

**Being a disciple begins within our baptismal service and vows of membership, which include: *prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.* Here is what a disciple of Jesus looks like at Hope Ridge:**

**Worship:**

Regular attendance in weekly worship connects us to God and one another. Disciples attend worship weekly unless they are sick or out of town.

**Nurture Others:**

Disciples seek regular involvement in a small group to be nurtured, grow, and be accountable to others. This may be a group and in other cases may be a prayer partner or spiritual mentor.

**Nurture by the Holy Spirit:**

Disciples have spiritual disciplines in their own lives that connect them to God. This can include many forms of devotion, prayer, Bible reading, meditation, or silence.

**Generosity:**

Striving to live generously is a part of the recognition that God has given us love, grace, gifts, abilities, and so much more; all that originated from God. Disciples see that tithing is a Biblical standard to strive for, but giving in some form is a part of shaping our heart to look like Christ's.

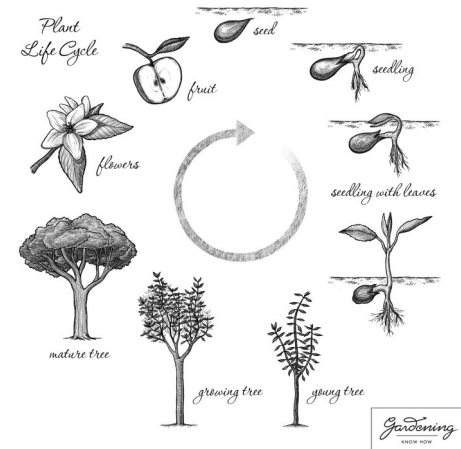
**Serving and Witness:**

Jesus was first a servant, so as disciples we consistently use our spiritual gifts to serve and witness to others within and beyond the walls of the church building.

## How are you growing on your journey with God?

Each year, we need to take time to ask:

1. Look inside and identify where are you on the discipleship path?
2. How is it with your soul in each of the areas of being a disciple: worship, nurture, generosity, service, and witness?
3. How are you staying accountable to staying on the journey of following Jesus, and not get too comfortable? What is the next step you see yourself taking as a challenge on your discipleship journey?



## Our Journey of Maturing

Are you growing in your knowledge, love, and service of Jesus Christ?

Our vows of membership are about being Jesus' disciples:  
Prayers , Presence, Gifts, Service,  
Witness



**Hope Ridge**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Find your starting place on the journey:**

**Visitor**

**Seeds of life with Jesus planted**

**Growing as a Disciple**

**Mature Disciple**

**Disciple Bearing Fruit**

**Are you here?**

We want to help you find your way and place.

You are welcome here!

You've begun to attend worship regularly. You do not yet participate in the life of the church beyond worship attendance.

You have recently committed or recommitted your life to Christ. Now is the time to learn what a life in Christ is all about!

You have been walking with Christ for awhile. You attend worship regularly, participate in nurturing others, have a personal spiritual disciple for nurture, are generous, serve, and witness to others.

You are on your way. You joyfully serve God and others. You are an influencer through the fruit of the Spirit and through your spiritual gifts. And regularly invite others to join you on your journey.

**How to grow to the next place on the journey...**

Keep coming back to **worship**, that is a great way to start. Regular attendance in worship and other church activities can help you begin to explore this faith community and expand your journey.

Take the next step. Invite Christ into your life or commit yourself to following Jesus. Begin to participate in the life of the church beyond worship attendance, in areas of **nurture**.

Be intentional about including Christ into all aspects of your life. Use your spiritual gifts to **serve** in the life of the church.

Commit yourself to follow Christ fully, putting Christ first. Being **generous** with your time, talent, and treasures.

Try new things that challenge your faith, and open you to the movement of the Holy Spirit. **Witness** to others about how God is transforming you. Invite others to be a visitor and join the journey.

**Opportunities, habits, and practices to help you grow in Christian maturity...**

- Become a *regular attender* in worship
- Attend Coffee with the Pastor
- Get to know others in the church
- Meet with the pastor

- Baptism
- Participate in 'Following Jesus' small group, and become a *professing member*
- Take the Spiritual Gifts Assessment
- Begin reading the Bible
- Prayer
- Join a small group or class
- Serve for a church event or activity

- Serve within the church on a regular basis
- Have personal spiritual discipline
- Read the Bible daily
- Serve at a local mission
- Serve in the community as a representative of Hope Ridge
- Take the Basic class for Lay Servants

- Give financially to the church.
- Take the Financial Peace University class to develop financial practices
- Be a part of a small group ongoing
- Serve on a team or committee to help lead the church
- Commit to a week long mission trip
- Go on the Emmaus Walk
- Take advanced Lay Servant courses
- Participate in classes at [BeADisciple.org](http://BeADisciple.org)

- Invite others to join you on your faith journey at HRUMC
- Mentor someone new to the congregation
- Lead a Life Group
- Share your story of faith with others through witness
- Make a commitment to be a leader at HRUMC or the broader UMC
- Continue lay servant training
- Lead new ministry opportunities

