



THRIVE

the culture book





Thrive is the young adult ministry of First Baptist Church of Barnesville. The young adults of Thrive seek to make Jesus famous in our homes, schools, work, and communities. This book summarizes the culture we want to set as people who seek to THRIVE.

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A black and white photograph of several birch tree trunks. The trunks are light-colored with characteristic dark, horizontal lenticels and some darker, irregular spots or scars. The background is blurred, showing more of the forest. Overlaid on the image is the text "01. JESUS IS EVERYTHING" in a bold, sans-serif font. The "01." is in black, while "JESUS IS" and "EVERYTHING" are in white.

01.
JESUS IS
EVERYTHING



Jesus is the ultimate desire of our hearts and the affection of our souls.

We believe that Jesus is God and is part of the triune God-Head known as the Trinity. We walk in the belief that Jesus is good and is all powerful. He is the only one that can save and desires to do so as part of His Gospel plan of extraordinary grace.

We like to say that we are Jesus centered and Jesus directed. We want to place Jesus at the center of our gatherings and exalt Him in all we do. He is worthy of our worship and desires glory while at the same time desiring to extend grace. This is why we are not big on inviting people to just an event but to Jesus. We want our events and all that we do to be a means for people to encounter Jesus and for Jesus to be worshipped. As we move outward, we want to be directed by Jesus and do all things for Him and invite all people to Him.

Ultimately, we desire that Jesus be our identity.

The Gospel is good news! It is indeed good because it is the reality that Jesus did for us what we could never do for ourselves. He brought us out of sin-caused death because of his death on the cross and into resurrection life because of His defeat of the grave.

We can't earn this; we can't do this. We have no hope in ourselves. He did it all. Therefore, our hope is in Him, and that is good news. That is the Gospel.

With that reality in mind, we celebrate our Kingdom status as sons and daughters of God. We are the saints of the church. We want to share that news with the world in order that others may know and worship the true and living God and that He receive ultimate glory. We want to align everything we do to this purpose and truly be driven by God's amazing and grace-filled Gospel.



2.

DRIVEN BY THE GOSPEL

One of our favorite times is when we gather to worship as a collective body. We love to sing and declare the beauty and worth of God. We are eager to learn together from His Word. However, we believe that gathering and singing is only a part of worship. True worship is seen in everything we do.

We desire to make worship a lifestyle.

03.

WE LIVE TO

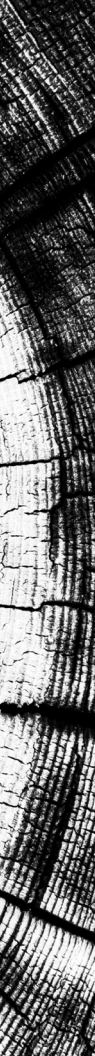
Worship is our response to God for who He is and what He has done. Within that response is our expressions of worship through song, prayer, and scripture. In addition, worship is demonstrated in how we live our lives and how we serve people. We constantly remind ourselves that worship is about what we do, why we do it, and who we do it for. The true affections of our heart inform these things. We want Jesus to be the One who receives those affections and desires in who we are and how we live.



D WORSHIP



04.
GENEROSITY
HAPPENS



As Christians we are the recipients of the greatest gift ever known that was purchased at the greatest cost. The astonishing reality is that this price was paid for by the death of Jesus on the cross—thus making it absolutely free for us. What an amazing gift! Jesus paid for our eternal life in the currency of His grace and at the price tag of His blood. Our generosity is a part of our response to this extraordinary gift.

We desire to follow His example! We consider generosity as a form of worship! We see generosity as normal!

Jesus does not take; he chooses to give. We want to embody this lifestyle and allow it to permeate our ministry. We believe that the extraordinary happens on the back of ordinary generosity, whether this is money, time, gifts, etc. Generosity is not based on our capability to give from a large bank account but on our capacity to give from a Gospel-minded heart. God adds the extra to our faithful ordinary. As a generous people, we take great joy in meeting needs, prompting happiness, and seeing doors open for the Gospel to spread. With this kingdom focus, Generosity happens!





We are careful not to see our ministry or any ministry as a membership but as a family. The idea of an organization is important for effectiveness. However, we want to cultivate the belief that the church and ministry is way more than something to join. We believe it is something to which we belong. Relationships and not memberships are the heart of a family of believers.

As believers saved by Jesus through faith, we become the sons and daughters of God. That makes us a family. We don't pay dues to join and then expect and ascribe to a certain regulated outcome. As a family, we are all in. We want to leverage our lives for the growth of God's Kingdom and the edifying of His people.



