



## CHURCH PROFILE

### CURRENT MISSION STATEMENT

"All Souls Missoula exists to cultivate authentic communities that engage the city with the love of Jesus Christ. We do this through transformative worship, relationships, celebration and justice."

### VISION

Jesus Christ lived the most beautiful and sacrificial life in all human history. He shows us what true humanity looks like. We see Jesus as our only hope for spiritual rescue. We seek to imitate Him and to rely only on Him for our sense of goodness before God.

We believe the most significant transformations happen within the messy context of real relationships. For this reason, we welcome everyone, whether or not they believe what we believe and profess. We strive to be a safe place to ask questions, explore Jesus, experience healing and be genuine.

We believe we are called to offer hope and act as agents of God's redemptive work. We attempt to pursue these goals in ways that fellow Missoulians can appreciate - even if they don't share our convictions about faith.

### VALUES

**Truth** - Jesus said, "I am the way the truth and the life." We believe that truth exists, it is knowable, and that it has power to transform lives.

**Beauty** - Jesus lived the most beautiful life. We value beauty because it helps us imagine a renewed personal life, a renewed community of believers and a renewed world.

**Community** - Jesus lived in community. Community is the vehicle by which truth is communicated (word and deed) and beauty recognized.

**City** - Jesus wept over Jerusalem because of his deep compassion. We believe that human redemption and renewal through Christ will culminate in a heavenly city, so we spend ourselves for the welfare of our earthly city.

**Grace** - Jesus is the very essence of grace. We believe that grace is the catalyst for transformation and renewal.

## **ALL SOULS STORY**

In 2004, two seminary students from Montana, Christian Cryder and Ryan Sutherland, met in Philadelphia at Westminster Theological Seminary. Two years later they moved back home with their families and with a vision to plant a PCA church for Missoula's un-churched, de-churched or burned-by-the-church. Believing that the gospel of Jesus Christ transforms lives, they began engaging people in brew pubs and coffee shops. Friendships developed and a new community grew. All Souls Missoula began formal public worship in 2008 in the heart of downtown Missoula. In March 2009, worship moved to the Missoula Children's Theater and Center for the Performing Arts. In 2013 All Souls particularized and elected its first elders. At this time Christian left to plant a church in Texas. With Ryan leading as sole pastor, the All Souls community moved forward in its mission to engage the city of Missoula with the love of Jesus Christ. In 2015, we acquired a 10-year lease on a "store-front" in downtown Missoula.

In May 2019, Ryan Sutherland, felt called by God to let go as a Founding Pastor. Although the parting of the Sutherland family was met with great sadness, we are looking forward with anticipation to what God has planned for All Souls. In the meantime, we continue to be a place for people to question, confront, challenge and grow in faith. And, by God's grace, to remain steadfast in community together.

## **THE ALL SOULS COMMUNITY**

On any given Sunday at All Souls, 10% of those in attendance are non-Christians that are full of questions and doubts. Of those who follow Jesus, roughly 85% did not come from another church in Missoula, but rather sought out All Souls as un-churched believers or as new residents of Missoula and were drawn to All Souls as a community of faith in the Reformed Tradition and its mission of community engagement.

A foundational goal of All Souls is to offer a *fresh encounter with ancient faith* – basically what Christians have believed throughout history. We are intentionally a community of faith, in Jesus, where you do not have to share in our conviction in that faith and belief to be our friends. Thus, we see it as a high priority to welcome everyone, regardless of their spiritual convictions. Yet at the same time, we do not shy away from the gospel as we earnestly pursue the truth.

We believe that gathering for corporate worship is one of the most significant things we can do as a church, and that Sunday Worship is the best place to encounter the Living Savior, to grasp the depth and breadth of His Grace, and to dig into our faith. Our music is accessible and intentionally non-contemporary in style. The format of the service is biblical, thoughtful, and follows a liturgy that seeks depth of worship. We conclude our sermon every week by celebrating the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, both as a Means of Grace, as well as a deep reminder of what Jesus has done for each one of us.

