

Sturbridge Worship Center Membership Pack

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Contact Information:

Church Website: <https://sturbridgeworshipcenter.com/>

Church Office Email: office@swc.church

Pastor Email: pastor@swc.church

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WELCOME TO STURBRIDGE WORSHIP CENTER

Welcome to Sturbridge Worship Center and to this new member's pack.

WHO ARE WE?

Sturbridge Worship Center is a thriving church that touches our region and the wider world with the transforming power and presence of God. We are a Spirit-Filled church. We celebrate the power, presence, and gifts of the Holy Spirit as a normal part of the Christian life. We are a church that loves the message of Faith. We believe that faith is the victory that overcomes the world. We see faith in God's word as the basis for the life of victory that God calls us all to walk in.

MISSION

We are a church on a mission. Our primary goal is not to get people into the church but to equip and release people to change the world. We believe we have a specific call to touch our town, the wider New England area and the nations of the world.

COMMUNITY

At our core, SWC is a community of believers. God calls us into a deep relationship with him and with our fellow believers. We see ourselves as a tribe, a group of friends and pilgrims walking out the Christian life together.

GROWTH & DISCIPLESHIP

As church members we are committed to growing, learning, and discovering who God is and what it truly means to be in Christ Jesus. We place a high value on discipleship and provide many opportunities to learn and develop on our journey with God.

CHURCH EVENTS

SUNDAY

- 8am Worship Practice
- 9am Prayer
- 9:25am Bible Teaching (10 mins)
- 10am Celebration service
- 11am Children Church
- 11am Livestream
- 12 Lunch & coffee in the church café

WEDNESDAY

- 6:30pm Prayer in the café
- 7pm Evening Service.

THURSDAYS

- 7pm Youth Service (every second Thursday)

SATURDAY

- Sat 8am Ministry Mentoring with Pastor Graham (First Saturday of each month)

MISSION TEAM

Members of our church are invited to participate in our New England Mission Team which supports our church plants and events in the region and overseas.

NEWSLETTER

On our church website, www.sturbridgeworshipcenter.com, you may sign up to receive a weekly email newsletter.

Facebook groups: SWC Community, New England Healing Rooms

LEADERSHIP

SWC is led by Pastor Graham & Léa Jones. Originally from England, Graham's heart and passion is revival and seeing the presence and power of God released back into the church. Graham speaks in churches, conferences, universities, and businesses in different countries each year. He brings a breath of fresh air and passion to God's people as he encourages them to come back to simple supernatural Christianity. Graham has been involved in missions and church planting in Europe, India, and North America for many years. Graham & his wife Léa have a mission base in the south of France. Graham has been an ordained minister with IGO (International Gospel Outreach) in the UK for many years.

ELDERS

SWC has a wonderful team who serve together with Pastor Graham to lead and guide the church. This team meets every month to pray and talk through all areas of the church. Our elder team plays an active part in the life of the church including teaching and preaching in our services. Our elder team comprises: Bert Doyen, Sharon Doyen, Kim Bellil, Ron Walters, Debbie Walters, Matt Peabody

STAFF

Pastor Graham has a great staff team who work to serve the needs of the church:

- Carol Wexler – Church administrator
- Jessica White – Bookkeeper and project assistant
- John Marr – Pastoral assistant and building manager

TEAM LEADERS

- WORSHIP – Tania Duperoy, Carol Wexler
- CHILDREN'S MINISTRY – Cheryl Hill
- KITCHEN AND HOSPITALITY – Debbie Walters
- GREETING TEAM – Robin Rochette
- HEALING & PROPHETIC TEAM – John Marr
- YOUTH MINISTRY – Rebecca Aguilar, Marc & Janie Mersereau, Noa Jones
- WOMEN'S MINISTRY – Léa Jones
- WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE – John Marr
- AUDIO – Jonathan Rochette
- VIDEO - Sandy Jones & Kim Bellil

MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER OF STURBRIDGE WORSHIP CENTER?

