

VISION STATEMENT

To engage with 2000 new unchurched neighbor households by 2028



In the gospels Jesus repeatedly engaged with individuals on a personal level (see John 3 and 4). We want to emulate this example at Wedgwood as we seek to connect the people in our community with the gospel. Over the next five years, we will seek to engage with people in our neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces, and with families who are not connected to God or a local church.

MISSION STATEMENT

We exist to glorify Christ by making disciples of all nations who worship, cultivate biblical community, live a generous life, and multiply disciples.

Our goal is to live for God's glory. We believe that one of the primary means by which we do this is to fulfill the commandment of Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20. Moreover, it is important for Wedgwood to look for ways to engage with people of various nationalities and backgrounds in fulfillment of the call to make disciples of all nations. Wedgwood seeks to be a church that represents the diversity of the neighborhood in which we live.

These disciples who are formed at Wedgwood will seek to be identified by four primary characteristics. We will be disciples who worship, pursue an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ, follow Him in daily obedience (Romans 12; Ephesians 4:1; John 15:5), and gather corporately to worship together through singing, preaching, and serving (Hebrews 10:25,25).



Community is essential for growing in our faith. Therefore, we want to cultivate biblical community as followers of Jesus that provides opportunities for encouragement, accountability, care, fellowship, and serving together.

God has overflowed in His generosity to us, and our lives must be a conduit through which His love and grace flow to others. This involves generosity in the use of our time, our talents, and our resources.

The call to make disciples is a corporate and individual responsibility. Therefore, we each have the privilege to invest our lives in others in fulfillment of the call to make disciples. We aspire to make disciples who will in turn make disciples.

VALUES

Spirit Led
Pursuit of Unity
Kingdom Over Self
Adaptability

Spirit Led

In Galatians 5:17 and 25 Paul calls us to walk in the Spirit. The Christian life is a call to implement the knowledge gained from Scripture in obedience to Jesus Christ. It is a call to align our lives with the guidance of the Spirit and submit our will to the will of the Father.

Pursuit of Unity

Jesus prays in John 17 that His followers would demonstrate a unity and love for one another that is noticed by a watching world. Paul states in Ephesians 4:2-6 that we must be unified because we, as the body of Christ, are all in the same faith and family. But this unity cannot be maintained on our own. It depends on us allowing God's Spirit to work in and through us to achieve this unity.



Kingdom Over Self

In Matthew 16:24 and 25 Jesus tells His followers to take up their cross and follow Him. This is a call to embrace God's will over our own preferences or comforts. It is a willingness to accept the challenges and difficulties that may ensue in our obedience to Jesus Christ. But Jesus also notes that this willingness to pick up our cross will ultimately yield an eternal reward.

Adaptability

In James 4, we are reminded of a simple truth. We do not know what tomorrow will bring. However, this does not mean that we cannot formulate plans for the future. Instead, it is a call to humbly submit our plans to the Lord and be willing to accept the changes He places on our itineraries. We want to be a people who wisely and humbly make plans for the future. However, we must also be open and willing to change those plans if new opportunities arise.

BLESS

Begin with Prayer

Listen

Eat

Serve

Share

The **B.L.E.S.S.** acronym provides the strategic means by which we seek to fulfill our vision of engaging those in our community. Each letter represents an important component of connecting with others. These methods are demonstrated for us in Scripture.

Bless

Before engaging with others, it is important to begin with prayer. Jesus modeled this element throughout His earthly ministry (Mark 1:37; Luke 6:12). Moreover, the apostle Paul calls for the Ephesians to pray for him to have boldness to share the gospel (Ephesians 6:18 and 19). Therefore, we must ask God to direct us to those who He is calling us to share His love. We can also pray for boldness and wisdom in how to share.

Listen

In John 4, Jesus initiates a conversation with a Samaritan woman at a well. Throughout this conversation, Jesus listens to her as He directs her to her need for a Savior. Listening is a valuable tool in engaging with others. James 1:19 calls for us to be quick to listen. It is important to take time to listen to the stories of those in our communities. We must look for opportunities to hear about the hurts, needs, concerns, and joys of people around us. As we do this, we may also learn how we can better serve and share with people about the hope that is found in Jesus Christ.

Eat

Hospitality was a foundational component of the culture in Scripture. Numerous passages in Scripture remind us of the importance of demonstrating hospitality as a means of caring for the needs of others (Hebrews 13:2). Furthermore, it is also an excellent approach to connecting with a person or family as a means by which to listen and build a bridge of friendship. We want to emulate this hospitality and look for ways to connect with people over a shared meal.

Serve

Jesus states that He did not come to be served but to serve (Mark 10:43-45). We, too, are called to serve and do good to others (Galatians 6:10). This provides an important way in which we can build connections with people through tangible acts of service that meet the needs of people in our community. As we listen or share a meal with someone, we can learn how we may be able to serve them better.

Share

Jesus continually preached the arrival of God's Kingdom to those who would listen. This is beautifully illustrated in the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus in John 3. Jesus not only listened and served others, but He also shared the news of God's Kingdom. We, too, must look for opportunities to share the good news of the gospel with people in our community.