

## Five Spiritual Formation Practices

Our lives are busy and filled with many activities. Yet often we neglect to take the time to nurture our relationship with God and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. However, God has been faithful in providing us with practices that if done with intentionality, and with open heart and mind, we can grow as Jesus' disciples. We understand there to be five primary spiritual formation practices: **Worship, Service, Witness, Fellowship, and Faith development.**

### **Worship:**

Individual and corporate acknowledgment and expressions of God's worthiness and glory.

### **Service:**

Expressing God's love by meeting the needs of others through tangible acts.

### **Witness:**

Sharing the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ and our personal experience of being Jesus' disciple in word and deed.

### **Fellowship:**

Sharing in the deep connection that believers have in Jesus Christ through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

### **Faith Development:**

Participating in practices that nurture and encourage spiritual growth and maturity both individually and in community.

We have included a Discipleship Path grid in this packet (page 9). The grid offers a brief description of four spiritual stages and suggested steps for each spiritual practice. Each step is intended to nurture and support your spiritual growth as you make your discipleship journey. Reflect on where you are currently on the grid. Then begin to engage the practices that are provided. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list but a suggestion of the most helpful steps. As you journey toward becoming a mighty oak (mature believer), may Christ empower you by the Holy Spirit.

As we both individually and as a church faithfully live out our mission, we believe our church will become more joyful, caring, compassionate, welcoming, and inclusive. We believe that as we intentionally focus *as individuals* on making disciples, we will love Jesus more, our families will be made stronger, and there will be less dependency on harmful practices.

***This is our hope and dream for you and the Marshall FUMC!***