



# THE WAYS

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**OWN OUR CHURCH.** The work of the church isn't defined by pastors and staff alone; it comes from each member actively participating in the life of Jesus Christ. Claim ownership of FPCM's mission, programs, and property. Each is an expression of how God is working among us! Support others. Be informed. Volunteer for a new role. Live like you're the church—because you are!

1. How would you define “the work of the church?”

## **READ 1 Cor. 27-31**

1. Which gift do we tend to depend on the most? -or- Which are we missing?
2. Why are different gifts needed?
3. Why do you think you are called to “desire greater gifts?”

**Scenario:** We have a lot of paid staff. Someone runs youth ministry, kids ministry, choir ministry, missions, pastoral care, property upkeep, etc. You, however, have a full time job and a full time family. Each week when you come to church you are looking for our staff to help you connect with God but it feels like you keep getting asked to volunteer.

1. Have you ever felt like this? What was it like?
2. How do you balance your other commitments with a church commitment?
3. What do you feel like you need from our church?
4. What do you think the church needs from you?

The word for church in Greek literally means “the ones called out.” Jesus doesn't merely call church staff to run church programs. He calls people to do the work of the church. That work is the work of glorifying God, serving our neighbor, redeeming the world, sharing the truth, and living as God's people. *Own our Church* doesn't mean “run church programs” it means own the calling that you are given to be a people called out from the world to serve a our God.

## **PRAY TOGETHER.**

(If you have not experienced any calling or gifting of the Holy Spirit, pray for it.)

## DAILY Devotional

**MONDAY:** *READ:* Luke 11:13. *THINK:* *Owning our Church* starts with the presence of the Spirit in your own life. It is the job of the Spirit to gift and empower us for the work at hand. When you ask, God will grant you His Holy Spirit. Don't skip this step and just try to work harder. Ask for His Spirit. *PRAY:* If you haven't yet, pray that God would gift you with the presence of his Holy Spirit. If you have, ask the Spirit to show you how you are needed here at FPC.

**TUESDAY:** *READ:* 2 Peter 2:5+9. *THINK:* You are a priest. That doesn't mean you wear a little white collar, but that you are a mediator between people and God. All Christians are priests and called to show who God is and connect others to His love and grace. *Own Our Church* and live out your priesthood. *PRAY:* that God would give you opportunities to be a priest to someone you know.

**WEDNESDAY:** *READ:* Matthew 25:24-25. *THINK:* God has entrusted you with gifts and abilities not to be buried but to be used and increased. When you *Own our Church*, you have the ability to use those gifts. Sometimes that means working within the church, sometimes it will mean working as a member of our Church within the community. *PRAY:* God would grant you the courage to use your gifts for Him.

**THURSDAY:** *READ:* Romans 16:1-2. *THINK:* Women didn't leadership roles in the 1st century, but not so in the church. Phoebe is deacon and a benefactor. Don't let anyone tell you that something about you keeps you from being able to serve. Especially if you feel like the world doesn't respect you, we need you to *Own Our Church* and be an example of what the Kingdom of God is like. *PRAY:* that all types of people feel respected and empowered at our Church.

**FRIDAY:** *READ:* Matthew 9:37. *THINK:* Often in churches it can feel like the same people are volunteering for every job. Conversely, it can feel like there isn't room for new people to help because the job is already taken. Remember 2 things. 1. You are needed and 2. There is enough work to go around. *Own Our Church* yourself instead of looking for someone else to. *PRAY:* God would show you how large the harvest is in Moorestown.

**SATURDAY:** *READ:* 1 Kings 6:11-14. *THINK:* While it is true that the Church is not the building but the people, the building still matters. It is in our building that thousands of people have met and worshipped God. We make it holy ground, because as the church gathers the presence of God is in its midst. *Own Our Church* building as a place where people meet God. *PRAY:* God would continue to use our building as a place where He changes lives.