



Discover Restoration

BECOMING PART OF THE RESTORATION FAMILY

**4 Week New Members Class
Restoration Church - Citronelle, AL.**

About Restoration

A body of believers who referred to themselves by two names Citronelle Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, celebrate a 130-year history. Throughout the course of this 130-year history the church has endured many changes, some good and some bad. From growth, various location and pastorate changes, the rise of church buildings and the pain of loss to a church fire, it is safe to say the body of First Baptist Church of Citronelle has experienced the mountain tops and the valleys. Like any family, the congregation had their share of quarrels, but there has always been a strong core of believer's that have persevered and remained focused on reaching the community for Christ.

Perhaps one of the biggest changes in their recent history came on January 10, 2016, when Hope Church of Citronelle and First Baptist Church Citronelle began worshipping together, at the FBC campus.

Hope Church was a new church plant established in 2012, and was unanimously accepted into the Mobile Baptist Association in October 2014. The church grew at a rapid pace and began to look at building an addition to accommodate growth. Some of the members of Hope Church were members of FBC at one time, but God brought two congregations together!

As Christians, we are taught in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, that we are to function as one, as the body of Christ, and that is exactly what happened. In a society where churches split, decline, plateau, or even close their doors, we began to worship together and God has blessed that effort.

After a two-month process of evaluation of the HOPE staff, FBC came to a conclusion to move in this direction, and a unanimous vote took place to call the Hope Church staff as FBC staff. Finally, in May 2016, after watching God move in ways that no one can truly describe, HOPE CHURCH and FIRST BAPTIST unanimously decided to merge as one and take on a new name, RESTORATION CHURCH. The name describes what God did with HIS churches, and what God will do in anyone who is willing to submit to HIS leadership.

This is only the beginning of a new chapter in the story of a people who are defined by one name, JESUS CHRIST! You are now on a journey to become a part of that people, a new page in the life of Restoration church!

This class is all about what it means to **go all in** and be a **member** of Restoration.

Restoration Vision and Values

Restoration exists to **help broken people know God, find freedom, discover their purpose, and make a difference for God's glory.**

At Restoration Church, we want to be a church committed to faith and family. We desire to accomplish our mission in four ways:

REACH

People for Jesus.

We are committed to reaching people with the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

RAISE

Followers of Jesus.

We are committed to helping people become committed to living out their faith in Jesus Christ.

RENEW

Faith in Jesus.

We are committed to seeking the Spirit of God and His leadership in our lives.

RESTORE

The church to Jesus.

We are committed to seeing lives restored by the power of a mighty God!

Our Core Values

1. Jesus first! We trust His Word, follow His lead, and honor Him above all.
2. We start small and think big. We go all in with a risk-taking faith.
3. We are driven by purpose, not by programs, personalities, buildings, or budgets.
4. We keep it real and fight against fake. We live and lead with authenticity.
5. We are broken people discovering healing together. We embrace messy ministry.
6. Everybody belongs. We care about the heart, not the skin, the clothes, or the body art.
7. We keep it simple and stay fast, fluid, and flexible. We get creative to reach more people.
8. We discover our gifts and grow from consumers into contributors. We refuse to use people.
9. We grow larger and smaller at the same time. We gather together and scatter together.
10. We plant churches, partner with the community, and go to the ends of the earth.

Restoration Statement of Faith

God is real. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and totally in charge of the direction history is moving. He is Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He created everything and everyone and every person matters deeply to Him. Everyone has sinned, so everyone needs Jesus, who died for our sins, rose again from the dead, and is coming back. Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone, and once you're saved, you're always saved.

Heaven and hell are real, as are angels and demons, including Satan. The Holy Spirit lives in every believer and empowers and gifts us to live and serve. The Bible, which is God's Word, is both true and powerful. Baptism is when believers are immersed in water, not for salvation but to tell the world we follow Jesus. Communion is a memorial to Jesus' death. Jesus started the church before His death, protects it through every age, and commissioned the church to tell the world about Him.

**A more detailed version is available on our website at
RestorationChurchCitronelle.com**

How Restoration Works

1. We are a family, so we operate on the basis of relationships, not rules.
2. We are a fellowship, so we focus on what unifies us.
3. We are a body, not a business, so we serve each other according to our shape.
4. We are a flock, so we are cared for and led by shepherds, called pastors.

