



***Theme: 3 Powerful Gifts***  
***"Why Church?"***

Sermon preached by Jeff Huber, September 20-21, 2025, at Summit Church, Durango

**Weekly Memory Verse:**

***<sup>18</sup> Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. –Matthew 16:18***

**VIDEO**                      **Sermon Intro**

**SLIDE**                      **"Why Church?"**

I've shared with you often that I moved 15 times before I was 12 because my father was in the military and then my parents divorced and then my mom remarried someone who was in the oil business during a lot of upheaval in that industry. We finally settled in Lafayette CA when I was in 8th grade, and I was able to finish high school there. It's always hard to go into a new school in middle school or high school because many people have been friends for many years and breaking into a friend group can be difficult. I didn't really end up with many friends at school, but the small United Methodist Church that my mother took us to and their youth group became my friend group and my support system. I still am in touch with a few of the people from

that group today, including Dan.

## **GRAPHIC          Jeff and Dan at wedding**

Dan was a year older than me in school and went to a rival high school, but we became close friends, and he was the best man in my wedding. When our kids were younger, we met up with Dan and his wife and their two kids when we were back in the Bay Area and we stayed connected on and off over the years. We played sports together and he introduced me to Elvis Costello, Billy Joel, and Toto. We saw each other at church and youth group most every weekend and we walked through many difficult moments in life together. He had a difficult surgery on his finger which derailed a very promising baseball career as a pitcher, and I dealt with a difficult home life.

My most vivid memory of Dan was when we went on a hike above my house and sat overlooking a reservoir. I was sharing about my struggles with my stepfather who was an alcoholic and some of the trauma we were living with daily. He was patient and listened and then finally put his hand on my shoulder and looked me in the eye and said, **“You know Jeff, it's OK to listen sometimes and not do all the talking.”**

You may have picked up that I like to talk and Dan was one of the first people to lovingly give me good advice that I still hear in my head more than 40 years later. I found myself thinking about this story as we begin this new sermon series on three powerful gifts by focusing on what it means to really be the church. During that time of my life in high school, I didn't really understand Jesus or God very well, but I understood the church because it saved my life. Without people like Dan and many others that stepped in when things were spiraling out of control, I'm not sure I would be here today, and I'm certain that I wouldn't be your pastor. I lived with some of those folks, and I learned how to be a better human being.

This weekend, we're going to focus on what it really means to be the church. We will follow that up the next two weeks with two more

powerful gifts that we call sacraments: baptism and communion. I get lots of questions about all three of these parts of what it means to be a follower of Jesus so we're going to spend some time thinking about what they mean in the scriptures, how it is that Jesus gives them to us as gifts, and how they can change our lives.

**SLIDE                      What is the Church?**

Let's start by asking a simple question. What is the church? Sometimes we say we are going to go to church. Sometimes we point to the building, and we say we go to that church. Sometimes we equate the church with just the building, but we know that the church is more than a building. You might remember the old saying, "When the building burns down and the preacher leaves town, what you have left is the church." There is also a song I learned when I was a kid that maybe you have heard at some point.

**SLIDE                      The church is not a building  
The church is not a steeple  
Just open up the doors  
And look at all the people**

**SLIDE                      I am the church  
You are the church  
We are the church together  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world  
Yes, we're the church together**

We recognize the church is not a building even though the building is important. We have this building here on Aspen Dr. which we are currently renovating. We have a Thrift Shop building and Early Learning Center which operate all week long. We have property in Three Springs that eventually will be another campus as we serve people in that growing part of our county. And we have church online which really don't use a building except for your living room or in some cases not even that because you watch it on your phone outside.

**GRAPHIC**            **Summit Church Aspen Campus**

**GRAPHIC**            **Early Learning Center**

**GRAPHIC**            **Thrift Shop**

**GRAPHIC**            **Three Springs Land**

**GRAPHIC**            **Summit Live Web Page**

Those building in places are not the church. They house worship and what we do in terms of ministry, and they are very important, but they are not the church. The church is not something that we watch or that we go to, but it is what we are. There's a Greek word in the New Testament we translate his church.

