#1 GOD OUR FATHER AND JESUS CHRIST HIS SON

https://www.ucg.org/learn/bible-study-aids/fundamental-beliefs-united-church-god/fundamental-beliefs-united-church-0

We believe in one God, the Father, eternally existing, who is a Spirit, a personal Being of supreme intelligence, knowledge, love, justice, power and authority. He, through Jesus Christ, is the Creator of the heavens and the Earth and all that is in them. He is the Source of life and the One for whom human life exists.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, who is the Word (Logos) and has eternally existed. We believe that He is the Messiah, the Christ, the divine Son of the living God, born in the human flesh of the virgin Mary.

We believe that it is by Him that God created all things and that without Him was not anything made that was made. We believe in the Holy Spirit, as the Spirit of God and of Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the power of God and the Spirit of life eternal.

2 Timothy 1:7; Ephesians 4:6; 1 Corinthians 8:6; John 1:1-4; Colossians 1:16

1. God's Existence Revealed in Creation and Scripture

(Creator, Lifegiver, Lawgiver, Sustainer, Designer, Answerer of Prayer, Supreme Prophet, Way of Life, and Resurrector)

The natural world testifies to God's eternal power and divine nature (Romans 1:20).

God is spirit (John 4:24), eternal (Deuteronomy 33:27), all-powerful (Job 42:2), all-knowing (1 John 3:20), and unchanging (Malachi 3:6).

His ways and thoughts are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:9), and we understand Him through His Word (2 Timothy 3:16).

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Romans 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

2. God Is a Family: Father and Son which is going to expand

God is revealed as two divine Beings: the Father and Jesus Christ the Son (1 Corinthians 8:6; Hebrews 1:8-9).

The divine name Elohim (Genesis 1:1, 26) is plural, reflecting both.

Christ, the Word, was with God and was God (John 1:1-2), and through Him all things were made (Colossians 1:16; Ephesians 3:9).

1 Corinthians 8:6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.
1John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is **the true God** and eternal life.

3. Jesus Christ Is the God of Israel; the "Word" Who Became Flesh

Jesus identified Himself as "I AM" (John 8:58), the same being who spoke to Moses (Exodus 3:14).

He emptied Himself to live as a human (Philippians 2:5-8), yet remained sinless (Hebrews 4:15).

He revealed the Father (John 14:10), served as His Spokesman (John 12:49-50), and was raised to share His former glory (John 17:5).

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
John 1:14 And the **Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

1Corinthians 10:4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and **that Rock was Christ.**

4. The Holy Spirit Is God's Power. There is NO Trinity

God's Spirit is not a separate person, but is God's power, mind, and presence (Psalm 139:7-10; Isaiah 11:2).

The Holy Spirit begets us as God's children (Romans 8:16; 2 Peter 1:4) and is given upon repentance and baptism (Acts 2:38).

It is a guarantee of our future inheritance (Ephesians 1:14).

Act 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Act_8:17 Then they **laid hands on them**, and they received the Holy Spirit. **Act 3:19 Repent** therefore and **be converted**, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

5. God's Purpose: Expanding His Divine Family

Human beings were created in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27), with the potential to become His children (1 John 3:1-2).

Christ is the firstborn among many brethren (Romans 8:29), and we are to be transformed into His likeness.

The divine family includes the Father, Son, and ultimately those begotten through the Spirit (Ephesians 3:14-15).

We become God's children and share in His divine nature through God's own Holy Spirit dwelling within us.
Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be **the firstborn among many brethren**.

Romans 8:30 Moreover whom He predestined, these **He also called**; whom He called, these He also justified (made righteous); and whom He justified, these He also glorified (First Resurrection).
2Peter 1:4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these **you may be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.
Ephesians 3:14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,z

Ephesians 3:15 from whom **the whole family in heaven and earth** is named,

6. God's Love and Cares for Us

God is loving, just, merciful, forgiving when we repent, and God is faithful to His promises. He hears our prayers and desires to give us eternal life.

God is love (1 John 4:8), faithful, merciful, just, wise, and eternal (Exodus 34:5- 7; Deuteronomy 32:4).

He is our healer (Exodus 15:26), provider (Genesis 22:14), shield (Psalm 18:2), and salvation (Psalm 27:1).

He desires a relationship with us, hears our prayers, and promises eternal life to His faithful children (John 3:16; Psalm 34:17).

1 John 4:8 He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love. Psalm 34:17** The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.

Psalm 34:18 The LORD is near to those who have a broken (repentant) heart, and saves such as have a contrite (humble) spirit.
2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance**.

7. Jesus Leads the Church and Will Return as King

Jesus is our High Priest, Savior, and the coming King of Kings who will rule the nations by establishing the Government of God on this Earth, as the Kingdom of God for 1,000 years – the Millennium..
Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and **the government** will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, an Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:7 Of the **increase of His government** and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Revelation 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The **kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ**, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Isaiah 40:10 Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.

Isaiah 40:11 He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.

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Speaker notes prepared by Ken Murray, Minister, United Church of God (Australia)
Formatted by Dan Deininger, Minister, United Church of God (Montana)
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