We have many young families with pre-school and grade school children. We are exceptionally kid-friendly, encouraging children to participate with their families in the service. During the sermon, we offer Children's Worship for kids through fifth grade.

We celebrate our faith and treasure our relationships in Christ through home groups, Discipleship-Nurturing-Accountability (DNA) small groups, women's ministry, dads-n-kids parties, and seasonal church-wide celebrations. Currently, we have numerous DNA groups that consist of 2-4 men or women that gather for coffee to discuss deep issues of faith. We have three home groups that meet weekly or semi-weekly; one celebrates Christ with song and prayer, another strengthens discipleship through discussion of the previous Sunday's sermon and the third is geared toward parenting of tweens and teens. We have many children that are approaching their junior high and high school years; however, we currently have no targeted ministry to keep them engaged and growing in their faith. We see this as a high priority need as a congregation.

### **OUR CITY**

Missoula is nestled in a valley, surrounded by mountains and rivers. Missoula is also a quintessential University town with Montana's liberal arts and sciences university having a great cultural influence in the city. Missoula is the second largest city in Montana and one of the state's fastest growing regions yet is home to only about 70,000 people. Missoulians are culturally minded with a vibrant downtown full of quaint shops, bakeries, restaurants, breweries, bars, and coffee shops. All Souls is located a half block off of the intersection of Broadway and Higgins – the main business district in the city. As a University town, Missoula boasts a well-educated population. Over 96% of Missoulians have completed high school and 50% have also earned a bachelor's degree. Almost 20% of the population has a graduate or professional degree. Yet, the median household income is barely \$42,000. It's not uncommon to learn that your barista or bartender has a master's degree or a PhD. Missoulians tend to be secular, lovers of the outdoors, lovers of dogs, and engaged in the life of the city. Missoula was recently ranked in the "top 20 best college towns with a population of less than 250,000" by the American Institute for Economic Research and in 2014 ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in Outside Magazine's "The 16 Greatest Places to Live in America." Montana ranks #2 in the nation for craft breweries per capita, and Missoulians love to celebrate their brew.

### **PASTOR'S DESIRED PROFILE**

As part of our pastoral search, members of the Search Committee met with every member of the congregation. The following profile is a synthesis of the desired attributes we seek in a pastor.

We seek a Pastor who will:

- deliver relevant and responsible sermons that engage the congregants in the exposition of Biblical text leading them to repentance, reconciliation, and to a deeper understanding of the gospel and love of Christ.

- teach classical Christianity with contemporary application within a context that is well-educated and embraces the basic creeds of the Westminster Confession.
- seek the Lord in his own spiritual life, humbly recognize the need for Grace in his own life as well as in the lives of others.
- take a leading role in encouraging and equipping us to create relevant ministries (e.g. the development of a teen and tween ministry).
- invest in genuine friendships, proclaim the Gospel of Christ openly in conversation, be approachable, generous and willing to share their life with ours, have compassion for the troubled and hurting.
- finally, endeavor to know, love and nurture our community and our city.

We seek a Pastor who will have the following qualifications:

- hold a Master of Divinity, or equivalent, from a Presbyterian or Reformed Seminary
- meet the requirements of the Book of Church Order of the PCA
- be in agreement with the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms
- be received by the Rocky Mountain Presbytery of the PCA
- two or more years of experience as an assistant, associate, or sole pastor, is preferred

Pastor's Key Tasks are:

- provide spiritual and pastoral oversight to members and attendees of All Souls
- prepare and preach sermons for Sunday morning service
- provide worship service leadership in collaboration with session and music team
- lead and mentor session, staff and lay leaders
- provide training and teaching of new elders and deacons
- provide profession of faith classes for those interested in membership as needed
- oversee church ministries together with the session

### **ALL SOUL'S CURRENT FINANCIAL CONDITION**

Over the past 5 years, All Souls has had an Annual Budget of \$165-\$185K. The current lease on our downtown space is \$3K per month (\$36K per year). Pastoral compensation has been around \$70K. However, All Souls has lost important funding sources over the past 10 months. It is quite likely that the Pastor will need to have some form of external funding until we regrow our congregation.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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