

The Joel Team is a leadership group of church members that acts as an advisory board to the Pastoral staff at St. James UMC. We have been working to identify and clarify the Core Values of the St. James community as part of a strategic envisioning process. Our core values are the constant, passionate beliefs that empower and guide us in ministry. They answer the question: “Why do we do what we do?” The Joel Team has identified the following core values for our community. We welcome your feedback. Please contact Alan Gill at the church, 752-6154 or [Alan@stjconnect.org](mailto:Alan@stjconnect.org).

### **Biblical Instruction**

*We believe the Bible is God’s inspired Word, the authoritative and trustworthy source of truth for a Christian life. We seek to equip the people of the church through inspired biblical teaching that strengthens faith and leads to doing good in the world (2 Timothy 3:16-17).*

### **Prayer**

*We believe God desires to be in relationship and in communication with us. We seek to make prayer and discernment a part of everything we do. God desires all people to pray, and He hears and answers our prayers (James 5:13-16; Matthew 7:7-11).*

### **Worship**

*We believe authentic worship leads to a stronger commitment to follow Jesus, inspires a greater understanding of love for others and hope for the world, and prepares us to make a difference in our world. We seek to provide opportunities for relevant, engaging worship that encourages people to understand and acknowledge God’s presence and worth in our lives (Romans 12:1-2).*

### **Church Family**

*We believe all people matter to God, and therefore, matter to the church. We seek to provide opportunities for people to connect in biblical community where they may exercise their gifts, be shepherded, reach the lost, and grow in Christlikeness. We seek to provide an atmosphere which strengthens everyone’s spiritual relationships (Acts 2:42-47).*

### **Missions / Serving**

*We believe we are called to serve our neighbors (Matthew 25:31-46). We believe that a primary role of leaders in the church is to “prepare God’s people for works of service”. We seek to equip people in ways aligned with their spiritual gifts and to encourage them to identify opportunities for service and sharing the Good News for the transformation of the world (Ephesians 4:11-13).*

### **Excellence**

*We believe a commitment to excellence honors God and inspires people. As God gave His best to us in Jesus Christ, we seek to honor Him by maintaining a high standard of excellence in all ministries and missions while providing an atmosphere of continued growth, evaluation, and encouragement (Colossians 3:23-24).*