



GET CONNECTED

Easy Steps to Getting Connected at Stow Alliance



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As the old saying goes, **“If you don’t schedule it, it won’t happen.”** This guide will help you intentionally plan the rhythms of church into your regular weekly calendar. We want everyone to be able to answer these 5 questions:

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VISION MISSION VALUES

Welcome to church! We want to help you chart the best course forward for you to come to know Jesus, grow in Him and share Him with others. This guide is designed to help you understand the basic fundamental things we do as a church and to help you put church on your personal calendar.

The Biblical examples of the type of church we want to become are found in the book of Acts. We want to become the early church as it's described in Acts 2 & Acts 13. Based on these Bible passages, we express our vision like this:

Our Vision: to truly be a church that embodies the fullness of Christ in our communities.

We believe that living out Acts 2 & 13 will make us more like Jesus and create a seismic shift in our communities. To make that happen, we have to live out our mission. We express our mission like this:

Our Mission: is to turn ordinary people into fearless world-changing disciple-makers.

Healthy Jesus-centered disciples will change the world. We believe that we can be Jesus-centered disciples in our time. Our Values provide the building blocks for forming disciples. We express our 10 values in these phrases:

Our values determine everything we do and don't do. You can see the values in more detail by clicking [here](https://stowalliance.org/vision) or typing in this link: stowalliance.org/vision. This means that when we have the opportunity to do things that are in line with our values we go for it. Yet, this also means that when we come across things that don't fit our values we are free to say no. We are all in on becoming a church that makes disciples.

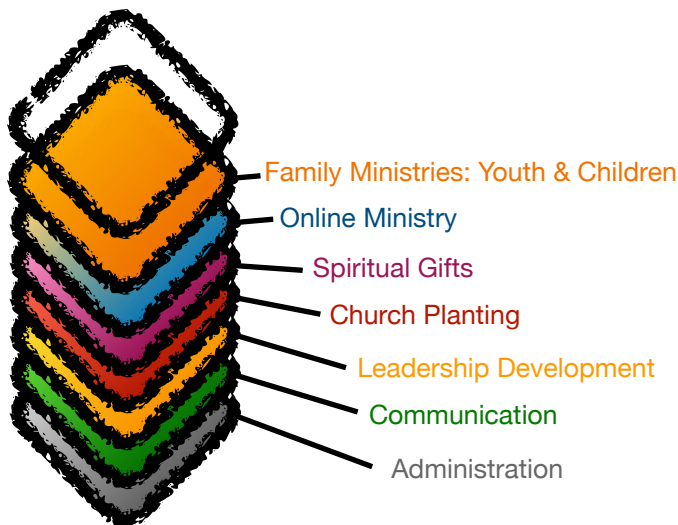
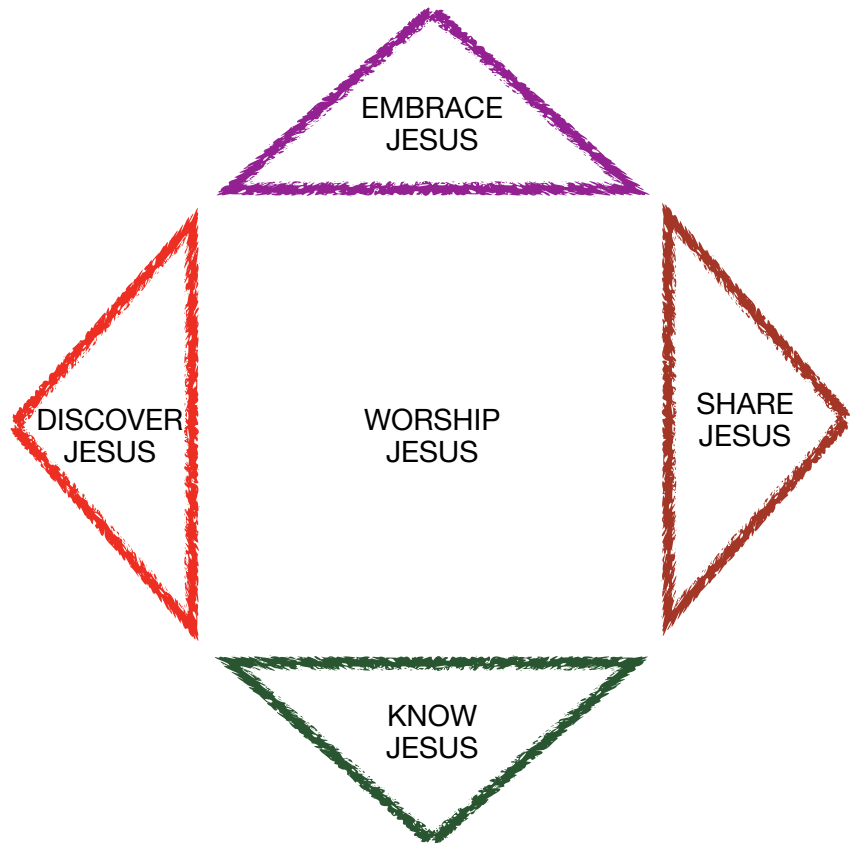
Figuring out how you can become this type of disciple is what the rest of this guide is all about. We have a variety of steps you can take that will help you in becoming a fearless world-changing disciple-maker.