WE EXIST A

Thrive has many different components that serve to fulfill our Kingdom purpose. Individuals in our family are equipped by God with specific talents and callings unique to the specific ways he or she will serve. However, we believe that we truly exist as one. No one ministry or person is elevated above another. We are all striving as one. We are in this great mission together—pressing homeward toward the goal.

05.

An aerial, black and white photograph of a rural landscape. The image shows a network of roads and fields, with some trees and structures visible. The perspective is from a high angle, looking down at the terrain.

AS A FAMILY

Individuals are important. It is the collection of individuals who have been called and saved that collectively form the Church. It is the collection that we emphasize as a ministry. We believe that the movement of God on Earth is way bigger than any one person. We gladly believe that the Church and Thrive ministry does not revolve around any one “me.” God’s Church is a river rushing forward in full Holy Spirit power and is not a bunch of individual droplets sitting on the shore of complacency.



06. **WE ARE** **A RIVER**

Me-centered ministry can often cause selfishness, bitterness, divisiveness, and tunnel vision to what God is wanting to do. We want to avoid this by expanding our vision to the reality that we all play an important role in the movement of the Church and ministry. We don't always have to get the credit or reward because God sees all, and He rewards.

We also refuse to pass blame on an unnamed "they." We all take ownership in ministry and desire to work as a collective "we" to accomplish any task for the glory of God and the good of the Church. In doing so, we like to assume the best about people and help come alongside those that need help because we will not always get it right. We despise gossip and heartless ridicule. We want to edify, encourage, lift, love, champion, trust, and unite.

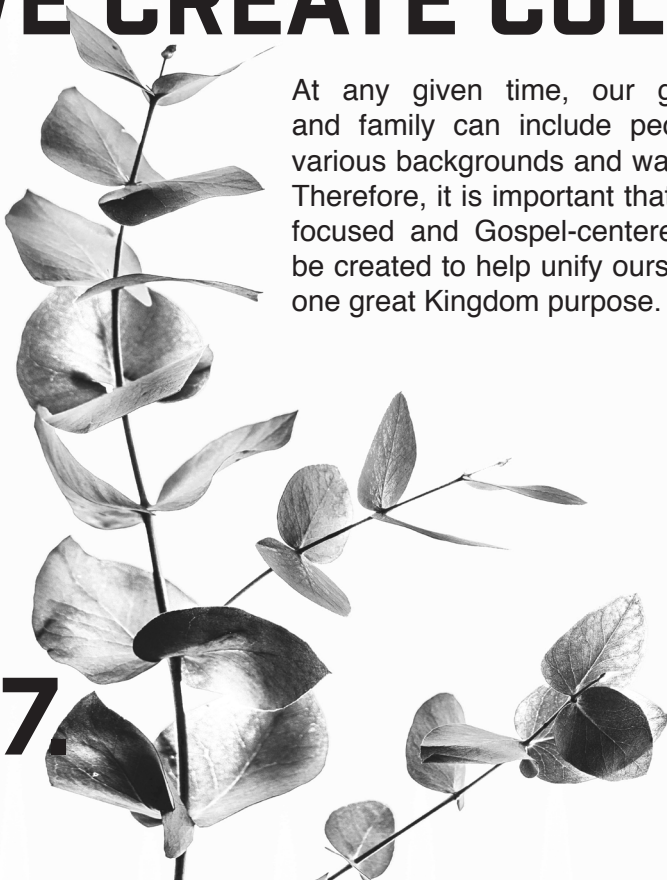
The collective WE is always greater than the individual me.



WE CREATE CULTURE

At any given time, our gatherings and family can include people from various backgrounds and walks of life. Therefore, it is important that a Jesus-focused and Gospel-centered culture be created to help unify ourselves into one great Kingdom purpose.

07



E AND SET THE TONE

Culture is something that a person or group of people creates. Every organization, group, school, business, club, or company has its own way of doing things and has values that drive those practices. That is culture. We want to create a culture of excellence and intentionality that exalts the name of Jesus and works to edify His people—the church.

At the end of the day, we get to choose how we live and what motivates our decisions. We may not be able to control every environment at first, but we can control what we choose to inject into that environment. We want to set the tone this way because we carry Jesus with us in all things. This is more than just hype. It is real. It is the foundation for our lives, and there is nothing more exciting and joyful.

We do not want to adjust to the climate of a lost world. We desire to bring the light of Jesus into those places. Anyone can be a thermometer and read the temperature of a climate. However, we believe that we are thermostats and can change those climates with the love, compassion, and truth of Jesus Christ.

A black and white photograph of several tall, weathered tree trunks in a forest. The trunks are vertical and show signs of age and decay, with peeling bark and dark spots. The background is a soft-focus forest scene with more trees and a bright sky. Overlaid on the lower half of the image is the text '08. LANGUAGE IS IMPORTANT' in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

08.
LANGUAGE IS
IMPORTANT

The words we choose to use will both reflect our God-given vision for ministry and help to create the environment of that ministry.