Answers to common questions:

- Our Lead Pastor casts the vision for where Restoration is headed and leads the staff.
- Our Pastors oversee various ministries and operations in the church.
- We have established committees created to ensure ministry operations are effective.
- We empower people to lead according to their gifts.
- We have a Deacon body that assist and serve as leaders in the church.
- We only vote on large issues - calling a pastor, buying land, etc. (But members have a voice!)
- We are affiliated with the Mobile Baptist Association, Alabama Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention

SESSION 1: REACH

Salvation - Baptism - Doctrine

SALVATION

Most people live their whole lives without every knowing **why**.

We believe God has made it clear what his **purpose** for our lives is.

1. God made you to love you!

(Jeremiah 31:3, Ephesians 1:4-5)

2. God wants to have a personal relationship with you.

(John 10:10)

3. You have sinned and lived your life apart from God's rule.

(Isaiah 53:6)

4. Jesus has paid for your sins with his death and resurrection.

(Romans 5:8)

1 Timothy 2:5 MSG

God is on one side and all people are on the other side, and Christ Jesus is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind.

What does God expect me to do in response to what he has done for me?

1. Admit that sin has separated you from having a relationship with Jesus.

(Romans 3:23)

2. Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins and rose again.

(Romans 10:9)

3. Accept God's free gift of salvation. (Ephesians 2:8, 9)

You can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment.

Dear God, thank you for loving me even when I've ignored you and have gone my own way. Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, into the world to die on the cross for me. I am sorry for my sins and I ask you to forgive me. Please help me to understand you more. I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life. I accept your free gift of salvation. - Amen!

BAPTISM

The first big step of obedience every new believer in Jesus should take is being baptized by immersion in water.

Why should I be baptized?

1. To follow the example set by Jesus. (Mark 1:9)
2. Because Jesus commands it. (Matthew 28:19-20)
3. It demonstrates that I really am a believer. (Acts 18:8, 1 John 2:3)

What does baptism mean?

1. It illustrates Christ's death and resurrection. (Colossians 2:12)
2. It illustrates my new life as a Christian. (Romans 6:4)

Why baptism by immersion?

1. Jesus was baptized that way. (Matthew 3:16)
2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion. (Acts 8:38-39)
3. The Greek word *baptizo* means to dip under water.
4. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection.

We believe that everyone who has personally received Christ should be baptized after receiving him.

We speak honorably of the commitment parents make when they have their children baptized, but we see it as similar to child dedication. So we ask that those who were baptized only as infants to be baptized as believers.

We baptize as often as we can.

We invite people to decide spontaneously to be baptized, but we also believe in the value of inviting loved ones. We provide clothes for people who are baptized spontaneously.

We invite believing friends and family members to participate in baptisms, especially when a parent has helped their child receive Jesus.

People who are baptized at Restoration are not required to share their faith story, but we would love to capture your story in writing, and possibly also on video to show later.

WE BAPTISE EVERY SUNDAY!

Don't wait to be obedient!

Our Doctrine

*A more detailed version can be found at
restorationchurchcitronelle.com*

The Scriptures

The Holy Bible is the authoritative Word of God. All Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It is the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. It is inspired, infallible and inerrant.

God and the Trinity

There is one and only one living and true God. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

God's Purpose of Grace

God justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies ALL sinners by grace through faith in and through Jesus Christ.

The Church

We are a New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are a Southern Baptist Church and financially we support the local, state and national ministries affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, of which we are a member. We operate under the Lordship of Christ through a democratic process in polity.

Baptism & the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Evangelism & Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations, to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Therefore, we are under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions.

Religious Liberty

Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal.

Marriage

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a covenant commitment for a lifetime. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ.

SESSION 2: RAISE

Growth - Relationships - Accountability

GROWTH

Attending worship services is a great start, but prayer, scripture, and accountability are essential in your daily life.

Developing a quiet time for prayer and Bible reading.