**SLIDE**                ***Ekklesia* = church**

**SLIDE**                ***Ek* = “out” and *Kaleo* = “call”**

The word literally means to be called out and it was a word that was used in secular society in Greek culture to talk about politics at first. The Ekklesia was an assembly of people in a town who came together to debate and talk about politics, or just to connect with each other. It was a community or fellowship that came together to deal with the business of the town and set the culture for how that business would get done by interacting with each other.

When the first followers of Jesus were trying to decide how to describe themselves as a group, they picked this word. The idea took on a bigger meaning however because it was about people congregating to be in fellowship with each other and with Jesus, hence the word congregation that we sometimes use to talk about the church. In Matthew 16 we find Jesus talking about this idea of what it means to gather together and what it will mean for his followers as he puts his disciples in charge.

**BIBLE**

**<sup>15</sup> Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?”**

**<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”**

**<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.**

This next line is our memory verse for the week.

## **BIBLE**

**<sup>18</sup> Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.**

I know that sometimes people struggle with the church, and they have experienced being spiritually wounded by people within the church or leaders in a particular church. Often, I hear people say something like, “I love Jesus but I'm just not fond of the church.” We must recognize a challenge in this saying because Jesus started the church. It wasn't started by humans who mess it up sometimes admittedly. The church was started by God in the flesh in Jesus Christ because he knew we needed something on earth to mirror what it is we would experience in the heavenly realm and to get through life. Unfortunately, the church has become something that was never supposed to be at times, which is political and all too human. That's why I often tell people not to judge God by his followers because we get it wrong sometimes.

The big idea is that if we are going to be followers of Jesus, we need others to do that. It is being together as the church that helps us learn how to confront one another in love and how to forgive and how to become better, eventually becoming more like Jesus. I think about my friend Dan and how he made me better, but he didn't do that until we had a relationship that was built on trust and love and respect. I think too often we believe as the church that we have the right to tell people how to live their lives when we haven't bothered to build a

relationship with them yet or show them clearly that we care about them or respect them.

Jesus makes it clear that the way we experience the full impact of following him and the gospel that he proclaims which is good news is that we need other people to do it. It's why Jesus also put it this way Just two chapters later in Matthew 18.

## **BIBLE**

<sup>20</sup> **For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."**

Your entire New Testament, the gospels and all the letters, are written to the ecclesia, the church, which is meant to be the body of Christ, the presence of Jesus Christ in the world. The reason that we say in this church that we want to be the presence of Jesus Christ in the world is because that is the mission that was given to us by him.

## **SLIDE      *Kuriakon* = *Kirsch* = church = "belonging to the Lord"**

The English word "church" comes from a German word "Kirsch," which came from the Greek word "Kuriakon," which is an adjective that shows up twice in our New Testament. When communion or the Lord's supper is referred to in the scriptures it uses this word because the idea is that the meal belongs to the Lord. The very word "church" means that it belongs to the Lord. We are the people who belong to God. When people say something to me to the effect of, "I think your church is great," or "which church is your church in town?" I lovingly say something to the effect that it's not my church. This is God's church, and it belongs to God. While each one of us is a part of the church, we don't own it. Christ Started the church and Christ owns the church.

The other reason that this idea of the church belonging to God is so important is because the church is the only institution ever designed and created for the people who are not in it. We shouldn't be possessive about it because it doesn't belong to us and Christ longs for

this to be the body for anyone who wants to follow him and recognizes they need his grace and mercy. We hopefully become a part of the church because we recognize that God made us to love us and we belonged to Christ. Then, our response is to simply ask:

**SLIDE                    “Jesus, what do you want me to do?”**

People have often asked me over the past few years, when they find out we have land in three springs, “What do you want to do with that land?” We have had some developers come and offered to buy it from us, and my response has been the same. We shouldn't be asking what we want to do but we should be asking, “What does God want us to do with this land?” I tell developers that the land belongs to Jesus, so you'll have to take it up with him. That doesn't always sit very well, but it's the truth. The church doesn't belong to the pastor. The church doesn't belong to the people. The church doesn't belong to the trustees. The church doesn't belong to the denomination. The church doesn't belong to the bishop or any church leader. The church belongs to Jesus, and our task is to figure out what Jesus wants to do with us in this time and place.

