

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

1180 Upper Bellbrook Road
Xenia, OH 45385

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH A HEBRAIC HERITAGE CONGREGATION

As a Hebraic Heritage *Congregation*, we want to be as close as we can be to Jesus (“Yeshua”). We want to listen to Him speak; we want to walk with Him as we walk through life; and we want to join ourselves to His Person, Purposes and Passion.

Jesus, His disciples, and His believers were Jews who lived in a culture that studied and applied Jewish Scriptures in the context of 1st century Jewish Scriptural Tradition. Today, 20 centuries and several cultures removed from the time of Jesus, we desire to “Restore” some of what has been lost in order to better talk with and worship our 1st century brother, friend, rabbi and Lord through some appreciation of His cultural and historical context. Hence we find value in discovering and celebrating the rich Hebraic heritage of His faith and Our Faith. Some active elements of this Judeo-Christian heritage include the following:

- Openly acknowledging that Jesus (Yeshua) is Lord and King and that He is One (Echad) with our God (Adonai Eloheinu) and Father (Avinu), and with the Holy Spirit (Ruach HaKodesh).
- Recognizing the importance of the unified single witnessing body (*Congregation - Edah*) made up of a family of members supporting and ministering to one another.
- Adopting the regular practice of the Lord’s Supper as our Covenant Memorial Meal.
- Appreciation all of scripture including both the Old & New Testaments in their Hebraic cultural context and emphasizing study of the unified Word of God.
- Application of Judeo-Christian Biblical principles such as keeping the “10 commandments”, acknowledging the biblical supremacy of the “2 commandments” to love God and to love our fellow man, and to apply biblical principles such as of giving to missions and benevolence and interceding both in prayer and in action for those who are need that all may come into a stronger relationship with our Lord.
- Adoption of elements of early believers Hebraic style of worship such as Processions, Banners, Musicians, Singers, Worship Dance, and the use of early creedal statements, etc.
- Emulating aspects of early believers’ meetings. We intend that our meetings take place “with gladness and sincerity of heart” “that all things be done for edification” “so that all may learn and all may be exhorted” (Acts 2:46; 1 Cor. 14:26-33)
- Recognizing the importance of the *Biblical Feasts of Israel*, particularly *Pesach* (Passover), *Shavuot*, (Pentecost), *Sukkot* (Tabernacles), and the extra-biblical feasts of *Purim* (Esther), and *Hanukkah* (Dedication).
- Encouraging the careful and analytical study of the entire Bible through the use of Hebrew and Greek language tools, scholarly reference materials and books and appropriately using Hebrew and Greek to better understand and communicate the essence of the Jewish Scriptures and the teachings of Yeshua.
- Appreciating plurality of leadership and plurality of spiritual gifts to be used in unity. Using scriptural guidelines regarding leadership and congregational “structure” i.e., appointing elders, deacons, etc. as was practiced in the first-century synagogues.
- Appreciation for and support to the Jewish People and Israel, for we are “wild olive branches” “grafted into” the cultivated olive tree that is Israel—whose roots nourish our own faith (Romans 11:17-18).
- Recognizing and applying the principle that we are children (in faith) of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and that we have been brought into faith that through the Holy Spirit others will be brought to faith. Knowing that God has blessed us in order that all nations will be blessed (Genesis 12:2).