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Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! I pray this email finds you in good health and good spirits on this beautiful autumn day!

Last weekend in worship, as we concluded our Exodus sermon series with a look at the Ten Commandments, we talked about how Jesus so beautifully and masterfully summarizes those commandments (and all that follow) in Matthew's gospel (22:37-40):

“‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

That means they have primary importance in our lives and in the church. Love God and love neighbor. Seeking that kind of clarity for Hopewell's direction, our leadership prayed and met, prayed and drafted, prayed and adopted the following as our **2021-2025 mission statement, core values, and vision statement.**

With great joy and enthusiasm, and still much prayer for wisdom, we share them now with you — with the full blessing and excitement of the Church Council, the staff, the program team leaders. As you read, please notice that all of this work is grounded in prayer and scripture. None of it is revolutionary; rather, it's clarifying and foundational. As such, it will serve as excellent direction for us in the years ahead as we continue to discern what it means to love God and neighbor, how Jesus demonstrates it, and how those who follow Him mirror it.

Mission

This mission statement represents our purpose. Simply stated, it answers the question, "Why are we here?" As followers of Jesus, we welcome the following mission statement:

Just as Jesus did, we actively and tangibly love God and love others in ways that transform the world around us.

Core Values

Our core values represent our identity. Basically, they answer the question, "Who are we?" As followers of Jesus, we embrace these characteristics:

Because we follow the teachings and example of Jesus as depicted in scripture, we embrace and practice the following core values as a community.



Radical Hospitality — as evidenced by Jesus Christ and the ministry of our friend and sister **Joyce Landon**, who even in her struggle with pain and illness, found a way to practice this core value. Read the full version of her story in the upcoming Hopewell Happenings weekly email.

Abundant Grace — as embodied by Jesus Christ and our dear friend and brother **Kevin Putt**, who humbly sees himself and others through the lens of God's amazing grace. Read the full version of his inspiring perspective in the upcoming Hopewell Happenings weekly email.



Extravagant Generosity — as demonstrated by Jesus Christ and the ministry of our 5th-grade friend **Lily Shapard**, who made an inspiring sacrifice for the benefit of students in Haiti. Read the full version of her story in the upcoming Hopewell Happenings weekly email.

Mission-Focused Ministry — as manifested by Jesus Christ and the ministry of our friend and sister **Maryanne Bishop**, who learned about the value and power of mission from those who came before her and passes it on now to those coming after her. Read the full version of her story in the upcoming Hopewell Happenings weekly email.



Commitment to Worship & Spiritual Growth — as expressed by Jesus Christ and our friend and brother **Dan Murphy**, who views worship as a means of connecting to, learning from, and showering love upon God. Read the full version of his story in the upcoming Hopewell Happenings weekly email.

Intentional Community Engagement — as exhibited by Jesus Christ and the ministry of our friend and brother **Jim Kreher**, who believes in the power and blessing of "showing up." Read the full version of his story in the upcoming Hopewell Happenings weekly email.



Joyce, Kevin, Lily, Maryanne, Dan, and Jim serve as great encouragers — that we can all practice these core values as a way of loving God and loving others — not only with one another, but also to people we haven't even met yet. That requires us to be intentional about reaching out and meeting new people — and to envision a holy and wonderful outcome.

Vision

This vision statement represents our pathway. Essentially, it answers the question, "Where are we going?" As followers of Jesus, we adopt the following vision statement:

In addition to nurturing and strengthening the faith of Hopewell members and families, our 2025 vision is to meaningfully engage new people in order to invite them to meet God, connect with Hopewell, find meaning, and make a positive impact on our community and/or world.

Please notice that while we sense God calling us to engage new people, we are excited to continue the fantastic ministry already happening at Hopewell.

Our desire to reach new people does not detract from or impede what's going on. In fact, it will enhance it — and enable us to live out the call to share the love and hope of Christ with others!

We'll talk more about this in the weeks to come, but for now, please join me in enthusiastic prayer and gratitude for Hopewell's mission, core values, and vision! What a blessing to be part of a congregation that seeks to represent Jesus to the world and offer opportunities for holy connection, meaning, and transformation.

May it be so,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Pastor Amy