Every leadership team at the church and every time anyone on staff makes a decision, we should be asking what Jesus wants us to do and then through us and this church. It's one of those questions we should ask every day in our lives as part of the church. “Jesus, what do you want to do with me today? Here I am. Send me and use me today.”

We have thousands of people who have chosen to follow Christ here in this church in its ALMOST 145-year history. This church was founded in 1881 and so next year will be 145 years and I went back as best I could and realized that there are thousands of people who have been baptized or who have joined this church and called it their home. People's lives have changed when they have come to follow Jesus here in this church and it has been a joy and privilege for me to be a part of that over the years.

**GRAPHIC**            **Columbarium**

**GRAPHIC**            **Aubrey Niche**

**GRAPHIC**            **Jim and Donna Aubrey photo**

This past week we did an internment of ashes in our columbarium for Donna Aubrey. We placed her husband Jim's ashes there several years ago. They remind me of the many Saints who have been a part of this church and have given sacrificially so that you and I could be here today. They were part of our major building campaign which added on the atrium and remodeled the sanctuary and added the infant center and the family room. They not only were on the building committee, but they helped raise funds and gave generously so that this church would continue to be vital here in this community. Even though they moved to Albuquerque in their later years, they have left a mark here in this place and it was especially poignant when their daughter placed a note in the niche before we sealed it up with the words they shared with us about how to stay married more than 60 years.

**GRAPHIC**            **“When all else fails, fight naked.”**

As I looked at other names in the columbarium, I found myself remembering people who have been married here and buried here and baptized in this community of faith because we are the church. Part of Jim and Donna's estate went to funding scholarships that are used in our Early Learning Center. They both volunteered with our summer kids program every year, and, on several occasions, they gave me a check to be used for a family they knew was struggling in our congregation. This leads to another way that we talk about the church and that we find in the scriptures.

**SLIDE**                **The Church as the Family of Believers**

We read more than 150 times in the New Testament about people in the church being called brothers and sisters. I think every family I've ever met has some sort of dysfunction, and the church is no



different. There may always be some dysfunction in the church, but we're always striving to be the best definition of what it means to be a family. I have talked to many people over the years who have said that the church has become their family because they didn't really have one growing up. They have experienced within the church body something they never experienced in their biological family and that is how it is meant to be. We are all God's children and brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus when it comes to being in the church.

Jesus makes this clear with many of what we call “one another” passages. Here are just a few of them we find in the gospels and in the letters of our New Testament.

**SLIDE      “...One Another” (have fly in)**

- **Love one another**
- **Care for one another**
- **Serve one another**
- **Build one another up**
- **Encourage one another**
- **Teach one another**
- **Correct one another**
- **Bear one another's burdens**
- **Forgive one another**

The only way these things can happen is for us to be together and spend time with one another. We must be in a relationship with one another which is what it means to be the church. The Greek word for this in the New Testament is Koinonia.

**SLIDE      Koinonia = “Fellowship, sharing in, participating with, partnership or communing”**

It is being bound together with others and doing life together. This is what it means to be the church. I got to experience this when I was at campus ministry intern at Iowa State University at collegiate

United Methodist Church and Wesley foundation in Ames, IA. I lived in the basement of the church with my golden retriever and helped lead the student ministry after I had graduated from a similar college ministry at the University of Colorado in boulder. One of my jobs as part of the internship was to coordinate the Koinonia house which was a 15-bedroom house next to the church where we had college students apply to live in Christian community.

### **GRAPHIC            Koinonia House picture**

Students applied to live in this house, which was right across from campus, so it was very convenient. About half of the students came from our campus ministry connected with the church and the other half were students from other Christian denominations. They learn to live together by sharing in chores and having meals together at least four times a week. We had Bible study every week together and we did service projects together. It was a powerful way to be the church in an unconventional but very biblical manner. One of my least favorite jobs was navigating conflict in the house, which is inevitable when you put 15 college students together in one house. I also learned a great deal about how to manage conflict, and I hear from students years later who talk about how what they learned by living in Christian community has helped them in their workplace and with their families. I remember one student telling me they had been in foster care most of their growing up years and never had a biological family but felt like this was the place they first felt loved by anyone.

