

A background image showing the Earth from space, with a bright sun in the upper right corner creating a lens flare effect. The Earth's blue atmosphere and white clouds are visible against the blackness of space.

A TIME FOR...

“Expanding our Community”

What do we mean by community?

People with common interests living in a particular area

An interacting population of various kinds of individuals (as species) in a common location

1. What kind of community are we building?

What should the community called the church look like?

What are the common interests of our community?

What is it that we want others to know?

What is it we want them to see?

Acts 4:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹ Jesus is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the **cornerstone**.’ ¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Matthew 16:18-19 (NLT)

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.”

So, do we want to be known as
a place where.....
or a people who.....?

Romans 14:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)

- ¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.
- ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow **the road that leads to life**, and only a few find it.

John 14:6-7 (NIV)

⁶ Jesus answered, “**I am the way and the truth and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well.

Revelation 7:9 (NIV)

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

2. How do we treat people in our community?

How can we interact with the various kinds of individuals (as species) in our community?

End of Life Care Strategy 2008 (DOH)

“How we care for the dying is an indicator of how we care for all sick and vulnerable people. It is a measure of society as a whole, and it is a litmus test for health and social care services.”

Two important questions?

1. What does it mean to be kind?
2. What measure do you use to care for others?

Luke 10:27 (KJV)

²⁷ And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; **and thy neighbour as thyself.**

Matthew 7:12 (NIV)

¹² **So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you,** for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

1 John 4:18-19 (NLT)

¹⁸ Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. ¹⁹ **We love each other because he loved us first.**

John 13:34-35 (NIV)

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

What obstacles obstruct us from loving ourselves?

We cling to our shortcomings, past failures and poor decisions

We constantly compare ourselves to others

We think we are not worthy of love

We work ourselves to burnout

Matt 6:39 (NKJV)

³⁹ But when He saw the multitudes, He was **moved with compassion** for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

John 8:4-7 (NLT)

⁴ “Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”

⁶ They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but **Jesus stooped down** and wrote in the dust with his finger. ⁷ They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!”

John 8:8-11 (NLT)

⁸ Then **he stooped down** again and wrote in the dust.⁹ When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. ¹⁰ Then **Jesus stood up** again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?” ¹¹ “No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of grief, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing, and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is the friend who cares.

Henri Nouwen

Job 2:13 (KJV)

¹³ So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and **none spake a word unto him**: for they saw that his grief was very great.

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