem Valley, our state, region, and beyond.



Vision: Renewed by Christ, Renewing one another, Renewing our community in Chehalem Valley and beyond

Renewed by Christ through things such as:

- ◆ His unconditional Love
- ◆ Biblically-structured, Covenant-Renewal Worship
- ◆ Loving those he loves (sinners)

Renewing one another

Renewing our Community

- Being their friends
 - In worship
 - In their homes
 - In our homes
 - Being present when they are in need
 - Earning the right to be with them in their difficult times
 - Celebrating life with them

In Chehalem Valley and beyond:

Our neighbors, as Jesus teaches in the Parable of the Good Samaritan,³ are more than those who are physically next to us. We are therefore committed to being present in Newberg, celebrating its triumphs and addressing its needs. We also want to partner with churches and organizations which are extending Christ's Kingdom and ministering to the needs of the poor, the widows, orphans, and the alien at the gate.⁴

³ Luke 10

⁴ Zechariah 7:10 states this in the negative, but has all the major groups in one verse.



Loving God:

Jesus is asked in Matthew 22:36- 38,

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'. ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'
⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Everything else in life is a working out of the implications of these two great truths. At CVP we are committed to understanding what it means to "love God and love our neighbor" and thereby seeking to live out, imperfectly to be sure, this ethic of Biblical Love.

How do we love God? We are able to love God only in response to being loved by him.⁵ We may like the idea of God, but, to be honest, we don't love God naturally; we love ourselves. The problem with self-love is that it is highly conditional. We can love ourselves one minute, then we are living up to our expectations or the expectations of the people we need approval from, but, when we fail, we loathe ourselves with as much passion as when we love ourselves.

God's answer to our conditional self-love is his unconditional love for us. The Bible says that God loves us not because of the good things we do⁶, but simply because he does.⁷ We cannot make him love us any more or any less than he already does; his love is the very definition of unconditional. God's unconditional love is truly the Gospel, which means "good news".

Loving our neighbors:

Our greatest needs as humans, if our actions are any indication, are to be loved and secure. Humans seek love and security in many ways, most of which are pursued at the expense of others.

Examples:

- A person who seeks love and security through his/her career will always sacrifice time with family and friends in order to "get ahead". This does not mean that, at times, people should not work long hours; farmers have planting and harvesting seasons, business has end of quarter reports or new product line launches, plumbers have frozen pipe season. The difference is when we find we never allow ourselves slower times and times of rest. We can only rest if our sense of love and security comes from something other than our work.⁸

⁵ 1 John 4:19

⁶ In fact, we cannot really do good apart from God. Psalm 143:2. Romans 3:10

⁷ John 3:16 and Romans 5:8 are two good examples. Also Jeremiah 1:5 tells of God's love even before we are born.

⁸ The Bible praises work, but it also gives us an understanding of seasons of life. Ecclesiastes 3:1. Leviticus 24



- A person who seeks love and security through financial means will be unable to be generous to those in need and is often unlikely to enjoy spending money on himself/herself. We need to be wise with money, but, as world events regularly show, there is no real happiness or security to be found in our bank accounts and credit lines.⁹
- A person who seeks love and security from family and friends will be overprotective of family and indifferent or even harsh with those who are not a part of their social group. Family and friends are both wonderful, but, as Christians, our family is more than the nuclear family, and our friendships break through social boundaries.¹⁰

In light of the unconditional love of God, which comes to us through Christ, we no longer need to seek love and security; we already have it. And, since we already have it, and we have an unlimited supply, we can truly love our neighbors.

Summary: When Jesus tells us that the two greatest commandments are to love God and love our neighbor, he knows full well that the only way we can keep these laws is to stop trying to have enough love and to begin accepting his love. When we accept his love, we find that we have love, money, time, and forgiveness to lavish on others.

⁹ Luke 12:16-34

¹⁰ Matthew 12:48-50. Colossians 3:12



Core Values: Compassion, Community, Service, Generosity, Sacrifice

Compassion: Being a source of encouragement and accountability¹¹

- ◆ Teaching will reinforce our common need (one beggar showing another beggar where to find bread). We provide encouragement as we travel along "the Way" together. We believe this will reduce the likelihood of theological idolatry and religious achievement from invading the mind and hearts of our members.
- ◆ Session and Leaders will model transparency and honesty, holding each other accountable to the Gospel and mission of CVP.
- ◆ We will publicly support ministries which address spiritual, emotional, and physical needs, even in cases in which we can support the Kingdom goal, but do not always agree with their theology.

Community: Investing in relationships, loving my town¹²

- ◆ We will invest the time to be present in the community
 - of CVP
 - of Newberg
- ◆ We will invest half of our mission/mercy budget in local needs.

Service: Using our spiritual gifts while coming alongside friends and neighbors¹³

- ◆ Leaders will teach and model the expectation of service and support within the church and to the community.
- ◆ Leaders will make sure that resources are available (budgeted and planned) to help members serve in the church and the community.

Generosity & Sacrifice: Giving of ourselves and our resources to further the work of CVP¹⁴

- ◆ We are committed to caring for the financial, medical, and retirement needs of our pastor and staff.
 - Through cost of living adjustments
 - Through annual evaluation and analysis of the pastor's compensation package, with appropriate increases and adjustments
- ◆ We will commit no less than 10% of local giving to church planting and mercy ministry - locally, regionally, and internationally. Half of that is to be given locally.
- ◆ We commit to supporting church planting in the Pacific Northwest.

¹¹ Exodus 34:6. Ephesians 5:21

¹² John 13:34. Jeremiah 29:4-7

¹³ Ephesians 4:11-25

¹⁴ Galatians 5:13. Luke 10:25-37