- Hearing God's Word.
(Romans 10:17)
- Reading God's Word.
(Revelation 1:3)
- Studying God's Word.
(Acts 17:11)
- Memorizing God's Word.
(Proverbs 7:2-3)
- Meditating on God's Word.
(Psalm 1:2-3)

In my daily prayer time, I am:

- Giving devotion to God.
(2 Chronicles 31:21)
- Getting direction from God.
(Psalm 25:4-5)

Living under the influence of the Holy Spirit continually.

The Holy Spirit isn't a substance or a mystical, cosmic force. The Holy Spirit is God - our personal God. He's the third member of the Trinity.

The New Testament talks about believers being "filled with" the Holy Spirit, which has to do with being under his influence.

How do we live under the Spirit's influence?

- Remove all the barriers.
(Acts 2:38)
- Relate to Him daily.
(2 Corinthians 13:14)
- Remain under his influence.
(Ephesians 5:18)

We have many tools available for your spiritual growth! But above resources, we want to walk with you if you have questions about prayer, the Word, or walking in the Spirit! Just ask!

RELATIONSHIPS & ACCOUNTABILITY

Our primary way of helping people find freedom and grow spiritually is through **Groups - Sunday School and Small Groups!**

Andy Stanley says, "Life change happens in circles, not in rows." Real life change happens in the context of relationships - small groups. In the Bible, they worshipped in the temple but ministry happened house to house.

"You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house." Acts 20:20

Groups Provide Three Things...

1. **A place to connect.**
(1 Corinthians 9:22)
2. **A place to protect.**
(1 John 3:16)
3. **A place to grow.**
(Proverbs 27:17)

How Our Groups Work

Our groups meet weekly and provide a place for you to connect, grow, and discuss the issues and challenges of life.

Groups are also where we pray, care for one another, and are missed if we don't show up!

How to Join a Group

There are many Sunday School Groups available for all ages and Small Groups are managed all over Citronelle, Saraland, and surrounding areas!

Visit **restorationchurchcitronelle.com** to learn more about our groups!

You can START a Group!

We believe that everyone has areas of strength and gifting that could benefit others. You'll discover that it's easier than you think.

To talk about starting your own group, start a conversation with Pastor Brandon Little.

brandon@restorationchurchcitronelle.com

SESSION 3: RENEW

Serving - Giving - Missions

Did you know that God **SHAPEd** you for significance? He has gifted you and made you uniquely *you* so that you can serve him according to his purposes.

In fact, we say that
saved people serve people.

And the greatest way to serve God on earth is to serve *people*, whom God loves.

SHAPE stands for...

- **S**piritual Gifts
- **H**earth
- **A**bilities
- **P**ersonality
- **E**xperiences

God has given you a unique mix of these characteristics. When you decided to follow Jesus, you were given **spiritual gifts** to use to serve others within the body of Christ. Your **heart** is passionate about certain things. You have some natural **abilities** – areas you're just good at. You have a unique **personality** that was given to you by God. And you've been through a unique set of **experiences**.

God wants to use a mix of all of these characteristics to help you know how and where to serve him within the body.

In order to find your shape and place at Restoration, we will have you complete the SHAPE assessment.

www.freeshapetest.com

If you have no internet access, we will provide you with a physical copy. We ask that you please fill it out and return it to the church office. Thank you!

For now, we hope you'll **try out** one of these ministry teams:

- Greeting Team.
- Security.
- Kitchen Ministry.
- Restoration Nursery.
- Restoration Kids.
- Restoration Students.
- Restoration GAP.
- Sound, video, audio tech.
- Music, instrumental, vocal, etc.
- Social media, communications.
- Special events and promotions.
- Building maintenance.
- Prayer ministry.

GIVING

The Bible says in Matthew 6:24 that the top competitor for our commitment to Jesus is money. Giving allows us to demonstrate that He is more important to us than material things. Not having cash or check on hand doesn't have to hold you back from giving, you can be obedient today by giving online. There is no organization with more potential to change the world than the local church!

GENEROSITY changes lives - ours and the people to whom we give. At Restoration, taking action on your generosity is simple.

The Bible teaches us about a baseline standard for giving: the **tithe** (a word that literally means a "tenth"). When we give the first 10% of our income through the local church, we put God first in our lives. Tithing is an act of worship that expresses our gratitude, faith, and love for others.

