

## Who we are

We are a church of Christ in the most biblical way possible. Being Christians individually, together we are a church. We are baptized believers, raised to walk in “newness of life” (Romans 6:3-4) through faith in God’s work of salvation through Christ (Colossians 2:12). We are not perfect, but rather forgiven (Romans 3:23-24; I John 1:8-9).

We are a diverse group of Christians of varying ages and from different backgrounds, income levels, and education.

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## Introducing Ourselves:

*We are a  
Church of Christ*

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We are not ashamed to wear the name of our Lord; that is why the Bible identifies groups like us as churches of Christ (Romans 16:16), or more simply, the church. You may hear us refer to one another as brother or sister because we consider ourselves a family (Ephesians 2:19). You will not hear men being glorified for their position, wealth, or fame (Matthew 23:8-12).

We are not affiliated with any denomination, including those who may have “Church of Christ” in their names. We belong to “*Him who called us by His own glory and excellence*” (II Peter 1:3). After all, it is all about Him, isn’t it?

Individual churches of Christ are independent of each other. You will find many similar practices and teachings between different groups because we all use the Bible to guide us. Yet, each group is unique, just as we are all unique.

## What to wear

Wear whatever is modest that makes you feel comfortable. Some of us wear traditional dress clothing: men in suits and ties and women in dresses; however, there is no need to dress up to be someone you are not. You’ll see some in blue jeans and tee shirts. We hope you will be

here with us to worship in spirit and truth.

One request, however. We hope you appreciate that modesty in apparel is appropriate among Christians (I Timothy 2:9-10). We ask you to wear whatever covers up what your mama taught you to be covered in public; and if she didn’t teach you, cover it up anyway.

## What to expect when you get here

Going some place for the first time can be nerve-racking. We’ve all had a first day at church, so we understand that not everything will make sense at first. We’re a friendly bunch and don’t mind questions (I Peter 3:15), so if you don’t understand something, please ask someone what is going on.

We start our Sunday mornings at 9:30 for Bible study. We have different classes aimed at different ages and different needs. Come a few minutes early so we have a chance to introduce ourselves and help you find a class.

Classes end at 10:15. We spend fifteen minutes or so visiting with everyone, catching up on what is happening in everyone’s lives. You’ll see hugs, handshakes, and hear a bit of laughter as we encourage and take encouragement from each other (Hebrews 10:23-25).

Our worship starts at 10:30. Everyone participates in the worship. Typically our worship consists of:

- Singing songs without instrumental accompaniment. Everyone sings. We have no choir, the church *is* the choir.
- Prayers led by the men of the church
- Readings from the Bible
- A sharing of the Lord’s Supper to remember Jesus’ death
- An opportunity for members to contribute money to support the efforts of the church
- A lesson from the Bible, which generally lasts about 30 minutes.
- A time of announcing activities and concerns brethren would like others to pray about.

Sunday morning isn’t the only time we meet. We hold another worship service at 6 pm. The format is similar to the morning worship, but the lesson is different. Members attend both services.

Knowing the importance of the Bible in our lives, we meet on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm for another 45 minute Bible study. Afterwards we gather for about ten minutes for a short talk, a song, and announcements.

## What we believe

We believe that every word in the Bible came to us from the mind of God. *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work”* (II Timothy 3:16-17).

We seek to do all that God commands and nothing He has not authorized. We look to the Bible as our source of authority (Colossians 3:17). If God teaches us by a direct command of Jesus or his apostles, an example approved in the early church by the apostles, or by an inescapable conclusion drawn from the Bible, we do it; if not, we don't.

That is what we teach from our pulpit. It is what we teach in our Bible classes. It is what we tell people we meet. We believe that the Bible is God's Word, all of it, every word, and so we teach the Bible all the time (Psalms 119:160).

The Bible instructs us about whom we are to worship and how to worship. God is the center of our assemblies and we exalt the name of Jesus Christ. Our service is done with feeling, but it isn't just about feeling; rather, it is about following God's will for our worship.

*“Let all things be done decently and in order”* (I Corinthians 14:40).

If you are uncomfortable with the loud raucous, “show and tell” of some modern churches, you will enjoy worshiping with us. If you don't appreciate politics in the pulpit, but long for the pure Word of God, you found the right place.

We are a church of Christ, striving to be nothing more or less. Quite simply, we belong to no denomination and have no earthly headquarters because Jesus alone is the head of the church (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18).

We have no creed or statement of faith. God gave us His book, and that is what we use. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and the considerable testimony in the Bible proves it. We wear no other name than the one disciples of Jesus wore in the first century – Christian (Acts 11:26).

Since God did not authorize us, as a church, to provide entertainment, engage in social or political programs, beg for money or raise money except by free-will offerings from our members, spend the collected funds on secular activities, or surrender autonomy to another church or organization, we simply don't do any of those things. The endless appeals for money in many modern churches just don't fit here.

As individual Christians, we see service to others as our privilege. It is why we are here. It is how we serve the Lord. To us, it is a joy! (I Timothy 6:17-19).

Our purpose is to praise and serve God and not to impress people (Galatians 1:10). God has been good to us. What better way to express gratitude than to share His goodness with others? *“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith”* (Galatians 6:10).

## To sum it up

When you visit us, you will find a dedicated group of people – folks just like you – trying to live as disciples of Jesus Christ by reading, understanding, teaching, and obeying His word. If you are serious about being a Christian, you will find a warm welcome with us in a wholesome spirit of worship. We are here to help each other get to Heaven.

We'd be delighted to have you join us for worship and Bible study. If you have questions about what we do – or don't do – we'll be pleased to answer them from the Scriptures (I Peter 4:11).

Now, what were you saying about finding a good church home?

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Web site: <http://lavistachurchofchrist.org>