Our Values

Explicit Faith
Relentless Prayer
Scripture Devoted
Worldwide Engagement
Sacrificial Generosity
Invitational Storytelling
Holistic Redemption
Integrated Leadership Development
Multigenerational Impact
Exuberant Celebration

OUR MODEL

The picture we use to describe the church model we use is called the 'Town Square'. It looks like this:



Below the Town Square are supporting foundation layers represented by these themes and ministries.

There are 5 components to the Town Square. One is the central gathering of the church for Worship. We do that on Sunday mornings and on other special occasions. From that gathering the church is always moving in an outward direction. These outward expressions are represented in different environments and initiatives.

Discovering Jesus is represented by the Alpha Course. Knowing Jesus is represented by Rooted, where you learn the basics of discipleship. Embracing Jesus is represented by studying the Bible in a Next Level Course. Sharing Jesus is represented by serving in local and global missions initiatives.

This is the way we're structured. So now to the big question: **What's this mean for you?** In short, "calendar church". Use the remaining sections to help you take intentional planning steps to make the Town Square come to life. We believe that if you give engaged time to this process you will see your life and the lives of your coworkers, friends, and community change.

“

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
- Hebrews 10:24-25

PRAISE & WORSHIP

The church is the only place that gathers all the people from all the different areas of life and commerce on a weekly basis.

It's special to be together with God and each other. We believe that being together in community and seeking God is more important than ever.

Corporate praise & worship is an essential step for both Christians and non-Christians (1 Cor. 14:25) to take. So let's take that step together.

Sunday mornings look like this:

9am Service*

Next Level Classes

- Adult Class - Option 1
(See Next Level)
- Classic Sunday School
- **Kids** Class
- **Youth** Class

10:45am Service*

Treasure Seekers
(Kids K-5th dismiss after the music)

Next Level Classes

- Adult Class - Option 2
(See Next Level)



*Coffee is offered before and in-between services.

All you need to do is do the following:

PICK YOUR SERVICE

PICK YOUR COURSE

PUT THESE ON YOUR CALENDAR

If you have **kids**,

- When you choose the 9am service, they will either go to church with you the entire service or go to class.
- When you choose the 10:45am service, they will go to church with you and then be dismissed to Treasure Seekers part way through the service.

If you have **youth**,

- There is one 'youth only' Next Level course option at 9am
- Teenagers are encouraged to attend church, serve in other ministries or attend courses with adults at 10:45am

NEXT STEPS: Once you've gotten Church on your calendar take one of these next steps

1. Share your info. 2. Attend Alpha. 3. Register for Rooted. 4. Take a Next Level Course. 5. Try an Activity Group.

ALPHA

The Alpha Course is designed to help you explore the basics of the Christian faith in a safe conversational environment. Alpha seeks to answer the question “Is there more to life than this?”

In answering this question, you will go on a journey of exploring some of the core fundamentals of the Christian faith. This course is primarily conversation based. We will have a meal together. Hear a talk. Then share our thoughts in groups. No question is off limits in Alpha.

Alpha runs twice a year (September & January) and runs for 11 weeks. To be part of Alpha, simply come. You may also want to bring some friends with you. We like to ask everyone to be thinking about 3 people they can invite to take a step towards faith by attending the Alpha Course. So, who are your 3? Prayerfully ask God to show you who you will invite to try Alpha.

Who are your three?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



You can preregister for Alpha by clicking [here](#) or by typing in this link: stowalliance.org/alpha and filling out the form at the bottom of the page.

