

March 26 | Sunday

Creed: What Christians Believe and Why

Read [Matthew 16:13-20](#)



27 | Mon – “I believe in the church and communion of saints...” | Read [Matthew 16:18](#)

The word **church** does not appear in the Old Testament. The first use of the word **church** is in the New Testament when Jesus said “...I will build my church...” It is interesting to see how often we refer to Resurrection UMC as *my church* or *our church*. What difference would it make if we believed that the church belonged to Jesus and not to us?

28 | Tue – A group | Read [1 Peter 2:10](#)

The Greek word for ‘church’ is *ekklesia* and literally means *called out*, as in *a group of people called together for a purpose*. Even though this was a secular word referring to an assembly of people, it came to mean the church. Peter reminds his readers that this group of believers was not always together; it wasn’t until Jesus claimed them as his own that they became his *ekklesia*. How does this apply to you? To what purpose have you been called?

29 | Wed – A body | Read [1 Corinthians 12:12-27](#) and [Ephesians 4:15-16](#)

The church is not a building, it just *meets* in a building. The scriptures teach that the church is the body of Christ and Jesus is the head. The way your body works is the way the church is supposed to work. Your brain tells your body what to do, and the parts of your body get to work. Knowing that Jesus is the ‘brain’ of the church and you are a part of his church, how do you carry out Jesus’ instructions for you?

30 | Thu – A role to fill | Read [Romans 12: 4-21](#)

Paul reminded the church in Rome, and us, that each person in the body of Christ has an important role to play in accomplishing God’s purpose in the world. These are often called spiritual gifts which are given for the purpose of building up the whole church - body of Christ. Then in v. 9-21, he gives specifics on how to we are to live. Which things are you already living out? And where do you need to grow? God will help you!

31 | Fri – A community | Read [Acts 2:42-47](#)

Looking back at the first church in the book of Acts, you will see how this *ekklesia* of believers lived in true community. What are some of the things they did for each other? How did they encourage and support one another? Do you see any of those things happening in the *ekklesia* you belong to? What would you like to see change? Can that change start with you?

01 | Sat – Now what? | Read [John 20:22-22](#); [Acts 1:8](#); [1 Peter 2:9](#)

Many people today describe themselves as spiritual but do not go to church or belong to an *ekklesia*. They have seen too many instances where the church has not live out what it claims to believe. If we are honest, we would have to agree that - even though it was not our intention - we as the church have often failed to represent Jesus accurately. What is the solution? How can we become the church described in Acts? Only by the power of the Holy Spirit working through us. Will you invite the Holy Spirit to fill and empower you to live in such a way that it will light a fire in others as well?