



BREESPORT
BAPTIST CHURCH
MISSION FORWARD

PO Box B
1811 N. Chemung Rd.
Breesport, NY 14816
www.breesport.org
607-739-2397

Essential Church

HOW DO YOU DEFINE CHURCH?

NEXT STEPS

Whether you're a first time guest or a regular attender, we want you to know what your next steps are here at Breesport Baptist Church. Please visit the Welcome Center in the front foyer or the church website, if you want additional information.



Salvation - if you've never believed in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, that's your next step today. See pastor Doug if you have questions about this.



Baptism - if you're a Christian, but you've never been baptized, that's your next step. Please see pastor Doug today or contact him at dforman@breesport.org.



Connect to a Life Group - our Life Groups are small gatherings of 8-12 individuals who meet for about 90 minutes each week. Contact pastor Mike at mharris@breesport.org if you're interested.



Grow - we have lots of opportunities for you to grow in your understanding and application of the Bible to your life from Sunday School to Wednesday Evening.



Serve - there are a number of ways that you can get involved to serve others inside and outside the church. See pastor Mike if you'd like to be a part of a ministry team.



Multiply - every believer needs to be on mission all the time. If you'd like to know how you can more effectively live on mission please contact pastor Doug.



Membership - if you want to experience the fullness of what this faith community has to offer, then membership is for you.

ABOUT BRESFORT BAPTIST CHURCH

1867. 154 YEARS. SIX GENERATIONS. What do all these numbers have in common? Breesport Baptist Church was established as a church plant from Horseheads First Baptist Church in 1867. That means that we have existed as a local Bible believing, Gospel preaching church, for over 150 years now. That's six generations of ministry !

WE'RE SAVING A SEAT FOR YOU! We don't care how you're dressed, how many tattoos you have, or what candidate you voted for. We're a church full of broken, imperfect people with every kind of story imaginable, and we're saving a seat for you!

JOIN US ON SUNDAYS!

9:30 am: Adult ABF & ARK/IGNITE

10:45 am: Worship & ARK/IGNITE

Services are in-person and online at www.breesport.org/watch

OUR LEADERSHIP STAFF

Doug Forman - Pastor of Preaching & Vision

dforman@breesport.org

Mike Harris - Pastor of Discipleship & Administration

mharris@breesport.org

Andy Shanks - Pastor of Youth & Worship

ashanks@breesport.org

Cary Shaw - School Administrator

cshaw@ttcany.org

TWIN TIERS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY is a ministry of Breesport Baptist Church and is dedicated to inspiring students with a Christ centered, student focused, and college oriented education.

Learn more at www.ttcany.org or call (607) 739-3619

WE ARE LOCATED at 1811 N. Chemung Road, PO Box B in Breesport, NY 14816. You can reach our office by phone at (607) 739-2397 or email us at office@breesport.org

We would love to hear from you!

PARTING WORDS

The Church is a gathering of called out individuals who have been saved by faith in Jesus Christ and miraculously made a part of the His Body. As such we have been commissioned to be a missional movement of people sent out into all the world to make disciples of Christ, in the name of Christ, empowered by the Spirit of Christ, declaring the Good News of Christ, for the glory of our Head, Christ.

It is our prayer that this short series has helped you to see the church, and your part in it, as “essential.” It is also our prayer that collectively we will yoke up together, arm in arm, and heart to heart to advance the cause of Christ in this place and around the world through this local church and, in doing so, see souls saved, lives transformed, marriages strengthened, addictions overcome and so much more as we carry out, together, the essential work that He has given us to do.

RESOURCE LIST

Creature of the Word - Matt Chandler

I am a Church Member - Thomas S. Rainer

Follow Me - David Platt

RightNow Media:

Marks of a Healthy Church - Mark Dever

References:

¹ <https://www.compellingtruth.org/definition-church.html>

² <https://churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/325619-what-is-the-mission-of-the-church.html>

³ <https://www.compellingtruth.org/Bible-multiculturalism.html>

⁴ https://www.preceptaustin.org/a_testimony_to_gods_grace

ESSENTIAL CHURCH

There has been much made over the last year concerning whether or not churches and houses of worship are essential or not. The word “Essential” means absolutely necessary, extremely important, crucial, or vital. By extension, it can, therefore, refer to that which is an absolutely necessary quality, characteristic, or component of a system, structure, or organization. With that definition in mind, I don’t think that it would surprise any of you to know that I believe church IS essential. By that I mean, church is an absolutely necessary component of what it means to Biblically live the Christian life.

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus, in part, died to redeem the Church. His death and resurrection have general consequences for the whole universe, but they have specific consequences for believers. The Bible goes on to say that the Church is the Body of Christ and every believer is made a part of it at the moment of their salvation. Furthermore, we are to grow in, serve in, and live in community with other believers as we make our way through this life to the life to come.

With that being said, questions like, “what is the Church, what is the local church, what is the mission of the Church, and what is our role and responsibilities in that mission” are important to answer and we hope to do so in this short series. Make no mistake, loved ones, the local church is the hope of the world. We, of all the institutions, organizations, and associations of the earth have been entrusted with the stewardship of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

That makes what we do, essential.