What do I do with my kids/youth? If you have teenagers they will have the choice to attend Alpha or to participate in Wednesday night youth ministry. We also have a Wednesday night Children's Ministry that covers Nursery-5th Grade. Your whole family is invited to dinner as well.

NEXT STEPS: Once you've completed Alpha take one of these next steps

1. Register for Rooted.
2. Take a Next Level Course.
3. Try an Activity Group.
4. Volunteer for the Alpha Team.

PRESCHOOL



Stow Alliance Preschool is a ministry of Stow Alliance. We minister to children ages 3-5, as well as their families. We strive to provide a learning environment that allows all children to learn through a variety of experiences such as: creative arts, literacy, socio-dramatic, gross motor, science and several other ways they can explore the environment around them. We encourage children to reach their educational potential and have the readiness skills needed for Kindergarten. Register [here](https://stowalliance.org/preschool) or by typing in this link: stowalliance.org/preschool.

The Bible is presented in the classroom every day through stories, creative art projects, songs, dramatic play, and sometimes we have the children retell the story. The Gospel message is presented throughout the year and with special emphasis at Christmas and Easter. The children are given the time and encouragement to instill a love of Jesus and a love of learning that will continue on throughout their life.

Families of preschool students, MOPS and church families are always invited to attend church at Stow Alliance and to join in all the special events throughout the school year. You are also invited to the Community Picnic (Fall), Family Craft Day (Christmas time), Spring Family Day (Easter time) and Summer Ministry (June).

If your kids and/or grandkids are already grown, we encourage you to look around your neighborhood for families you can tell about the preschool. Use the box below to write down their names and when you will invite them to explore Stow Alliance Preschool.

Who do you see in your neighborhood who has young children?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

NEXT STEPS: If your kids are already part of Preschool, take one of these next steps

1. Attend a family activity. 2. Attend Alpha. 3. Try an Activity Group. 4. Attend Church. 5. Register for Rooted.

ROOTED



Rooted establishes the template for how we live out Acts 2 today. Rooted is community based and will teach you the process of discipleship that we follow. Rooted is a big commitment and we want to see everyone go through it. There are even some things you won't be able to do until you've gone through Rooted because it's that essential to us. Once you complete Rooted, your group will have the option to continue to live out this discipleship lifestyle as a Life Group.

Rooted is offered up to 3 times a year. We call them semesters.

- Fall (August Launch)
- Winter (January Launch)
- Spring (April Launch)

You can sign up for Rooted [here](#) or type in this link: stowalliance.org/rooted. Once you've signed up for a Rooted semester you will want to make sure you have the answers to these questions on your calendar. Use these boxes to capture the info.

Who's in your Rooted group and when do we meet?

When & where is our prayer experience?

When & where is our serve experience?

When & where is the Rooted Celebration?

Work with your group to get these on your calendar.

What do I do with my kids during Rooted?

Answer: This will be determined by your Rooted Group on week 1. Your group may also opt to have your Rooted group meet at the church during other scheduled children's & youth ministry gatherings.

NEXT STEPS: Once you've completed Rooted take one of these next steps

1. Decide to continue as a Life Group.
2. Take a Next Level Course.
3. Become a Rooted Leader.
4. Join a Ministry Team.

ACTIVITY GROUPS

If you're not ready for Rooted but want to explore some community, simply jump into one of our **Activity Groups**. These run throughout the year and you can view them [here](#) or by typing in this link: stowalliance.org/activitygroups

MOPS

(Mothers of Preschoolers)

MOPS meets at
**9:30 am on the
second Tuesday**
(September-May)

Child care is
included and the
coffee is fresh!

Friendship Connection

(Over 50 years old)

3rd Thursday
12:30 pm
(Winter)
6 pm (Summer)

When you join this
group you will hear
Gospel inspired
messages and foster
new and lasting
friendships.

Young Adults

7pm, Sunday

4:12 is a ministry
to young adults,
focusing on
engaging as a
group with
discussion and
prayer.

We also cook
soup to give away
once a month.

Prayer Groups

Tuesday Night
7p, Via Zoom

Monday in the Chapel
Mon Afternoon
12:30p (1st & 3rd Mon)
Mon Evening
7p (2nd & 4th Mon)

Volleyball

6p Every other
Saturday
Everyone 18+

Meets at Stow
Alliance gym.

Basketball

9a Saturday,
Men 18+

Meets at Stow
Alliance gym.

