

Chadwick Walenga
Teacher, Musician, Spiritual Director

I view community much like that of a mosaic picture. Many different, and often times fragmented pieces that together form a beautiful picture, especially when Light shines through it. I understand that most people, if not all of them, are broken and wound and left feeling useless. I desire community to be a place where people can realize that God can take the broken things of our lives and make something extraordinary, and beautiful out of them.

Beliefs:

Mission is why the Church exists.
Love is the context of all mission.
Relevance to culture is not optional.
Structure must always submit to Spirit.
Creativity is the natural result of spirituality.

The Essentials:

Jesus
The Trinity
Scripture
Gospel
Humanity
Grace

Messages:

The End of the Rope - Matthew 5:3-5
Intimacy Lost - Genesis 3
The Third Way - Matthew 5:39-41

Worship:

Acoustic Guitar Led
Contemporary and Traditional
Liturgical and Free Flowing

A little bit about me:

I have been a pastor in multiple capacities since 1999. My undergraduate work was done at Indiana Wesleyan University. Masters level study through Spring Arbor University. I am gifted at teaching as a story teller and conversationalist. My approach to the Scripture is to gain as clear of an understanding as possible to what the original hearers of the Story would have heard, and then apply it to the times in which we live. I am gifted as a worship leader, and enjoy bringing others into God's presence through song and prayer.

I am in a second chance period of life as I begin a new family, and a new chapter finding my voice to those who are broken and in need of making their way beyond personal shame, into the saving grace offered by God.

I'm learning, and understand in a deep way, that what Love and God can do for us far exceeds anything that we have done or could do against Him. My heart is open for an excessive, undeserved, unexpected act of love. I pray as I notice life or its remnants all around me.. I touch the outcropping of things that others leave unnoticed. Salvation to me encompasses unnumbered details of grace, of mercy, of blessing that are appreciated and savored in moments that others... who have all the right Christian answers... simply let pass them by.

I would love to spend some time with your Community teaching, worshipping, and gathering in a way that encourages others to experience salvation in their day to day lives.

If you would be interested in taking some time off, so that I may share what God has put into my heart, please contact me at: 231.414.3174 or chadwickwalenga@gmail.com.

I believe that God is the loving Creator of all that exists, both seen and unseen. God is eternal and completely good, knowing all things, having all power and majesty. God exists as the Trinity, in three persons, yet one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God passionately desires relationship with us and towards this end continually invites us into a relationship of faith, friendship, learning, and service. Genesis 1:1; Matthew 28:19; John 14:6-9,15-17; 16:7-15; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 4:9-10

I believe that God expressed himself in human form through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified for the sins of us all, was buried, rose again from the dead, and ascended to heaven where He is at the right hand of God and fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. Matthew 22:36-40; John 14:1-3; Acts 10:42-43; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Colossians 1:13-23; 2:8-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 7:25; 9:24; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 John 2:1-2

I believe that the Holy Spirit, sent from God to live inside all who believe in Jesus Christ, teaches, comforts, and empowers us, giving each follower diverse gifts, fostering unity, interdependence, productivity, Christ-like character, and love among Christians. John 14:26; 16:7-14; Romans 5:5; 8; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 3:16; 4:3-4; 5:18

I believe that the primary way God speaks to us is in the Bible, and that it is our privilege to seek to understand God's message and apply it responsibly to our lives. The Bible is the standard in all we say and do. God's unchangeable Biblical message ought to be presented in relevant and contemporary ways, free of religious jargon and understandable to the people of our community. I believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in original writings, without error and completely trustworthy. Joshua 1:7-8; Psalm 19:7-11; 119:9-16; Matthew 5:17-19; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:16-21; 3:14-18

I believe that all people are created with dignity and value in the image of God, to live in a vital relationship with God. However, through our sin (failing to live by God's moral standards), we break our intended relationship with God and we experience the destructive consequences of that broken relationship, spiritually and socially, in this life and beyond. However, the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to rescue us from those consequences and to restore our broken relationships with God and others, through Christ's death on the cross, a perfect act of redemption for each of us. Salvation comes to people on the basis of God's grace through their faith in Jesus alone. They receive the free gift of forgiveness and are spiritually reborn through repenting of their sin and believing in Jesus Christ. Good works and a holy life, although totally unable to save anyone, are the natural product of repentant, believing people. John 3:16; 5:24; Romans 3:9-28; 6:23; 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 3:3-8; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18

I believe that there are two ordinances of the local church, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Water baptism by immersion is an outward sign of an inward decision to follow Christ personally. Communion, or the Lord's Supper, is to be a regular reminder of Christ's body and blood, death and resurrection, that were given to us voluntarily so that we might experience life, love, hope and forgiveness as we eagerly await His return to the earth. Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:12, 38-38; 9:18; 10:47; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

I believe in lay-led/volunteer teams, which are in turn governed by an elder board (directional team). I seek to exercise and respond to leadership in a Scriptural manner, and to work in partnership with one another. Matthew 18:15-17;23:8-11; Luke 22: 24-27; 1 Corinthians 16:15-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 5:1, 17-23; Hebrews 13:7,17

I encourage people to handle their finances discreetly, honorably, and responsibly, and to practice regular and generous giving. Malachi 3:10-11; Matthew 6:19-21, 24, 33; 1 Corinthians 9:7-14, 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:5-12; Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 3 John 5-8

I express a strong value of community by seeking to reach out and connect with a diversity of people. I want to be personal and caring in a world that is increasingly fragmented and impersonal. I am not afraid to be vulnerable, human, and honest with other people. I believe our spirituality fulfills rather than denies our humanity, and I believe this approach strengthens community. John 15:12; Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:3-18; Galatians 6:1-5, 10; Colossians 4:5-6; 2 Timothy 4:1-5

I recognize diversity among Christians in nonessential areas. I do not press for uniformity in these areas, but rather encourage people to search the Scriptures, seeking balance, mutual understanding, humility and love. Additionally, I seek to respect other Christians differences without a quarrelsome, arrogant or divisive spirit, and return continually to the great commandment, to love God and one another. 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Romans 14:1-15:7; 16:17; 2 Timothy 2:14-17, 23-26; James 3:13-17; Philippians 2:1-5