

SunRise Church Faith, Belief and Principles

Who We Are At SunRise Church

SunRise Church Mission Statement:

The mission of ***SunRise Church*** is to Populate the Kingdom of Heaven

SunRise Church Vision Statement

We are an independent church where hometown hospitality and Wesleyan traditions come together. We are passionate and dedicated to sharing the gospel and engaging in purposeful missions and ministries.

SunRise Church is a community of believers living under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Those who become members of ***SunRise Church*** join in our mission of populating the Kingdom of Heaven by making disciples of Jesus Christ. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, ***SunRise Church*** seeks to glorify God through our shared ministries and life together in order to reach our lost and broken world.

At SunRise Church We Strive To:

- be a faith community whose values, lifestyles and relationships are different from the world.
- provide an anchor of stability in a world of chaos, where community of faith learns together the truth about God.
- be individuals who are intentional in growing deeper in our faith, directed in our prayers, stronger in our relationships and wider in our witness.

SunRise Church stands in the long tradition of Wesleyan ministry extending the invitation of God's grace to all people. As Wesleyan-based Christians, our life together consists of the following disciplines experienced through the Wesleyan way of serving Christ:

1. Corporate worship where God is exalted, fellowship is experienced, gifts are given, the Word of God is proclaimed, and the sacraments duly administered.
2. Fellowship and discipleship ministries where people can learn to live the truth of God's Word, grow in the fruit of the Spirit, experience loving accountability, and share in the daily lives of fellow disciples.
3. Outreach opportunities where we both show God's love in practical ways through strategic missional ministries and declare God's goodness through evangelistic ministries.
4. Support and grow in fellowship with the global church to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the entire world.

Membership At SunRise

All interested people are welcome to seek membership in ***SunRise Church***. Those who desire and choose to become a member of ***SunRise Church*** are expected to make an annual commitment to i) participate in the *Discipleship At SunRise* spiritual growth process, ii) serve the ***SunRise Church*** by volunteering in mission and/or ministry, and iii) provide financial support through acts of generosity.

Lay Leadership At SunRise

All ***SunRise Church*** members in good standing have the right and privilege to be considered for, and if elected, hold a leadership position in the church. To be considered for a leadership position, a person must be a member in good standing and be committed to the mission, vision, and faith values of ***SunRise Church***. All persons accepting a leadership position will be expected to attend and complete a ***SunRise Church*** leadership training and orientation class.

Pastoral and Staff Leadership At SunRise

We believe God calls and gifts certain individuals for the specific roles of pastoral or staff leadership at ***SunRise Church***. The ***SunRise Church*** employee handbook contains an outline for the application process and minimum requirements for pastors and paid staff.

Pastors

The Lead Pastor and any Associate Pastors at ***SunRise Church*** shall be ordained ministers of the Gospel. The selection of the Lead Pastor will be conducted under the direction of SALT. The selection of any Associate Pastors will be conducted under the direction of SALT in direct consultation with the Lead Pastor.

Staff Leadership

The paid staff leadership at ***SunRise Church*** will be selected on an as-needed basis from qualified applicants who possess the requisite education, skills, spiritual gifts, and faith commitment specific to each staff position.

Doctrinal Standards

Doctrinal standards provide unity and clarity in our teaching and living. ***SunRise Church*** affirms the historic Wesleyan Christian faith that has been taught through the generations. To ground our teaching and Christian living, we affirm the following creeds and doctrinal standards as the informing witness to our faith and belief:

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.
On the third day, he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,*
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**universal church*

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, He came down from Heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day, He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have
no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who, with the Father and the Son, is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**universal church*

Wesley's Standard Sermons and Explanatory Notes

These two works serve as the standard of commentary and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures. They provide a Wesleyan perspective that guides our teaching and leadership.

What We Believe at SunRise

Essentials of the Christian Faith for a Salvation Relationship through Jesus Christ

Faith in the Trinity

We believe in the one living and true God, both holy and loving, eternal, unlimited in power, wisdom and goodness, the Creator and Preserver of all things. Within this unity there are three persons of one essential nature, power, and eternity—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Father

We believe the Father is the Source of all that exists, whether of matter or spirit. With the Son and the Holy Spirit, He made humanity in His image. By intention, He relates to people as Father, thereby forever declaring His goodwill toward them. In love, He both seeks and receives penitent sinners.