Softball

May-August, Men
18+ Monday
Games

Email Jason to join
the team

kalliojason@yahoo.com

NEXT STEPS: Once you've joined an Activity Group take one of these next steps

1. Attend Church. 2. Attend Alpha. 3. Register for Rooted. 3. Take a Next Level Course. 4. Join a Ministry Team.

NEXT LEVEL

“

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. - 1 Timothy 3:14-15

COURSE KEY:

“**R**” = Completion of **Rooted** First

“**NT**” = Completion of What is New Testament?

“**OT**” = Completion of What is Old Testament?

A = Adults Only

Y = Youth Eligible

We believe the church is a central place for teaching the truth. Next Level courses are designed to help you go to the ‘Next Level’ in your understanding of core truths and teachings of God’s Word. Some courses will require you to complete Rooted before you can take the course. Some courses have been designed to mix the older and younger generations. Parents of **youth**, look for the blue “**Y**” to see which courses include **youth**.

Not every course is offered every year, so use this guide to help you track which courses you have attended or want to attend next.

CARE & RECOVERY

In addition to growing in your knowledge of God's Word, sometimes we need extra help working through emotional struggles or traumas. Part of ‘Next Level’ is helping get you connected to the right counselor. If you would like to pursue this path please reach out to one of our pastors and we will help refer you. You can also view a list of quality counseling options [here](http://stowalliance.org/recovery) on our website or by typing in this link: stowalliance.org/recovery.



Tuesday 7pm

Wed 9:30am

(Begins in September and January)

Everyone walks through Grief in a unique way. Grief Share will help you process your feelings of loss in a safe and caring environment.

Grief Share meets in the Community Room at Stow Alliance. Everyone is welcome.

NEXT STEPS: Once you’ve completed a Next Level course take one of these next steps

1. Attend Church.
2. Attend Alpha.
3. Register for Rooted.
3. Take another Next Level Course.
4. Go on a Mission Trip.

NEXT LEVEL

Level One Courses:

- Y Men's Bible Study
(Tuesday 7pm)
- Y Women's Bible Study
(Wednesday 7pm)
- Y Women's Bible Study
(Thursday 9:30am)
- Y What is the Old Testament?
- Y What is the New Testament?
- Y SDI Training
- Y What is Membership?
- Y What is Baptism?
- Y Basic Bible Study Training
- Y Exploring Spiritual Gifts
- A Marriage & Family
- A Parenting
- A Caregiving for an Adult
Family Member
- Financial Peace University
- The Image of God
- A R The Reason For God
- A R The Story of God

Level Two Courses:

- Church History
- "Church Around the World"
- Historical Church Creeds
- NT Gospels
- NT General Epistles
- OT Pentateuch
- NT Paul's Letters
 - NT Romans
 - NT 1 & 2 Corinthians
 - NT Prison Epistles
 - NT Letters to the Galatians &
Thessalonians
 - NT Letters to Church Leaders
(Titus & Timothy)
- Practical Theology
- OT Psalms
- NT Hebrews
- NT Acts of the Apostles
- NT Parables of the Savior
- NT Miracles of the Savior
- OT The Divided Kingdom
(1 & 2 Kings & Chronicles)

Level Three Courses:

- OT Prophetic Writings
 - OT Isaiah
 - OT Jeremiah &
Lamentations
 - OT Ezekiel
 - OT Daniel
 - OT Minor Prophets
- Apologetics
- NT Revelation
- Hermeneutics

**What Course are
you taking next?**

“

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” - Acts 1:8

MISSIONS

Our faith is not meant for us alone. It's also meant to have an impact on the church body and the world. We want you to choose one way to serve the church and one way to serve in the community. Your community service may be a natural part of your **Rooted** group adopting a specific mission, or you may opt to do an additional ministry of your choosing or interest. The options that we believe are family friendly are marked with an 'F'.

Where are you serving in the community?

Visit this [page](#) for a list of our partner ministries or type in this link: stowalliance.org/programs/missions.

If you're interested in Church Planting, please see one of our pastors to talk about what's on your heart.

Where are you serving in the church?

Serving in the church is a normal part of being in a church family. We have a wide range of options. To start serving, talk to one of the pastors and they will connect you to the ministry leader so you can get started exploring which ministry is the best fit for your spiritual gifts.

