

Matthew

I am choosing to follow Jesus because He represents selfless care treating the sick and the disabled treating every man and woman with the utmost respect and above all else – kindness.

I believe God our creator is our Savior, creator of life and provider of eternal life.

I believe the Holy Spirit is within us – the inner good workings of man our sense of right and wrong I believe we all have a piece of the Holy Spirit.

I believe the church is a second home for us where God resides and teaches us through pastors, sermons and fellowship.

Growing as a disciple of Jesus means showing passion to all of mankind and to care for all with no bias.

I commit to use my God-given gift of compassion to share in the ministry of spreading the Lord's work and exuding actions of kindness to the people of the world.

Sharing the love of Christ means the UCC's extravagant welcome and inclusive saying, "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome her." Means that "we" are accepting and show love for everyone as we are all children of our Holy Father. Instead of rejection we need more acceptance to and for all.

Lily Fischer 2016

I am choosing to follow Jesus because He is my cornerstone. By cornerstone, I mean he binds me to the rest of the world and serves as our common foundation. He keeps me together when I need Him. For example, when someone makes me upset and hurts my feelings, I know that Christ is there, loving and caring about me. He brings peace to me when I am upset.

I believe God our Creator is the mind, heart, and glue that brings people together. By “mind”, I mean that God empowers us with the ability to think, learn, and grow in our spirituality. We are created in His image and he has blessed us with feelings of wonder and awe. By “heart”, I mean that he has given us the ability to love Him and love one another. He is our center. By “glue”, I mean he is the binding force that puts people back together after conflicts have pulled them apart. Throughout history, God is the source of reconcile among people.

I believe the Holy Spirit is the most loving, caring, and forgiving Spirit in the whole world. I believe the Holy Spirit is the love of Jesus Christ that flows among all people for all time. I believe the Holy Spirit is God’s gift to the world that cannot be taken away.

I believe the church is the household of God. It brings peace and love to all people. When people enter a church, they usually feel an attachment to something bigger than themselves. The church is not a building, it is the people that are present and it is what activities they are doing both inside and outside the church walls. The church is Christ’s body. He started the church and those who believe in Him are his congregation.

Growing as a disciple of Jesus means I should follow in his footsteps and live my life by his example. It means reading the bible more deeply and worshipping God. Disciples should help other people and share with them the good new of God’s love for them and that Jesus leads us to eternal life.

I commit to use my God-given gift of singing to share in the ministry of worship services. I like to sing solos during church or I can also sing as part of a group. I sing Christmas carols to our senior citizens. I enjoy singing because it is fun to do and it is another way of praising God while making people feel happy.

Sharing the love of Christ means including other people in our worship services. I invite people to Revive and also to church service. I want other people to know that Christ loves them too and by being nice to them and helping them, I think Christ is working through me to help others and let them feel loved and wanted. I can share Christ’s love with others by doing good and kind things and not doing bad or mean things.

The United Church of Christ’s extravagant welcome and inclusive saying, “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you’re welcome here” means that we love and accept all people. It does not matter if they are young or old, pretty or plain, rich or poor, or part of a family of alone, anyone is welcome here because this is God’s house and he loves all people and we, as church congregation should be sure to love, care about, and include all people sincerely.

Sophie Fischer 2/14/16

I choose to follow Jesus because he is my hero. He provides me a sense of security and He is a safe person to come to when I am feeling under the weather. Every time I have a problem, I know I can always pray and talk to Him, and he is always listening. God is someone I can depend on. Unlike a normal person, he forgives no matter how big my mistakes are and when someone else makes a mistake, he teaches me to have a forgiving spirit towards others. He also teaches me good over evil and gives an example of how I should live my life. Jesus led a perfect life, and I believe I should try to follow right in his footsteps to be the best person I can be and lead a great life like Him. Jesus is my example to follow in life and he is my hero.

God is also my hero. He is my creator, and he sent Jesus to save our sins. God is amazing and perfect in every way. He always wants the best for me and is helpful in my moments of despair when things don't go well. God protects me from anything that can harm me and ensures that when I do get hurt, I can get up and keep going. The Lord is so caring and makes me feel loved everyday.