The Son

We believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, truly God and truly man. He died on the cross and was buried, to be a sacrifice both for original sin and for all human transgressions, and to reconcile us to God. Christ rose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, and there intercedes for us at the Father's right hand until He returns to judge all humanity at the last day.

The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son and is of the same essential nature, majesty and glory as the Father and the Son, truly and eternally God. He is the Administrator of grace to all and is particularly the effective Agent in conviction for sin, in regeneration, in sanctification and in glorification. He is ever present, assuring, preserving, guiding, and enabling the believer.

The Sufficiency and Full Authority of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation

We believe the Bible is God's written Word, uniquely inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Bible bears unerring witness to Jesus Christ, the living Word. The Scriptures have come to us through human authors who wrote, as God moved them, in the language and literary forms of their times. God continues, by the illumination of the Holy Spirit, to speak through this Word to each generation and culture. The Bible has authority over all human life. It teaches the truth about God, His creation, His people, His one and only Son and the destiny of humankind.

We believe the Bible contains all things necessary to salvation. We believe the books of the Old and New Testaments constitute the Holy Scriptures. We recognize the canon of scripture to include the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament.

The Old Testament is not contrary to the New. Both Testaments bear witness to God's salvation in Christ; both speak of God's will for His people. The ancient laws for ceremonies and rites, and the civil precepts for the nation Israel are not necessarily binding on Christians today. But, on the example of Jesus, we are obligated to obey the moral commandments of the Old Testament.

The New Testament fulfills and interprets the Old Testament. It is the record of the revelation of God in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. It is God's final word regarding humankind, sin, salvation, the world and its destiny.

Personal Choice

We believe that humanity's creation in the image of God included ability to choose between right and wrong. Thus, individuals were made morally responsible for their choices. But since the fall of Adam, people are unable in their own strength to do what is right. This is due to original sin, which is not simply the following of Adam's example, but rather the corruption of the nature of each mortal and is reproduced naturally in Adam's descendants. Because of it, humans are far gone from original righteousness and by nature are continually inclined to evil. They cannot of themselves even call upon God or exercise faith for salvation. But through Jesus Christ, the prevenient grace of God makes possible what humans in self effort cannot do. It is bestowed freely upon all, enabling all who will to turn and be saved.

Sin

We believe, through the disobedience of Adam and Eve, sin entered the world, and all creation suffered its consequences. The effects of sin include disruption of the relationship between God and humanity, deterioration of the natural order of creation and exploitation of persons by evil or misguided social systems. The whole of creation groans for redemption. Each person is born with a proclivity toward sin, manifested in an inordinate orientation toward self and independence from God, leading to deliberate acts of unrighteousness.

The consequences of sin include a loss of fellowship with God, a self-absorption with one's own interests rather than love and concern for others, a bondage to things which distort the divine image, a persistent inability to live righteously and ultimately everlasting misery and separation from God. The atoning work of Christ is the only remedy for sin, whether original, willful, or involuntary.

Atonement

We believe Christ offered, once and for all, the one perfect sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. No other satisfaction for sin is necessary; none other can atone.

Justification, Regeneration and Adoption

We believe that, when one repents of personal sin and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, at the same moment that person is justified, regenerated, adopted into the family of God and assured of personal salvation through the witness of the Holy Spirit.

We believe justification is the judicial act of God whereby a person is accounted righteous, granted full pardon of all sin, delivered from guilt and completely released from the penalty of sins committed, by the merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by faith alone, not on the basis of works.

We believe regeneration, or new birth, is that work of the Holy Spirit whereby, when one truly repents and believes, one's moral nature is given a distinctively spiritual life with the capacity for love and obedience. This new life is received by faith in Jesus Christ, it enables the pardoned sinner to serve God with the will and affections of the heart, and by it, those who are regenerated are delivered from the power of sin that reigns over all who are not regenerated.

We believe adoption is the act of God by which the justified and regenerated believer becomes a partaker of all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a child of God.