Our church is always open and welcoming to anyone who wants to visit. We exist to bless, serve and proclaim the good news to our community. While we love to receive visitors and be a blessing to those who are in transition, we believe that every Christian should make a commitment to become a member of a local church. At Sturbridge Worship Center we look at membership as an invitation to fully participate in the life of our church and become a part of our church family.

How to become a member of Sturbridge Worship Center (or simply find out more):

STEP ONE

Take a moment to read through this packet, look over the vision and values of our church below and watch the welcome video on our website.

STEP TWO

Attend a New Members Class. On the first Sunday of each month, we hold a New Members Class after our Sunday Service. This class lasts around 25 minutes, and it is a place to get to know about our church community and find out how you can thrive at Sturbridge Worship Center. To sign up for this class, fill out the form on our website (or sign up in person at our connection table).

STEP THREE

After attending the class, if you would like to become a member, fill out the form provided during the class and return to the class facilitator or the welcome desk.

STEP FOUR

On the first Sunday of each month, we publicly welcome our new members, pray for them, and welcome them into our church fellowship.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Our members are those who believe that this is their church family, those who make a serious commitment in the five following areas:

ATTEND

Our members are those who make a commitment to be regular attendees at our Sunday services. We understand that many live busy, and sometimes complicated lives, but we ask that our members try to attend an average of half our Sunday gatherings.

GIVE

SWC church is supported by the tithes and offerings of our church members. As members we commit to give 10% of our real-world income to our church mission as an integral part of our worship.

SERVE

We encourage all our church members to find an area of the church where they can help, serve and contribute to the life of the church. We can help you find the right spot to serve that works for you. If you are interested in serving on a team please fill out the form at the Welcome Table on Sundays. We ask that everyone serving on a team be a committed member of the church. Serving is a great way to connect with others.

COMMUNITY

A church is a family! Church membership means to spend time connecting, loving, praying and fellowshiping with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are a community of friends and invite you to join. Attending services, fellowship time after service and serving are some ways of engaging with the community.

INVITE

We believe one of God's most important calls on our life is to share the gospel with others. One of the easiest ways of doing this is by inviting someone to come to church with you. Our members are those who make a serious ongoing commitment to enlarge the church by inviting others.

BELIEFS

Sturbridge Worship Center church has a classical evangelical doctrine of faith.

Doctrine can seem complicated and difficult to understand but it is valuable to understand the faith that the church has held for 2000 years.

-We believe the entire Bible to be the inspired, infallible Word of God, the revelation of God's will for man and the divine and final authority for the Christian life. (2 Tim 3:16-17).

-We believe in one God, the creator of all things, who is revealed in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4, Jn 15:26)

-We acknowledge Jesus Christ as true God and true man – conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, crucified, and resurrected – our High Priest and Advocate now seated at the right hand of God the Father (Mt 1:18, Heb 12:2)

-We believe in personal salvation and forgiveness of sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, acknowledging every person's need for the grace and mercy of God. (Rom 3:23, Eph 1:7, 1Ptr 1:3, 1 Jn 1:9)

-We believe in the eventual resurrection of the dead, the eternal happiness of the saved, and the eternal punishment of the lost. (Jn 14:1-3, 1 Jn 5:11, Rev 20:15)

-We baptize in water all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ and who desire to publicly identify with Him, in accordance with the Bible's command. (Mt 28:19, Act 8:36-39, Rom 6:4)

-We believe in the present supernatural ministry of the Holy Spirit, whose purpose is to glorify Jesus Christ and instruct and empower every believer for godly living and service. (Jn 16:13, 1 Cor 12:1-11)

-We believe that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is a promise from the Father for every believer and is distinct and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. Speaking in tongues, as the Holy Spirit gives utterance, is a physical indication of the baptism with the Holy Spirit. (Mt 3:11, Acts 2:4, 38-39, 19:4-6)

