

Serve The City Resource Group

An Evening of Worship and Prayer

Sunday, October 28, 2018 Held at New Covenant Bible ~ Start time 5:55pm

Why gather as one expression of Christ's Church – 2018

28. *"If our most important job is to be Jesus' body we should align ourselves with His will. His will is always to glorify the Father. Coming together unified with that heart and worshiping Him is one of the closest ways to do what we are created to do."*
Musician
27. *"To remind us all that we're not alone."* Pastor
26. *"Jesus died for all of us! We don't need to be separate! Glorify Him together! Also, because it builds a community, gives opportunities to showcase our unity as believers and it creates new relationships."* Singer – under 20
25. *"...on earth as it is in Heaven." Sunday night will be an opportunity for all who gather to see Heaven on earth as the body of Christ comes together to gather around His throne and worship God, our Father"* Singer
24. *"I believe it is important to gather as one body as a response to the Lord's will for us laid out in John 17:21, to glorify and praise our God in unity as one church"* Musician
23. *"...As God's adopted children we are one with many brothers and sisters worldwide. While we may not be able to travel to foreign shores, we have an opportunity to have a local family reunion. We can encourage one another with united praise and prayer. What a privilege! Thanks to all our brothers and sisters who have prepared for and will host the reunion!"* Area Prayer Leader
22. Together we need to "watch the wall" for our cities so that our common adversary won't keep winning battles in our churches and in the lives of pastors. Pastor
21. *"We gather across different traditions/denominations to worship because it's important to know that the body of Christ is one. So we represent that through coming together as one voice."* Sunday night musician – 16 years old
20. Our gathering on the 28th is a dress rehearsal for our final destination!

Scripture reference:

"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches *were* in their hands; ¹⁰ and they cry out with a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

"It's the bride being prepared for the bridegroom."

Area Prayer Leader:

19. Encouraging One Another!

"I believe it's necessary to come together as one to provide encouragement to one another and show that we're not in this fight alone. Because we are exiles in this world, we will often stand out and be made to feel uncomfortable - especially in today's world. Gathering as God's Church, we have the opportunity to not only see that we're not alone, but that there's a large number of folks that believe as we do.

It also allows us to celebrate everything He's done for us. These gatherings just give us a taste of what's in store!"
Singer

18. Cooperating with the prayer of Jesus – Testimony

"I believe it is important to gather as one body as a response to the Lord's will for us as prayed in John 17:21, to glorify and praise our God in unity as one Church"

Musician

17. To celebrate the Essentials that we have in common.

The following three lines were penned during the 30 years war.

In The Essentials ~ Unity

In Non-Essentials ~ Liberty

In All Things ~ Charity

circa 1627 by Rupert Meldenius

16. Family Reunion! – Testimony

To have a family reunion with our brothers and sisters in Christ as we celebrate our unity in the essentials!!! To God be the glory!! Area prayer leader

This statement is based on the following statement from circa 1627 by Rupert Meldenius

In The Essentials ~ Unity

In Non-Essentials ~ Liberty

In All Things ~ Charity

15. United in Love – testimony

The church segregates and separates itself when we focus on each other. When we focus on Jesus, we are united in love, admiration, and appreciation of our Savior!

Walls come down as we lift our arms in praise! Musician

14. Man is created by God to know God fully.

Many of God's attributes may be known through an individual relationship with him; an individual may know God as his creator, father, and savior. But only the church may know God as her bridegroom -- a reality that is made manifest more and more fully as we gather together to worship." Musician

13. Serve The City is a platform.....for the Church in a Region to Be The Church!

The 4th Core Value of Serve The City is: **Collaborative Approach:**

- Serve The City exists as a platform for Pastors, congregations, ministries and Believers in Jesus Christ to practically serve their neighbors, together, in Iowa. This is accomplished as Serve The City partners encourage each other, facilitate, and coordinate collaborative efforts (movements, initiatives, acts of service) of localized Believers promoting unity, evangelism, and revival in order to be obedient to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

- We are working together. We appreciate each other's strengths. We know we cannot do this as isolated Pastors, congregations, ministries and Believers in Jesus Christ

12. We enjoy each other – we enjoy worshipping God together! We will do so in Heaven!

Westminster Shorter Catechism states that The Chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever” Scripture in Psalm 86:11-12 states

“Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth;
Unite my heart to fear Your name. ¹² I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And will glorify Your name forever

11. Lesson from Nehemiah: The Wall of Salvation (in the OT walls at times signify salvation)

Scripture reference: Nehemiah 4:6

“So we built the wall and the **whole wall** was joined together to half its height for he people had a mind to work.

When we gather as a coalition, we are displaying the “wall” of salvation to each other and the world. Each Partner participating is identified on the flyer. All 47 groups in Nehemiah kept their unique identities (and so do our Partners) yet they joined their work together. The wall was so wide that two great choirs marched around the wall and met at the Temple. We gather to join our work together and invite the Holy Spirit to have His way with us!

10. Iron Sharpens Iron: when we gather from our different traditions we grow, we “see” more of God ~ we are out of our normal arena

Scripture reference: Ephesians 4:15-16

“...speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

9. When God hears our adoration – in a united setting ~ we honor HIM and HE commands a blessing on us!

Scripture reference:

Psalm 133: Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity! ² It is like the precious oil upon the head, Coming down upon the beard, *Even* Aaron's beard, Coming down upon the edge of his robes. ³ It is like the dew of Hermon Coming down upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing—life forever.

8. Over 35 singers and musicians from over 20 ministries in one place leading us in worship!
7. Over 40 leaders of congregations and ministries...united...leading in scripture reading, exhortations, and prayer...can you praise God for this?!
6. Honoring the “New Command” of Jesus to...love one another...then all men will know....As we gather we celebrate the love ~ honor ~ respect God has given us for each other.

Scripture reference: John 13:34-35

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

5. Visibly demonstrating our unity and the truth the Jesus has ONE Body ~ ONE Church:

Scripture reference:

When we gather to worship the King together....in harmony...we are visibly demonstrating the truth and command of Ephesians 4:1-6 “Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, ³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ *There is **one** body and **one** Spirit, just as also you were called in **one** hope of your calling; ⁵ **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism, ⁶ **one** God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.”*

4. When we gather we are celebrating our ever triumphant Lord Jesus! Our gatherings are a **public demonstration** in the heavenly places that Jesus Christ is Lord of His ONE Church and that Jesus has triumphed over our adversary.

Scripture references:

When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a **public display** of them, having triumphed over them through Him. Colossians 2:15

“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God **displayed publicly** as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;...*” Romans 3:23-25

3. Obedience to gather in our Cities and Regions

Scripture reference: Hebrews 10:18-25 (NASB) A New and Living Way

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

2. We are confessing that Jesus Christ is the head of His ONE Body

Scripture references:

He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

Colossians 1:18

I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. Matthew 16:18b

1. In Your Attitude – Be Like Christ

When we gather from our many locations into one building we are demonstrating a unity to help each other build strong. We are not self centered! We are publicly honoring each another. We are enjoying each other.

Scripture reference: Philippians 2:4-6 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. ³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,** ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Note: At times some of our Partners may be with us “in the spirit.” ON any given date, their calendar commitments may prevent them from being in the room when we have a coalition gathering.