"This We Believe" is a new series based in our Statement of Faith. Your pastors believe it is a timely series as our affiliation with the Church of the Brethren ends, as some have questioned, "Are we changing?"

Also, the past years of the withdrawal process have caused us to focus more on who we aren't than who we are. It's time to refocus.

It "does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of what we believe."

"We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God - and therefore - the final authority for faith and life."

# THIS WE BELIEVE:

# INSPIRED, INFALLIBLE, AUTHORITATIVE

2 Timothy 3:15-17

2 TIM. 3:15

"The holy Scriptures...are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

All Scripture – OT and NT – points to the person and work of Jesus Christ.

"You received the word of God...not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe." 1 Thess. 2:13

#### 2 TIM. 3:16

"God-breathed"

"...men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." 2 Pet. 2:21

Far too many people sit around wishing God would speak to them. He has!

Are we reading it?

#### AND IS USEFUL FOR...

Teaching – Doctrine (divine truth) All we need for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:2-4)

Rebuking – Rebuke for wrong belief or wrong behavior, ideally leading to conviction, confession and repentance (Psalm 51)

Correcting – Returning to a right position with God and man (Psalm 119:9-11)

Training in righteousness – Showing the right way to go in order to live a life pleasing to God

## 2 TIM. 3:17

"so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

### AS A RESULT OF THIS CONVICTION:

Our lives will be rooted and grounded in the Holy Scriptures – Psalm 1

We will recognize the Bible as the standard of Truth and the grid through which we sift all things which claim to be true –

John 17:17

We will sit in submission before it, opening our hearts to its surgical precision – James 1:21; Heb. 4:12-13

We will be diligent to handle the Word correctly, – 2 Timothy 2:15

We will live in obedience to it, in our homes and as we gather together – Matthew 7:24-27; James 1:22-25

(For further reading on the preciousness and the power of God's word, see Psalm 119)