

Why is Centered Life important to the mission of God's church and people?

Many churchgoers experience a disconnect between Sunday and Monday. While some accept this disconnect others cannot. For too many, church functions as another activity, a competitor for time and money – an obligation rather than a resource for lives of daily faithfulness.

Church leaders reinforce the Sunday to Monday disconnect by focusing on internal maintenance instead of equipping God's people for work and ministry in the world. We are called to live each day wholly centered in Christ.

At Centered Life, we believe it is the mission of our congregations to nurture people in the naming of their gifts, the knowledge of how to live their faith in every situation, and the confidence to make their unique contributions to God's sustaining work. God wants each of us to find our place in the world, the place where we experience belonging and make a difference.

Centered Life commends five pathways for congregations wishing to nurture the connection of faith and daily life:

- Raise awareness of God's sustaining work in the world. Simple questions like "What's God up to here?" and "Where did you see Christ at work in your world today?" increase our awareness of God's presence in the mundane and everyday.
- Identify and recognize each individual's unique strengths and abilities. Discovery of our gifts happens best in Christian community as others name our uniqueness and affirm our callings.
- Provide meaningful worship that reorients, restores, and renews individuals work in God's world
- Encourage spiritual disciplines such as regular prayer, worship, and Bible study. These practices strengthen our service and clarify God's presence in, and intentions for, our lives.
- Enact roles and structures that equip and support faithful living in God's world. Pastors and lay leaders must evaluate congregational effort and activity by asking: "Does this meeting, budget, process, etc. equip the saints for ministry and build up the body of Christ?"(Ephesians 4:12)

Journey down these pathways with wonder and expectation. When faith connects with daily life and daily life connects with faith, homes, workplaces, communities, and congregations awaken to God's renewing presence.

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