

First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga Purpose Statement and Associated Core Values January 27, 2020

The purpose of First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga (1st Pres) is to:

GLORIFY- Glorify the Triune God

EDIFY- Edify the church family for godly living, and,

TESTIFY- Testify to the world about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Below are the 1st Pres core values aligned with the church purpose statement. These core values help us (1) in decision making and (2) in expressing our unique identity.

GLORIFY:

1. **Love and Worship of God:** We strive to worship in spirit and in truth the triune God at all times including corporate worship centered on preaching the Word of God. Our passion is to love, enjoy, and glorify God in all things through submission to Jesus, the preeminent One, and by the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. **God's Word:** We strive to use the Holy Scriptures only in love and with prayer for the edification of believers, for church life decisions, and for the establishment of church policies. We value preaching the Bible, studying it both individually and corporately, and using it to disciple others.
3. **Prayer:** We recognize that prayer is a critical path to develop our relationship with Christ whereby He accomplishes His work for His glory and our benefit. By His grace we strive to pray at all times by living in continual consciousness of God .

EDIFY:

4. **Unity:** We foster the purity of the church and the resultant peace, cooperation, and unity throughout our intergenerational body of believers.
5. **Fellowship/ Community:** We demonstrate the love of God by both inviting and welcoming anyone to attend our church and by inviting everyone who professes Christ as their Savior to seek membership into our body of believers. We spend time with other Christians in mutual encouragement, exhortation, and care for one another.
6. **Spiritual Growth:** We pursue individual spiritual growth in Christ and seek the same for fellow believers through discipleship centered on the study of God's Word. We seek for each believer to discover and practice his/ her spiritual gifts in active ministry.

TESTIFY:

7. Evangelism:

Local: We endeavor to engage with unbelievers in our community, including within our families and our church, to befriend them and proclaim the gospel in the hope that the Holy Spirit will bring them to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Global: We also evangelize people throughout the world and seek to make them disciples of Jesus Christ.

8. Outreach: Because God first loved us, we seek to love others, including the marginalized, through generous acts of kindness and service accompanied by the gospel of Christ. We strive to live peaceably with all people.

9. Cultural Engagement: We aspire to be aware of and sensitive to the prevailing societal issues and pressures around us with the goal of becoming change agents for Christ in the lives of people in our community.