Doug Forman

Lead Pastor

Breesport Baptist Church

HOW DO YOU **DEFINE CHURCH?**



WEEK 1: Defining what the Church is.

Ephesians 2:11-21

Introduction:

We need to differentiate between the Universal Church and a local church. It's important to properly define our terms because if we begin in the wrong place, we'll almost certainly end in the wrong place. The definition needs to be "gathered" from across the New Testament.

A little background

Although "church" has come to mean a building or organization, the original Greek ekklesia meant "a gathering, assembly" and is the basis for our word "congregation." And that is what God designed the church to be—a group of people.

The definition of a "church" as a separate building specifically for worship would have been foreign to the early believers, as they met in homes. When a building was mentioned in the New Testament, it was always in relation to the church that met there. The church was the people, not the building. It is not a denomination; it is everyone who has received the Holy Spirit. And it doesn't grant salvation; it is people, loving and glorifying God and teaching others about a saving knowledge of Christ.

The local church is where the members of the universal church can apply 1 Corinthians 12: encouraging, teaching, and building one another up in the knowledge and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ¹.

NOTES

Time to Discuss:

1. What are some common examples of pride selfishness and division within a church? What can a church do to protect itself against such things?
2. What areas of doctrine and practice should all Christ-followers agree on? Why?



WEEK 2: The Mission of the Church.

Matthew 28:18-20

Introduction:

The mission of the Church in every age, nation, and culture is to make disciples. That doesn't mean that the local church cannot be involved in various programs, but it does mean that nothing the church does can detract from that single great calling.

Keep the Focus on the Mission

The word mission comes from the Latin words mitto (to send) and missio (sending). So mission implies that someone has sent something to accomplish a task. In other words, God has sent the church to accomplish a task.

While few Christians would deny that making disciples is part of the mission of the church, many Christians still cannot seem to agree on what exactly the primary mission of the church is. So while they may include disciple-making, they also elevate other things like environmental stewardship and social justice causes to the same level or above the primary mission Jesus gave us.

We miss the mark when we take good things and make them primary things. The mission of the church must be focused on keeping the main thing the main thing².

Jesus sent us to go to all nations to make "More and Better" disciples by baptizing new believers and teaching them how to grow in the faith and be disciples who make disciples.

NOTES

Time to Discuss:

1. What does it look like to be the church inside and outside the church building to believers and unbelievers alike?
2. The mission of the church can only be accomplished by the Body working together. What are your spiritual gifts and how do they contribute to the mission of the church both inside and outside the church building?



WEEK 4: Don't just attend church. Be the Church.

1 Peter 2:4-12

Introduction:

As Christians we are commanded to attend church, but that should mainly be driven by our identity as Christians. We ARE a royal priesthood and a holy nation. Therefore, we should do all that we do out of who we are in Christ. From here we are to be the church and not just attend church. We are not consumers. We are contributors. We are not observers. We are participants. All of us.

“Drive-in” church?

There's nothing unusual about cars pulling in to church parking lots on a Sunday morning. But this past year, many church goers have remained in their vehicles after arriving due to Covid restrictions.

But when we worship as part of a community, God shows us how we've been incorporated into something much bigger than our own self - we've become part of the body of Christ. In community, we grow closer to God and to each other than we ever could alone.

It's possible to attend a “drive-in church” even if you leave your car and sit in a building on Sunday mornings. Every church has people who show up just after the service has started and leave a few minutes early. But worship is more than a place and a certain time. Worship involves a vibrant community of living stones joined together in Christ. True worship binds believers together as they experience abundant life with each other⁴.

NOTES

Time to Discuss:

1. We were given a four part definition of a disciple this week. Is there one or more of those areas where you're struggling? If so, which one and how can you make progress in that area?
2. What are your greatest hesitations or obstacles to making more and better disciples of Christ? How does the Great Commission itself help you to overcome them?



WEEK 3: Connecting the Mission with our Methods.

Matthew, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Acts 17

Introduction:

Paul teaches us that we must be willing to engage people where and how we find them. That means that the love of Christ needs to be incarnated in us and the Gospel message needs to be contextualized so that the timeless truth is understandable to the hearer. We need to consider the difference between our biblical convictions and our personal/corporate preferences (receive, redeem, or reject elements from culture).

Our identity is found in our role in the body of Christ

God clearly does not use culture or ethnicity as a reason to exclude people from His kingdom. In fact, He seems to delight in the diversity of people who bring Him praise. Paul was an expert at taking on whatever cultural practices were necessary in order to effectively share the gospel. In fact, in Athens, Paul referenced the Athenians' "unknown God" and quoted their "own poets" (Acts 17:23 and 28). These examples show that differences in culture can be celebrated and appreciated as displays of God's creativity in the many diverse ways He is glorified.

The God of Scripture and His Word are the only source of truth in this world and people are not to be deceived by cultural or religious relativism. The God of the Bible is the only true God and He created and loves all people from all cultural backgrounds. We are free to enjoy that diversity when our identity in Christ is properly prioritized³.

NOTES

Time to Discuss:

1. What does it look like for you to be a good missionary in your everyday life?
2. What practical steps can we take both corporately and individually to intentionally cultivate relationships with non-Christians and welcome them into the church experience?