-We serve the Lord's Supper and, according to Scripture, remember Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross and celebrate His resurrection power. (Lk 22:19-20, 1 Cor 11:23-26)

-We believe in the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and that His appearance will be accompanied by a bodily resurrection of those who have died in Christ. (Mt 24:29-31, 1 Th 4:13-18)

-We believe that Jesus is the Healer. (Isa 53:5, Mt 8:16-17, Jam 5:14-15, 1 Pe 2:24)

-We believe in the power and effectiveness of prayer. (Phi 4:6-7, Jam 5:15-16)

-We believe in God's terrific plan for each of His followers to honor God and help people. (Mt 5:16, 25:40, Jer 29:11.)

There are also Standards of Ministry outlining expectations of members who serve in leadership roles within the church. These are posted on our church website.

STANDARDS OF MINISTRY

1. Agreement to the Statement of Faith.

Christians from different backgrounds can hold varying opinions on minor subjects but it is important that we are all in agreement on the fundamental, foundational beliefs of the faith. Refer to the statement of faith.

2. Committed members of SWC.

It is important that those who serve in a ministry of SWC are committed members of our church community. We understand regular church attendance and tithing to be an important part of that commitment.

3. Biblical Authority.

When serving in a spiritual ministry at SWC, we are both exercising and operating under the authority of the church. It is important that we serve with a willingness to submit to the leaders over us. There will be times when we all think that our way of doing something is better than the leader. Recognizing authority means that we submit both in our actions and our hearts with good grace.

4. Humility and a teachable spirit.

At SWC, we believe that it is important that we are open to input, constructive criticism and guidance from those who lead the different departments of the church. It is a natural reflex when we feel someone is critiquing us to immediately

defend ourselves. We believe that mature Christians are those who will choose to step into humility and take on-board advice and guidance.

5. Commitment to personal holiness.

As a church we teach and believe that God forgives all our sin upon repentance, but that repentance also means turning from a lifestyle of sin. We welcome anyone in our church gatherings but require that those who serve in a spiritual capacity embrace a lifestyle of holiness as defined by biblical standards.

We believe that the bible teaches a commitment to sexual purity and that the only legitimate context for a sexual relationship is between one man and one woman who are married for life. We ask for a commitment that anyone serving in a spiritual ministry at SWC abstain from sex outside of marriage, cohabiting with a partner, homosexual/lesbian relationships, pornography, etc.

6. Personal issues.

We ask that anyone struggling with any deep personal issues such as depression, substance abuse/addictions, mental issues, anger management, etc., abstain from spiritual ministry. Our desire as a church is that we all live in Christ's freedom and minister it to others. If you are battling something in your life right now it may be wiser to walk through those issues personally before you seek to help others.

If you are struggling with any of these areas, in advance of participating in spiritual ministry please speak to Pastor Graham who will keep that in confidence.

NEXT STEPS

Thanks for making it this far! If you are interested in becoming an SWC member, please fill out the form below and hand it to the New Member Coordinator or the Welcome Desk. One of our team members will contact you shortly.

-Date Attended New Member Class _____

-Full Name _____

-Email Address _____

-Cell Phone _____

-How long have you been a believer? _____

-Have you been baptized? ___Yes ___No

-Have you read through this document? ___Yes ___No

-Are you willing to walk within the beliefs and values of Sturbridge Worship Center? ___Yes ___No

-Are you willing to participate in regular attendance and tithing? ___Yes ___No

-Are you interested in serving in a part of the church? ___Yes ___No

-Please circle area(s) of interest: Greeting - Facility Helps - Audio - Video - Altar - Kitchen/Hospitality - Children - Youth - Worship - Prophetic - Healing - Teaching -

Other _____

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member! One of our team members will reach out to you shortly.

-Below Line is For New Member Coordinator to Complete.

-Date Form Received _____ -Date Introduced _____

-Follow-up Notes _____