I believe the Holy Spirit is my bridge to God and Jesus. The Holy Spirit is always with me and it connects God and Jesus to me. I do not believe the Holy Spirit is necessarily a person, but I believe the Holy Spirit knows my heart very well, and knows me better than anyone else. The Holy Spirit helps me to do the right thing and if I mess up, it encourages me to do better next time.

When I hear the word church, I think of a place of worship. Church is a place to raise up the Lord's name and praise the Lord for everything he has done for us. I feel church is a place of comfort. I am not afraid to be myself at church because the people who attend are great role models and do not judge. I believe church is a place of learning about and growing a relationship with God, myself, and others. I have learned many valuable lessons at church, and I am still continuing to learn about the Lord and expanding my faith in Him each and every day.

As I grow my relationship with God, I am also growing as a disciple. Disciples are people who follow God. As I have described previously, the Lord is a man who is a great role model for everyone. Me growing as a disciple means I am a role model to others on how to live a Christian life and doing the right thing. Simply being kind, cooperate and forgiving are also part of growing as a disciple. In addition, the Golden Rule is also part of living a Christian life. If I treat others they way I want to be treated, I am following in God's footsteps. Growing as a disciple of Jesus means I take His life as an example of how I should live and applying it to my life.

I commit to use my Godgiven gift of empathy and compassion to share in the ministry of helping people work through their problems. I first noticed this gift from God when a friend needed help with a problem, and after I gave advice to them, they repeatedly come to me for help. I plan to use this gift to help others, too. For confirmation, I am going to talk to homeless people just to talk to them and help with their problems.

I believe sharing the love of Christ means being kind and compassionate towards others. Acting Christlike towards everyone and living the life God wants us to live is a big part

of sharing the love of Christ. I believe discipleship is another big part of sharing the love of Christ. Discipleship is exactly what sharing the love of Christ means. Sharing my time, talent, and treasure to help others is an example of discipleship and that is one way to share the love of Christ. I am using my time and talent to help homeless people and I will share the love of God with them.

I believe welcoming is being non-judgmental to anyone and not being opposed to allowing new people into our lives. Welcoming is treating others the way I would like to be treated. When people welcome me into their life, it makes me feel good, and that is how I want people to feel by welcoming them into my life.

Ana Cook

I am choosing to follow Jesus because...it give me a purpose, no matter what is going on in my life, I have a purpose, a job to be a disciple of Jesus. It also helps to put things into perspective for me, helps to know that there is something bigger at work in the world. God's Word at work.

I believe God our Creator is...many things, many beings, people, and places at once. He created our world and us to live in it.

I believe the Holy Spirit is...the glue that holds Christians and Christianity together. It was a gift to us from God upon Christ's ascending to heaven, back to the Father. It has held us together, helped us understand and survive through thousands of wars and years.

I believe Church is...a safe place to express your beliefs, to learn about them, develop them, go deeper into them, to come to an understanding of them. A place to be loved no matter who you are, what you are doing or have done.

Growing as a disciple of Jesus means...doing your best to follow the path and guidelines set for us by Jesus. We will all stray from the path at some point or another – these are our sins, and Jesus dies for us to save us from these very actions. The saying "Do as Jesus would do" definitely is a good way to try to live, but the think is, none of us are Jesus. We are all born into a world with sins, and in us our own sins and faults. We cannot be a perfect lamb. But we can do our best to come as close as we can.

I commit to using my God given gift of Music/Optimism to share in the Ministry of Others. A group of people in my Youth Orchestra have formed a group that play in various Nursing Homes throughout Indiana. I love the feeling I get when someone tells me I have moved them, inspired them, to know I have positively influenced someone's life doing something I love.

Sharing the love of Christ means...using your gifts and time to give, show, and share the love Christ has shared with us. To share what we have with others. If that means a physical donation, or a donation of your time to help others, to just be there if someone needs it.

The UCC's extravagant welcome and inclusive saying, "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here." Means...no matter your race, ethnicity, culture, past, present or potential future, you are welcome here. No matter your age you're welcome here. No matter if you are stressed, depressed, joyous, mourning, angry, anxious, doubting, or faithful, you are welcome here.