Good Works

We believe, although good works cannot save us from our sins or from God's judgment, they are the fruit of faith and follow after regeneration. Therefore, good works are pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and by them a living faith may be as evidently known as a tree is discerned by its fruit.

Sanctification

We believe sanctification is that saving work of God beginning with new life in Christ whereby the Holy Spirit renews His people after the likeness of God, changing them through crisis and process, from one degree of glory to another and conforming them to the image of Christ. Sanctification is initiated at the moment of justification and regeneration. From that moment, there is a gradual or progressive sanctification as the believer walks with God and daily grows in grace and in a more perfect obedience to God. This sanctifying relationship with God remedies the divided mind, redirects the heart to God and empowers believers to please and serve God in their daily lives. Thus,

God sets His people free to love Him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love their neighbors as themselves.

The Church

We believe the church is created by God. It is the people of God. Christ Jesus is its Lord and Head. The Holy Spirit is its life and power. The Church is to preach the pure Word of God, properly administer the sacraments according to Christ's instructions, and to live in obedience to all that Christ commands. A local church is a body of believers formally organized on gospel principles, meeting regularly for the purposes of evangelism, nurture, fellowship, and worship.

The Sacraments

We believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are the ordained sacraments of the church commanded by Christ. They are a means of grace through faith, tokens of our profession of Christian faith, and signs of God's gracious ministry toward us. By them, He works within us to deepen, strengthen, and confirm our faith.

Water baptism signifies acceptance of the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ to be administered to believers as declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

Baptism is a symbol of the new covenant of grace as circumcision was the symbol of the old covenant. Since infants are recognized as being included in the atonement, they may be baptized upon the request of parents or guardians who shall give assurance for them of necessary Christian training. They shall be required to affirm the vow for themselves before being accepted into church membership.

The Lord's Supper- or Holy Communion - is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death. To those who rightly, worthily, and with faith receive it, the bread which we break is symbolic of the body of Christ; and likewise, the cup of blessing is symbolic of the blood of Christ. The Lord's Supper is also a sign of the love and unity that Christians have among themselves. Christ, according to His promise, is really present in the sacrament of Holy Communion. His body is to be given, taken, and eaten only after our souls connect to God in a heavenly and spiritual manner. No change is affected in the element; the bread and wine/juice are not literally the body and blood of Christ. Nor is the body and blood of Christ literally present with the elements. The elements are never

to be considered objects of worship. In Holy Communion, the body of Christ is received and eaten in faith.

The Second Coming of Christ

We believe the certainty of the personal and imminent return of Christ inspires holy living and zeal for the evangelization of the world. At His return, He will fulfill all prophecies made concerning His final and complete triumph over evil.

The Resurrection of the Dead

We believe in the bodily resurrection from the dead of all people— of the just unto the resurrection of life and of the unjust unto the resurrection of damnation. The resurrection of Christ is the guarantee of the resurrection, which will occur at Christ's Second Coming. The raised body will be a spiritual body, but the person will be whole and identifiable.

Judgment of All People

We believe the Scriptures reveal God as the Judge of all, and the acts of His judgment are based on His omniscience and eternal justice. His administration of judgment will culminate in the final meeting of all persons before His throne of great majesty and power, where records will be examined, and final rewards and punishments will be administered.

SunRise Staff Positions

October 15, 2023

Jim Blue (7/1/2004)	Lead Pastor 40 hours	
B. J. Filla (3/1/2015)	Executive Director 40 hours	11/1/2020
James Jones (1/1/2014)	Worship Music Director 40 hours	
Amanda Werremeyer (3/11/2019)	Family Ministry Director 40 hours	11/1/2020
Jennifer Glenn (7/15/2009)	Worship Tech Director 30 hours	7/1/2018
Christy Neveau (1/1/2015)	Communications & Marketing Coordinator 32 hours	
Emily Brown (5/1/2010)	Graphic Design 30 hours	
Anne Mozolewski (2/15/2008)	Administrative Coordinator / Bookkeeper 20 hours	11/1/2020
Grant Watson (11/01/19)	Traditional Worship Coordinator 10 hours	
Jenni Huddleston 8/1/2021	SunRise Preschool Director	4/1/2022