As in many areas of life, the types of words used will greatly affect that message and the overall culture that is being cultivated. We desire to use language that accurately communicates who we are and what we believe God is calling us to accomplish. The language culture is broad, but a few examples are as follows:

We often use the terms “college and young adults” to describe the demographic to which we feel called to directly minister to because there are both college students and working adults in the 18 to 25-year-old group. We also want to call our worship experiences gatherings because gathering to exalt God and edify the church is the essence of what we are doing in those moments. We do not have volunteers who serve; we have table setters. As Psalm 23 teaches, God prepares a table for us. We believe that He often uses us to accomplish that—to create spaces and moments that people can encounter and experience God. It is of the highest privilege that we can help set that table for people to taste and savor the goodness of Jesus.





All we have to do is look around us, and we can immediately see the infinitely creative mind of God. All of His creation, from the nebulae of the cosmos to the flowers of the fields, is the result of His supernatural creativity. God's creation brings forth a resounding worship that sings and declares the majesty of His name.

In believing that we are made in the image of God and possess his Spirit power as believers, we desire to design and create as a way of worship and as a means of pointing others to Him. We do not strive to create spaces and environments to boast in our own worth but to celebrate the immeasurable worth of the Creator.

We want to reflect Jesus well.



09.

CREATIVITY AND DE

Our creativity and design helps to communicate that Jesus is beautiful and that we do strive for excellence and approach things with intentionality. We want people to begin to experience the heart of our house the moment they step into it. People will almost always see who we are before they hear what we have to say. We also believe it is normal to clean up, wipe down, remove clutter, and straighten up as way to be excellent for the Kingdom. Above all, we desire people to sense God's presence in what we do and the environments we create.



DESIGN REFLECT GOD

This phrase defines our attitude towards serving and ministry.

We do not walk into ministry and service from an angle of obligation but of invitation. Jesus came to us when we were dead in sin and called us into His marvelous light by way of a grand invitation of grace. In the same way, Jesus is still inviting us to carry His light well. Therefore, we consider it a privilege to serve, sacrifice, and strive forward into all of the things in which God allows us to participate.

We want to bring positivity, initiative, flexibility, and Kingdom focus. We feel that as Jesus people, serving is not just a choice but a response of worship to who He is and what He has done. Our minds say Yes! Our hearts beat Joy! Our hands lay open!

We get to do this!

A black and white photograph of a palm frond, showing the long, pointed leaves and the central stem. The image is slightly blurred, giving it a sense of movement or depth. The text is overlaid on the lower right portion of the image.

10
**WE GET TO
DO THIS**

We quickly and wholeheartedly acknowledge that we are the branches attached to the true vine—Jesus Christ. We want Jesus to be at the center of our lives and all that we do. We realize that we are nothing without the grace and love of God. He is the light of all. We are called to reflect that light. We also believe that He created us for that purpose—to know Him; to enjoy Him; and to make Him known! Therefore, we walk in humble confidence and excitement of that reality.

We believe that God honors and works mightily in those who live a life of true humility. We see humility far more than just a moral quality. We believe it comes as a natural result from a life that is centered on the beauty and majesty of Jesus. We want that to be true of our lives, so we strive to stay close to Jesus—branches growing from the eternal vine.

It is the supreme honor to know Jesus and walk with Him as part of His church. We celebrate that in what we do. We also celebrate and honor those who follow and embrace His glorious calling. In this we encourage each other to strive forward in humility and awareness of our grace-filled standing as His sons and daughters living out our calling and purpose for the glory of God.

**WE THRIVE
IN HUMILITY
AND HONOR**

11.

We love Thrive ministry. We love our church. We love where God has us in community. However, none of these things are truly our home. Our citizenship eternally belongs in God's Kingdom. Therefore, we desire for our lives and ministry to reflect that.

We belong to The Church--the global church of believers that God established in Acts 2. We believe that the Church is forever and will prevail over all obstacles. Because of this, we desire to see the church grow. We want to do our part within Thrive ministry and the local church but also in championing other ministries as part of the The Church.

12. CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM

Every ministry and local church looks different. That is fine. As long as Jesus is declared Lord, salvation is preached as a result of grace through faith, and His perfect Word is proclaimed, we want to celebrate and support those families of believers. Competition and jealousy distracts from Kingdom purposes and can be an agent of harm used by the enemy. We push forward to exist as a family with Kingdom hearts to walk in Gospel truth and help others do the same.













Thrive with us.
www.thrive121.com