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| F Youth Leader | F Event Support |
| F Children's Leader | F Hospitality Team |
| Teacher/Coordinators | F Coffee Team |
| Intern/Apprentice | F Stage Design/Video/Screen Design |
| Trustee | F MOPS |
| Deacon/Deaconess | Alpha Team |
| F Care Team | Local Missions Coordinator |
| F Worship | Sports |
| F Tech Support | F Prayer |
| F Social Media/ Web Team | F Food Distribution |

- Chapel/Midweek Service Host
- Awareness Team
- Online Church Host
- Global, Local Outreach Committee
- F Building Beautification

F = Family Friendly. These ministries can be done with kids or during other ministry times your kids will be attending.

NEXT STEPS: Once you've joined a Ministry Partner or a Ministry Team take one of these next steps

1. Attend Church. 2. Invite others to Attend Alpha. 3. Register for Rooted. 4. Take a Next Level Course. 5. Serve well.

KIDS



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." - Matthew 19:14

Children's Ministry is designed to **BUILD A PASSIONATE GENERATION OF GOSPEL BELIEVERS.**

When a child comes through Children's Ministry and moves into Youth Ministry, we want them to look a lot like 12 year old Jesus (Luke 2). We have multiple environments for Children from Nursery through 5th Grade. These environments mirror the Town Square picture for the adults. You can explore more about Children's Ministry [here](#) or by typing in this link: stowalliance.org/kids.

Way Finders

Wednesday Night, 7-8:30pm

Wednesday night from 7-8:30pm we offer Way Finders. This time has a unique evangelistic focus that will introduce kids to the basics of the story of Jesus. Way Finders is designed to minister to kids all the way from PreK-5th grade.

Treasure Seekers

Sunday Morning, 10:30am Service

We want kids in the worship service with adults, but we also know they need lessons that speak directly to them. Our practice is to dismiss kids to Treasure Seekers after the music portion of the service. This time will have a discipleship focus and will explore living a life for Jesus. Parents will pick up their kids after the service on the 2nd floor. A volunteer will help you sign out your child. Treasure Seekers has two age groups: PreK & K, 1-5th grade.

Next Level Kids

Sunday Morning, 9am

These classes will focus on teaching your kids to both know and use the Bible. Parents can check their kids into these classes in the lobby or on the 2nd floor. A volunteer will help you sign out your child. We will start with two classes for different age groups but may expand as class sizes grow.

Class 1: PreK-K

Class 2: 1st-5th

Nursery

Sunday & Wednesday

We offer Nursery for children 0-3 during the 10:45am Sunday service and during Midweek Family Night on Wednesdays. The nursery is located on the first floor at the far end of the lobby. Parents can sign their kids in at the Nursery door.

YOUTH

“

And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you
fishers of men.” - Matthew 4:19

Youth Ministry is designed to train and equip young people to own their faith, stand firm in the faith, and reach the world with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. We have multiple environments for Youth grades 6-12. These environments mirror the Town Square picture for the adults. You can explore Youth Ministry more by clicking [here](https://stowalliance.org/youth) or by typing in this link: stowalliance.org/youth.

Youth Group

Wednesday 7-8:30pm, Room 30 (Lower Level)

Grades 6-12 gather for group games, worship, teaching, Q&A time and small group discussion. All students are encouraged to invite friends. This time is designed to introduce teenagers to the person and work of Jesus.

Next Level Youth Courses

Sunday 9am, Room 31 (Lower Level)

Students in grades 6-12 meet for a deeper look at Biblical truths. Bring your Bible and a friend and explore God's word together.

Youth Small Groups

Sunday 5:30-7pm, Room 30 (Lower Level)

Small groups are led by adult leaders weekly and are designed to help students grow in their spiritual journey. It also allows for more personal discussion and accountability. Small groups are divided by gender and meet in person.

Events & Summer Ministry

In the summer we have a few fun events planned but the most important one is Summer Ministry. During the month of June, our Summer Interns will be leading our students in creating and leading a camp for 3 different neighborhoods in our community. You can explore more by clicking [here](https://stowalliance.org/summer) or by typing in this link: stowalliance.org/summer.

Fun events include: Retreats, Missions Trips, Cedar Point, an annual Canoe Trip, and more.

STAY CONNECTED

Get the Church App

The easiest way to stay in the loop is to get the tithe.ly Church app

For a step by step guide to getting our Church App and for setting up your giving profile, just click [here](#) or type in this link and click 'Get the Guide': stowalliance.org/give. If you get stuck or have questions please contact the [church office](#) by email at office@stowalliance.org.

Please note there are two apps. Only get the [blue](#) one.



<— This one is for general church engagement.
Get the **blue** one, ***not*** the green one.

This one is for online giving only—>

