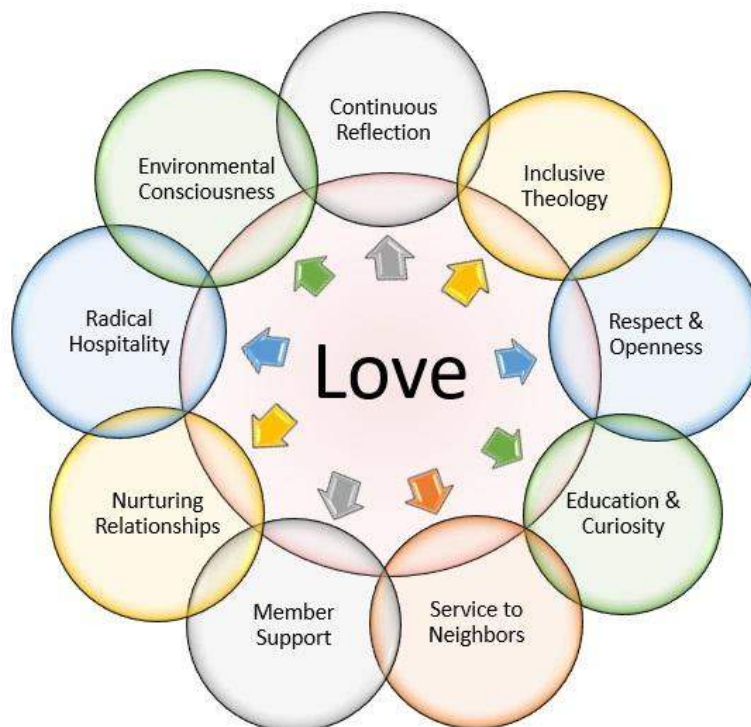




# Our Church Values

Over the past four months, the Mission Assessment Team (MAT) identified nine core values that describe **who we strive to be, what we strive to do, and how we strive to do it**; discerning that all our values flow from a central principle of love... in other words, love is our **why**. The graphic below visually represents this foundation of our church, with each core value and the central principle of love detailed on the backside of this paper.



**During our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, we are inviting everyone to identify how we live, experience and act upon our core values, both collectively as a church community and individually as members of the community.**

## 1. **Reflect & Identify.**

- a. **Use the Post-It Notes on your table to write down those things that help you feel most connected to our Church (use one Post-It Note for each).** These “things” could be experiences you’ve had at the church (one-time or repeated), activities in which you’ve participated, missions with which you identify or support, relationships that help sustain you, parts of worship that nurture you, physical facilities that speak to you, or any aspect of our Church you believe is important or personally meaningful.
- b. **Try to identify and write down an emotion, feeling or sense you have when reflecting on those things you’ve identified.**

2. **Align.** Take your Post-It Notes to the tag boards set-up in the corner of Fellowship Hall and stick each one on the Church Value with which you feel it best aligns. While your Post-It Note may align with multiple values, try to choose one (or create a duplicate Post-It Note and stick it on two values 😊).



# Our Church Values

## Central Principle: Love

While there is much we do not know, we know God's Love is all-encompassing and we move forward in each moment with a purpose to grow and share that love. We come to this time and place with a history we honor, cherish, study, and critique. From our purpose and history springs forth spiritual and intellectual curiosity, an open heart to welcome and embrace all God's people, an understanding of our need for forgiveness and grace, and a desire to be active participants in sharing God's Love with our members, our neighbors, our community, and our world.

## Our Church Values:

- **Continuous discernment, experimentation, and reflection** as ways to hear the Spirit of God and to practice our faith, with an invitation to all to be in Christ, be loved, and be of use.
- **Inclusive theology** that is informed by, and cognizant of: our diversity; the ambiguities and complexities of current social, cultural, and scientific realities; and the importance of both being (our state of existence and presence in the moment) and becoming (our state of transformation and possibility for the future).
- **Respect and openness** for liturgical traditions and willingness to adapt or include new ones; embracing creativity in worship, with strong roots and commitment to quality music and artistic expression in worship and gatherings.
- **Education and curiosity** with Church as a learning environment/community, underpinned by a hopeful expectation that God speaks to us through scripture, story, art, shared experience, and collective wisdom.
- **Service to our neighbors**, especially in areas of basic needs (food, water, shelter, and education), understanding we engage the divine in the hungry, the stranger, and the sick.
- **Support of our congregational members** who sustain us and enable us to serve others, including our church staff and leadership.
- **Warm and nurturing relationships** with all whom we encounter, guided by healthy and skilled leadership that is intentional, respected, and consensus driven.
- **Openness and radical hospitality** understanding the Church belongs to many: our congregation, our neighborhood, those we serve, those who use our facilities, and the many community partners and friends without whom we could not fulfill our mission.
- **Environmental consciousness** grounded in gratitude for the life-giving natural world, responsibility to ensure its sustainability and flourishing, and understanding that it provides fruitful ground for spiritual practice, growth, and sabbath.