

## **“COMING OUT OF THE CLOSET!”**

**“Everything You’re Missing (That You Already Have)” July 6, 2025**

**Ephesians 5:1-2 1 Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (NIV)**

**Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light. (NIV)**

**Ephesians 5:11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. (NIV)**

**Ephesians 5:14 This is why it is said:**

**“Wake up, sleeper,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.” (NIV)**

### **5 Steps to Coming Out of the Closet And into the Light**

**Step 1: Believe that you are already dearly loved by God.**

**Ephesians 5:1 Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children. (NIV)**

**Step 2: Get rid of your discount version of life.**

**John 10:10 The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give people a rich and satisfying life. (NLT)**

**Hebrews 11:25 "He chose to suffer with God's people instead of having fun doing sinful things for awhile." (LB)**

**Hebrews 11:25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. (NIV)**

**Ephesians 5:3-5 3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.**

**4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.**

**5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. (NIV)**

**Ephesians 2:8-9 8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. (NLT)**

**John 3:16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. (NIV)**

**Ephesians 5:8 'For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.' (NIV)**

**Step 3 Don't hide the things God wants to heal.**

**Ephesians 5:11–13 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. (NIV)**

**Step 4: See what God sees in you.**

**Ephesians 5:14–17 14 “Wake up, sleeper,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”**

**15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,**

**16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.**

**17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. (NIV)**

**Step 5: Let the right thing fill you!**

**Ephesians 5:18–20 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead,  
be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs  
from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving  
thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (NIV)**

### **ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **“THE BAIT OF SATAN”**

**Summer Small Group led by Krystal Elder**

**Fridays Starting July 11th - August 22nd**

**6:00 - 8:30 pm Pot luck supper begins at 6 and study begins at 6:45 pm**

**Are you compelled to tell your side of the story?**

**Do you fight thoughts of suspicion or distrust?**

**Are you constantly rehearsing past hurts?**

**Have you lost hope because of what someone did to you?**

*The Bait of Satan* exposes one of the most deceptive snares Satan uses to get believers out of the will of God--offense. This trap restrains countless Christians, severs relationships, and widens the gulfs between us. Jesus said, "It is impossible that no offenses should come" (Luke 17:1). Although you *will* encounter offense, you can choose how you will react.

**Come and join us this summer on Fridays nights at 6 pm starting July 11th! If you're interested, please fill out the form in the bulletin and return it to Ernie or Krystal.**

**CHURCH YARD SIGNS!**- Please take a yard sign (or two) home with you to promote our church to our neighbors. We have red, yellow and multicolored signs with our church logo on one side - and "4U - Because You Matter to God" on the other side. The signs are located in the foyer area - just to your left as you leave the worship center.

**PRAYER** - Toward the end of our closing song two of our deacons will come up to the left of the stage to offer prayer for anyone that would like to speak with them. They will, then hang around for a few more minutes in case anyone needs prayer.

**OFFERING BOXES** - If you would like to leave an offering to go to the general funds for Ashland Community Church, you can drop it off in one of the offering boxes that are just to the right and left of the doors before you leave the worship center. There is also an offering box just to the left of the door if you leave the worship center from the door in the front of the worship center. Thank you for your gifts that are enabling us to increase our ministries!

**YOUTH GROUP** - Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 PM. They will be meeting in the dining room downstairs.

**WORSHIP AT THE BEACH (COOKOUT AND BAPTISMS)!**- Our annual worship service at the Ashland Beach is scheduled for Sunday, August 24th at 10 am. We will be serving a cookout for everyone at the beach right after the worship service, and then having some more baptisms! Please see Ernie if you or someone you know would like to get baptized on that day.

**BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY!** - September 21st! - Save the date! We're planning to have a big celebration this year as we start having two Sunday morning worship services ( 9 & 10:45 am). We'll be recruiting for several positions that still need to be filled in order to make this a success, and we'll be looking for lots of volunteers for several projects to make our church look great for this special occasion. We'll keep you posted with plenty of updates up until the big event.