This is what it means to be the church. As our best at families, we do all these things Jesus talked about. Sometimes we can do this via zoom call, but it also is important to do something in person where we are connecting with others. We live in a world where the number one health issue right now is isolation and loneliness which leads to depression. The church is meant to be a solution to our human problem of being alone and our tendency to disconnect. We need each other and other people need us and the gifts we have to offer. It is meant to

be a mutual relationship, not one where one person does all the work to stay connected.

I have the privilege of watching this each weekend as we gather for worship. I see groups of people connecting, from the front row at one of our services which is mostly high school students, to a cluster of women who have all lost their spouses and now lean on each other for support. I see some who have gone through grief support or divorce care, and they are sitting together. They find strength from each other. I see families who have connected to others, and I see singles who meet others and then begin to do life together. I see people come along side of each other and caring for each other which is where the church is meant to be. I remember one of our hospital care visitors met with someone in the hospital and then followed up with them when they were in worship weeks later and how they developed a friendship.

When we make a commitment to follow Jesus and we begin to find a place to worship, we are also meant to remember that it's not just about us. We should be looking for others who are sitting by themselves or who might be new and need a connection. We have people greeting one another at the beginning of service and I know there are a lot of interests who really don't like that. There are some who wait until after that's done before they even come into the sanctuary. I get that.

I also hope that you might scan the room and see who's sitting around you and invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you about what might be happening in someone's life. Are you willing to look into people's eyes and see if there are tears or maybe some longing that we're missing when we sit far apart or never greet the people near us? Are we paying attention? We don't have to be a psychic to tell if people are hurting around us. We just must look. I have had people tell me that the greeting time we do at the beginning of worship is the only time they get a positive physical touch that week and how they look forward to simply shaking someone else's hand.

What I know is that we can feel most alone in a big room full of people. But when we come to this place, we are the family of Christ, brothers and sisters, and we are meant to be paying attention so we might care for others that God has placed in our row or in our line of vision. I see this in our youth group and with our students who are forming relationships with other students and how important those relationships are. I think of those relationships when I was a student and how they saved my life. It's important for today's students to have relationships that are built around their common faith when it feels like the world around them is sinking sand. We can help each other stand up and stay connected. It's why the writer of Ecclesiastes, chapter 4, the book of wisdom in your Hebrew Bible, gives us these powerful words which I read at a wedding last week but are appropriate for the family of faith.

#### **BIBLE**

**<sup>9</sup> Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. <sup>10</sup> If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.**

#### **BIBLE**

**<sup>12</sup> A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.**

We have started several new ministries for young adults because we have many shows up and when they come to a gathering they do so because they are looking for something. I see that in our senior adult ministry and with other groups that started in the church, some of them spontaneously. We have women on retreat this weekend and we will have men on retreat in a month. We have groups happening all week long and the truth is we need more because there are others who would love to be with a group of followers of Jesus for support and encouragement and to be one another together.

## SLIDE

[www.summitdurango.org](http://www.summitdurango.org) Get Involved

If you click on the get involved link on our website, you can find out about small groups or next steps or Bible study or baptism or serving or volunteering and in any of those places you will connect with a group of people. Two years ago, the surgeon general released a report, **“Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: The US Surgeon General’s Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community.”** One of the critical issues of our time is disconnection and social isolation. I believe it's one of the things that leads to much of the violence in our day, and the response to that violence which was is disconcerting and causes even more tension and anxiety in our world. We are willing to say things online because we are not looking face to face with those with whom we might be different.

Koinonia, the church, the body of Christ, is meant to be the answer. It is why I believe the local church is the hope of the world if we will live into what it means to love one another the way Jesus loved. I think much of the loneliness we are experiencing in our culture happens because there are many things we just don't do anymore that we used to do as a culture. I remember reading an article that traced isolation and holiness to the invention of the garage door opener. People no longer had to get out of their car when they came home which is where they often would meet their neighbors. In our community, many of us live far from our neighbors, so we need to be intentional, or we become isolated.