God also encourages us to give offerings beyond our tithe to specific projects at our local church and to other organizations and causes that we personally believe in.

Whether you'd like to give a single gift, schedule recurring donations, or view your giving history, you can do it all online at **restorationchurchcitronelle.com**

What happens with your gift?

We honor your gifts with faithful stewardship, ethical business practices, and full accountability so that the financial integrity of Restoration Church remains beyond reproach.

MISSIONS - LOCAL & FOREIGN

Every one of us can be part of the mission by following these four principles:

- 1. Accept personal responsibility.**
- 2. Build personal relationships.**
- 3. Share your personal story.**
- 4. Give a personal invitation.**

POINTS OF PASSION (Local, National, and Global Outreach)

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:8

LOCAL: Citronelle

- Local School Outreach
- Restore Citronelle
- Chair Ministries
- Small groups help nonprofits
- Random acts of kindness

NATIONAL: North America

- Expedition Church, Montana
- North American Mission Board
- More to come!

GLOBAL: The Whole World

- Guatemala Mission
 - 2 trips yearly!
- Johnny Tucker Ministries
- Live 2 Serve Missions
- International Mission Board

WHAT CAN I DO?

- **Pray.** (Matthew 9:37-38)
- **Go.** (Isaiah 6:8-9)
- **Give.** (Matthew 6:19-21)

Start by **writing out your story** and emailing it to us at info@restorationchurchcitronelle.com

Share your story with others. Share Restoration's social media updates. And invite people to join you on Sundays, Wednesdays, or Small Groups.

SESSION 4: RESTORE

Commitment - Outreach

COMMITMENT AS A CHURCH MEMBER

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with Restoration Church's statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Restoration's church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I will protect the unity of my church by acting in love toward other members, refusing to gossip, and following those who lead me.

(Romans 15:5, 19; 1 Peter 1:22, Hebrews 13:17)

2. I will share the responsibility of my church by praying for its growth, inviting the unchurched to attend, and warmly welcoming those who visit.

(1 Thessalonians 1:2, Luke 14:23, Romans 15:7)

3. I will serve the ministry of my church by discovering my gifts and talents and developing a servant's heart.

(1 Peter 4:10, Ephesians 4:11-12, Philippians 2:3-4, 7)

4. I will support the testimony of my church by attending faithfully, living according to the teachings of my church, and giving regularly.

(Hebrews 10:25, Philippians 1:27, 1 Corinthians 16:2)

If you are ready to become an official member of Restoration Church, complete the MEMBERSHIP COVENANT form and leave it with one of the pastors!

The Membership Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with Restoration Church's statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Restoration's church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I will protect the unity of my church by acting in love toward other members, refusing to gossip, and following those who lead me. (Romans 15:5, 19; 1 Peter 1:22, Hebrews 13:17)

2. I will share the responsibility of my church by praying for its growth, inviting the unchurched to attend, and warmly welcoming those who visit. (1 Thessalonians 1:2, Luke 14:23, Romans 15:7)

3. I will serve the ministry of my church by discovering my gifts and talents and developing a servant's heart. (1 Peter 4:10, Ephesians 4:11-12, Philippians 2:3-4, 7)

4. I will support the testimony of my church by attending faithfully, living according to the teachings of my church, and giving regularly. (Hebrews 10:25, Philippians 1:27, 1 Corinthians 16:2)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Have you been saved? Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus? _____

Have you been baptized by immersion since becoming a follower of Jesus? _____

If so, do you know the date? ____ / ____ / ____

And the place/church? _____

If you have not yet been immersed as a believer, are you willing to do so at Restoration? _____

Do you need help finding a small group? _____

I'm interested in trying out at serving on one (or more) of the following teams:

_____ Greeting Team

_____ Kitchen Ministry

_____ Security

_____ Prayer Ministry

_____ Worship, music, sound, tech

_____ Restoration Nursery

_____ Restoration Kids (K4-6th)

_____ Restoration Students (7th-12th)

_____ Restoration GAP

_____ Social Media/ Communications

_____ Special Events Ministries

If you have a relationship with Jesus, have been baptized, and are ready to commit to membership at Restoration Church, please sign below.

Signed

Date