Jared Grondin

1. I am choosing to follow Jesus because it makes me feel happy.
2. I believe God our creator is loving and kind. God leads us to do good things.
3. I believe the Holy Spirit is everywhere and works through us.
4. I believe the church is people praying together and singing together. The church helps people with things. We bring food for the kids at Glenns Valley school. We help people by praying for them.
5. Growing as disciple of Jesus means I learn the teachings of Jesus to use in my life. It means I treat people the way I would want to be treated. It means I comfort people who need help.
6. I commit to use my God given gift of joy to share in the ministry of fellowship.
7. Sharing the love of Christ means accepting everyone as a child of God.
8. "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here" means our church welcomes everyone to worship God.

Jacob Powell

I am choosing to follow Jesus because I know that he is and will always be with me no matter what. Another reason I have chosen this is because Jesus has done so much for me and everyone in the world. Some examples are that he gave me and you a shelter, he gave us food, and water. He also gave us blessings, the blessings of protection, bravery, strength, honor, forgiveness, and many, many more. That's why I am choosing to follow Jesus.

I believe God our creator is amazing. I think that because he cares for us and he is always with us by our side. He created our family our friends, and everyone we care about.

I believe the Holy Spirit is the part of God that is with us all the time. It's the part of God that watches over us and is always with us.

I believe church is a good place to learn more about Jesus and God. I think it is also a fun place to learn about them because you sing, there are classes that you can take, and more. I think church is a place to worship and celebrate God and Jesus.

To me growing up as disciple means that you are a follower of Jesus. That means that you believe in Him and that you worship Him. It means that you love everyone no matter what because that's what Jesus would do. It means that you make your own path to follow and complete your dream.

God has given me many gifts, many of them I don't even know I have yet. The ones I know I have I am so grateful He has blessed me with them. He gave me the gift of kindness, the gift of being good with children, the ability to play sports, many more.

Sharing the love of Christ means that you love everyone no matter what. You don't judge anyone, you just be who you are. You share the love by spreading the word. That means that you say nice things about other people, you're kind to other people no matter what.

At this church there is a saying, that saying is "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." I think that quote means that you are always welcome at our church. No matter where you came from or who you are you are always welcomed here to worship at our church.

Rachel Knight

I am choosing to follow Jesus because of what he has done for us. He gave his body as a sacrifice for our sins and that shows me that he loves each and every one of us very much. He will come as a savior to those who are prepared. I also choose to follow Jesus because of how he can give us the strength to overcome great obstacles.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He gives rain on the earth and sent water to our fields. He has made all of these things that came into being. Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the almighty gives me life. God sent his son into the world not to judge but to show that the world can be saved through him. That is why I believe that God is our creator.

I believe that the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts so that we as children of God can handle challenges in today's world. Before Jesus death he promised his disciples that he would send them another redeemer when he was no longer with them. The Holy Spirit tells people's hearts about the truth of Jesus Christ.

I believe that the church is a place where people can worship. I also believe that a church is made up of the people not just the bricks that hold it together. Church can also be a place that people can be and feel safe. Church is more than just worship though, it can be a place for people to talk to others and get and give advice to help grow as a disciple.

Growing as a disciple of Jesus means that you share the work of Jesus with others. The most traditional way to think about the discipleship is spreading the good news of Jesus Christ, but there are more ways than just telling others. Some other ways to share the good new is by playing music or by helping others. Although there are no many ways to spread the work of Jesus, it is only limited to your creative imagination.

I commit to use by God-given gift of working and understanding special needs kids is for me to share in the ministry of volunteering. I believe that people can learn to do anything they set their mind to. When I was about 5, my best friend, that I had known since I was about a year old, was a big sister to an autistic little brother. I didn't know what that meant and I don't remember asking because I never thought that it was important. What I know now about autism is that you need to be very patient and understanding to their needs.

Sharing the love of Christ can mean a lot of things. One think that sharing the love of Christ can mean is to be accepting or to overcome differences. It is very important to be able to forgive those who hurt you in order to love them. Friendship can also be a way of sharing the love of Christ. If your friends go through a hard time, it is important to stand by their side. Even when neither of you are hurt, Christ's love is still there because we need him whether we realize it or not.

When the UCC's welcomes us by saying, "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcomed here." Means the members at United Church of Christ are very welcoming. This phrase can also mean that no matter what you have been through, or what you have done in the past, you are welcomed in United Church of Christ. This phrase can also mean that if you are feeling alone or need help, the pastors

and the members of the church, are always there to help. The members and the pastors of the UCC are also there to make visitors feel welcomed and at home.