The culmination of technology which gave us the garage door opener has led us to our current digital world in which many of us sit at home and our only interaction is with our phone or computer or television. I want to be clear that I am grateful for those of you that worship online or on TV with us each week. I am so grateful and I'm glad that you do that. It helps me when I'm traveling or away from home to stay connected. If we don't have access to a physical location for worship, I hope we find some people in our community or online so

that you don't feel alone.

From the Surgeon General's report, we read these words:

***"What if there's something in our everyday lives that can transform our whole health and well-being; something that can decrease the risk of developing and worsening heart disease, anxiety, high blood pressure, dimension, depression, and diabetes... It exists, but like a garden it needs to be cared for and nurtured... That's something is social connection."***

I appreciate the emphasis on this by the US surgeon general, but Jesus told us the same thing 2000 years ago. That social connection is ecclesia, koinonia...what we call the church. I could give you a multitude of examples that I've seen happening in this church over the past 23 years. We have a Parkinson's support group that meets here regularly and many of them don't go to church here. I saw a few of them as they were leaving one day and told them I was grateful they could meet here. One of them had tears in their eyes as they talked about how the support group has made the difference between life and death.

Those support groups that we offer are critical because it helps us realize we are not alone when we are dealing with grief or divorce or the loss of a loved one to suicide. We need each other in those moments, and we were not meant to do those difficult challenges in life alone. Our caring ministry is an extension of the body. Part of what it means to be the church, the family of God, brothers and sisters in Christ, is to care for one another when life is the darkest.

You heard during the announcements about the Restore and Rebuild team which will go to places like the Navajo Nation and to where there have been hurricanes and natural disasters. We have a trailer that can go with them when needed because part of what it means to be the body of Christ is serving others so that people can see those things and then give glory to God, not to us. Paul put it this way in 1 Corinthians 12.

## **BIBLE**

**<sup>27</sup> All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.**

As followers of Jesus, we believe in the incarnation, that God took on flesh in Jesus and walked among us on this earth. Jesus embodied God so that we might know that God is and that God made us to love us. We are meant to see God's grace, forgiveness, and mercy in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to be light for us, but then Jesus left in the flesh and now the job is up to us. Our task together is to be salt that brings flavor to the world and to be a light that shines before others. Our task is to teach others what we have learned from Christ and do the things that Christ did while he was here. We put flesh on Jesus and we become the presence of Jesus Christ in the world. To be the church is to be the body of Christ, the physical presence of God in the world.

We are meant to be listening to what the will of God is for our lives and then go out in the world and do it. People often tell me that they struggle with their purpose or meaning in life. Well, we can begin by being the presence of Jesus in our classroom, family, neighborhoods, workplace, and in the church. Our purpose is to put flesh on Christ. We gather and then we go out into the world.

Our last series was on the Holy Spirit, and the big idea is that the Holy Spirit fills us and gives us power and strength to be the presence of Jesus in the world. Whether we are worshiping in person or at home or anywhere, we are meant to leave worship asking the Holy Spirit to help us take the gospel into the world. We are meant to push back the darkness in the world and bring hope and healing. We find Jesus describing this in detail in Matthew 9.

## **BIBLE**

**<sup>35</sup> Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News**



**about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness.<sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.<sup>37</sup> He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few.<sup>38</sup> So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”**

We go out and we look for people who are hurting. We seek to share the light and love and grace of Jesus Christ with those who are isolated and lonely. One of my favorite things to do and one of the proudest moments happens when someone in the community I meet tells me about how much they love our church, but they don't go to it. I've had people tell me about the amazing things you do in the name of Christ that are simple and quiet and life changing. Some of that happens through our Christmas and Easter offering which goes back to the community and some of it comes from our thrift shop which gives away most of the proceeds to nonprofits here in Durango. I hear about things I had no idea we were doing because you have the heart of Jesus, and this is what it means to be the church.

