

# Your Local Church: The Way Ministries

## History of the church

Pastor Doug and Marie Brushell started the church on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1996, as a church plant from the Cicero Believers Chapel. The church started on Center Street in Canastota and later moved to the current location on Route 5 in 1998.

In 2012 Pastor Doug left his position here at the church and stepped into the eternal presence of Jesus.

Pastor Dave and Mary Allen moved into the Pastoral role during 2012 and ushered in the next phase of the church. Pastor Dave retired January of 2021.

February 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 Pastor Jake and Jamie Rashford became the pastors for the next season. Changing the name of the church to The Way Ministries and setting in a new vision and mission for the church.

## *The Great Commandment*

*(37) And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (38) This is the great and first commandment. (39) And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (40) On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 22:37–40, ESV)*

## *The Great Commission*

*(19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19–20, ESV)*

### **Vision:**

A local church family guided by the Bible and the Holy Spirit, seeking Jesus for our daily lives. We desire to have an impact in our region; introducing people to the love of Jesus, through outreach and service; pointing them to Jesus as the answer.

Our Motto: Connected People of the Journey

# WHY BECOME A MEMBER?

“One cannot expect to receive all the benefits of the Lord’s church when one is not willing to commit to the responsibilities of membership.”

~ Kevin Connors

**1. It’s an act of \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ’s commands.**

God expects every believer to join a local church. In fact, there are over 50 commands in the New Testament you cannot follow unless you commit to joining a local body of believers. Without a church family, you’re a spiritual orphan.

*Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10, NIV)*

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. (Ephesians 2:19, ESV)*

**2. It’s a counter-cultural choice that shows \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. (1 Corinthians 14:20, NIV)*

*Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. (Ephesians 5:25b, NIV)*

**3. It’s a necessary step in your \_\_\_\_\_ development.**

*They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do. (2 Corinthians 8:5, NLT)*

*They strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, “We must enter the kingdom of God through many persecutions.” (Acts 14:22, NET)*

**4. It provides spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Watch out for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. (Acts 20:28, NET)*

*Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. (Hebrews 13:17, ESV)*