

We believe the Bible is the very word of God and is to be our final authority in all matters of faith and life.

We believe in one God that exists in three persons: God the father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died to save men from their sins.

We believe that men are saved by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ.

We believe that baptism is the means by which people are to publically profess their faith in Christ and identify themselves with his death, burial, and resurrection.

We believe in baptism by emersion (completely put under the water)

HAPPY TRAILS COWBOY CHURCH IS AN:
OPEN (God loves everybody-we should too.)

NON-JUDGMENTAL (See above.)

BIBLE BELIEVING (It's the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.)

RELEVANT (What good is the truth if it's not applied to real life?)

COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS (We rub elbows with each other daily-not just Sundays.)

ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD AND EACH OTHER (Everybody ought to answer to somebody.)

IN ORDER TO GROW IN OUR FAITH (If it's cold and still, it might be dead.)

AND REACH THE RURAL/WESTERN CULTURE WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST (We love the country life. God created it that way)

OUR PHILOSOPHY

The Happy Trails Cowboy Church is a low barrier seeker sensitive church. Everything we do (or don't do) is guided by one simple question: will doing this make it easier for those not familiar with Jesus Christ to come to church and hear the gospel? If the answer is no, then we will put it aside unless doing so would violate the clear teaching of scripture. To put it another way, Cowboy Church is not designed to make church folks comfortable. It is designed to be a safe welcoming environment for those unaccustomed to attending church. Because this is so, you will find a number of things that are different about our church:

We let people come and go anonymously.

Many people today value their space and time above all else. They don't want unannounced visits or telephone calls during dinner. At Cowboy Church, we give them all the space they want. We do ask them to fill out a visitor's card just to know they came. We don't follow up with them until they give us permission to do so.

We don't do altar calls.

While going to the front of the church for prayer is an age old tradition, it is one that makes many people uncomfortable-especially if they are required to stand up before several hundred people in order to accept Christ or receive prayer. We always make prayer available, but we do not require people to come to the front to receive it.

We don't pass the offering plate.

Although we need money to operate just as any church does, we do not believe that money should become the focal point of a church. If someone's heart leads them to give, we provide a barn for them to do so. If their heart does not lead them to give, that's alright too. We believe God will provide.

We let the band do most of the singing.

While many Christians deeply enjoy an emotionally engaging worship service, many people unfamiliar with church find it confusing and sometimes even stressful. Emotional displays scare them. So, we forego some of these things in order that they can settle down and actually hear what the songs and the message are saying about Jesus Christ.

And of course, we let people come as they are.

Let's face it. Some folks don't have time to dress up, some folks don't have the clothes to dress up with, and some folks wouldn't dress up even if they could. No matter what people choose to wear, we want them to hear the gospel. So, there's no dress code here. People are encouraged to wear whatever is comfortable to them.

None of these things are incidental or accidental. They are all designed to give the person who doesn't know Christ an opportunity to hear the gospel. Literally hundreds of churches in our area cater to the mature Christian. We just believe there should be at least one that's designed to reach out to those who do not yet know Christ.