You may have heard me say this before. But if this church disappeared tomorrow and only those of us inside notice, then we have failed to be the body of Christ and the presence of Jesus in the world. We have might as well just pack it up and go home. The church is not meant to stay inside of these walls because it is about the people, the body of Christ, at work in the world. The building is just a tool. I had someone tell me recently how much they appreciate our early Learning Center even though they don't go to our church. They know their child is in a safe and good place while they are working and they get a scholarship from us, and they wouldn't be able to afford childcare without us. We have had some people assume that the church makes money on our early Learning Center, but we don't make a penny. We underwrite it to the tune of \$150,000 a year or more between using the space and scholarship money. All the tuition does is cover salaries and a



few supplies. We do that because Jesus told us to take care of children who are not just the future church but the present church, the body of Christ.

If we're not careful, it's easy for the church, like any human entity, to become self-absorbed. Yes, we come together to encourage one another and to build one another up and to care for one another. But we do that, so we have something to give to the world as we go out of this place each week. Part of our Methodist heritage is balancing acts of piety such as worship and reading the scriptures and prayer, with acts of charity, such as feeding the poor, housing those with no place to stay, caring for those who are sick, and welcoming the stranger. We're meant to do those things together like the church. It's what drives us as we seek to be the presence of Jesus Christ in the world.

This last week we heard from Lauren who came out of our college ministry many years ago and after graduation decided to serve in Uganda. Part of our Christmas offering supported the ministry she leads and helped build a well which now brings water to a part of the world in a community that didn't have any. You have been a part of that and it is one of those things that we do together as the church that we could never do on our own. It takes the body of Christ, the family of faith, to accomplish miraculous things in communities. While she was here, Lauren was so grateful and it's something we don't always get to hear the follow up for so I just wanted to thank you for being willing to give away our largest offering at Christmas.

## **GRAPHIC            Uganda Ministry**

I think back to something that many great leaders have shared over the years. It began with the Puritans who first came to this continent. Presidents like John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Barack Obama, and others talked about America as a shining city on a hill. That's a great and powerful and moving metaphor. And they were quoting it from Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5. Jesus

wasn't referring to America but to the church.

## **BIBLE**

**<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.**

**<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.**

We are meant to let the light of Christ fill us and then be intentional about being the church, caring for one another, and serving the world by giving ourselves away and not demanding our way, just like Jesus. The truth is that the church is meant to be a powerful gift which changes our lives. I want to invite you to these three things as we think about receiving this gift and being the presence of Jesus in the world.

**SLIDE      What does it mean to be the Church? (have fly in)**

- **Commit our lives to Christ.**
- **Get involved**
- **Be the presence of Jesus Christ in the World**

I hope we will commit our lives to Christ. I hope we might each say that we want to follow Jesus and have his light be the one that guides our lives. Next week we are going to talk about the gift of baptism, and we have a baptism service the second weekend in November which is a good time to commit our lives if we haven't done so already. I also want you to get involved in a small group or in serving in some way. Take the risk of showing up and talking to people. Once again, the get-involved tab has places where you can find a small group

but also places where you can serve.

Finally, I want to encourage you to be the presence of Jesus Christ in the world by serving in some way. We need parking lot attendance and ushers especially at our 1030 service here on the weekends. We need people serving in our student and kids ministries. We need people willing to go out and rebuild and restore with our teams in other communities. If you're willing, let's pray together.

**SLIDE      Prayer**

*Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of the church. We thank you for coming as Jesus whose intention was to build the church. The church is not an extra or an add-on. You saw it as essential for your followers to be in fellowship and to care for one another, to grow deeper together, and then finally as we gather and go out into the world, we might change it into Your Kingdom. I pray for each one of us listening to this message, that we might simply say, "Jesus I want to follow you." I pray we will each feel motivated to get involved and to serve. May each of us leave this service committed to being your presence, your light that pushes back the darkness, in the world. Use us in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## **September 20-21 Order**

1. David welcomes people.
2. “This is Amazing Grace”
3. “Lord, I Need You”
4. Jeff welcomes people:
  - a. QR Code and Connect Card
  - b. Invite people to greet each other, however comfortable and be seated.
5. Sermon
6. Prayer
7. Offering (**Restore and Rebuild**)
8. Med Moments
9. “Great Are You Lord”
10. Prayer and Lord’s Prayer
11. Care Ministers
12. Connect with Us
13. Closing Prayer