

Belief Statements	Category
All are beloved by God	
All are positive images, and they are beautiful. "I do observe that we are more authentic than we have been in the past. We are more free. And there is this sense that we be wrong. And that is a good thing.	
Attending a memorial service – feeling raw, being together in community, is a deep experience that makes me leave saying "I'm going to be a better person"	
Be kind above all else, i.e., love one another as Jesus loves us (end of Gospel of John)	
Bible - reading bible passages about other people who have been in similar situations is comforting	
Church community is the center of one's faith with people making connections with one another.	
Church is a place you can go where people care about each other	
Church, Cemetery, museums, cathedrals	
Coming together speaks most to me, e.g., the Alleluia at the end of the service, looking for God in the eyes of those we are in worship with	
Community – being in relationship with others and helping others (doing something) is a way to feel God's presence and love	
Community - The commonality of working together for a shared purpose through generosity and cooperation is where I see God (Community Kitchens, for example). Seeing God in helping others	
Community is important. There is only so much I can do on my own and there are things that I experience when with others that is different; Being with others and helping others creates a multiplier effect or somehow magnifies the good we can do	
Connection, community, and how we experience God with and through each other - Find support and learn from others how to find more ways to experience God	
Divine is always there but you must be intentionally aware (less distracted) to experience the divine. In nature or listening to music or in a sacred space – the thinking must be intentional	
Divine is always there, we are distracted from seeing, experiencing, and realizing the divine	
Each of us is a beautiful creation in the eyes of God; Why? many may feel less because of what society says, and that is not how God views it	
Experience of divine just happens, Don't over think it	
Experience of the Divine Just Happens. Often in a casual conversation someone says something and there is this divine spark, a spontaneity that is revelatory	
Experience the spirit of God through the connection with people	
Experiencing the divine also happens through some of the worst moments, I call them "Breakthrough"	
Food as an expression of love	
Gifts - God gave us gifts to speak, hear, and think; God did not give them to us and then require us to NOT use them - So, speak and think	
God gifts to us - God gave all of us different gifts to offer and wants us to use those gifts (hands - helping others, hearts – praying for others, ears- listening to others)	
God is everywhere when we are not distracted	
God is in everyone	
God is love and God is still speaking now, here, and still happening - pay attention	
God is love and is always with us	
God is too big for only one way	
God loves me unconditionally; loves me more than myself; Why? It is important especially for people with low self-esteem	
God reveals God's self in many different ways	
God reveals God's self in an infinity of ways	
God wants to be in relationship with us – we just might not be listening. God is always with us even during our messiness.	
God will always walk with you through difficult times	
God will not pick you up out of your grief, but will be there to walk with you through it	
God will provide, and you better be prepared to do the grunt work (Have faith and do the effort)	

God working in our lives - Coincidences may be ways that God is at work in our lives	
God, family and friends get us through difficulties	
God's love and forgiveness is manifested through the holy spirit in, with, and through us in community	
Hope. Without hope we are lost. In our faith and in our surroundings that we become truly known	
Importance of community - modern world there is so much aloneness that connection is not there. Many focus on their work and school connections, but that is not enough	
Look into the eyes of people to see God	
Love everybody. The story of the Good Samaritan – Who is your neighbor? Who helped the man? Not the priest, not the Levite but a Samaritan (the lowest of the low).	
Love is a thread. Acceptance, forgiveness, and love. That Nothing can separate us from God.	
Many roads to God and everyone has their own journey; be open to that – for yourself and others	
Natural World	
Natural world, e.g., found God or saw God's hand there, may be a nudge we could incorporate into church life, e.g., people behave differently when they are in the church sanctuary versus out on a trail hiking, outside worship services during covid, church	
Nature -	
Nature and music give us spiritual and restorative strength, centers us and unites us	
Nothing can separate us from God's love	
Nothing can separate you from the love of God ; Why? It is the core to the Forgiveness piece	
Opportunity to be spiritually refreshed more when we choose to step away from distraction and/or become more open to divine around us	
Our God is a forgiving God	
Our society is fractured, people need to be together and not alone	
People come into our lives for a reason - Holy Spirit at work	
Power of prayer, connection and community	
Prayer changes us – it is not just a passive thing – it may lead us to action	
Prayer, Faith, Love, Music, Nature are themes	
Purpose for the church, a place for the church - people try replacing church with many things, however there is a dimension missing	
Put faith in action	
Relational aspect of spirituality and faith. We shine God's light out into the world and God's light shines back	
Relationship comes through others. God working through other people and community is a way that God presents God's self to us	
Relationships and Community	
Relationships with individuals who you can be genuine with is helpful	
Renewal and restorative	
Sacred Space. There is a variety of spaces. True for depending on what it is; we seek out different spaces, e.g., old barns. A sunset over the lake in the evening at church camp – the sunset, waves, songs open us to a feeling	
Sense of right and wrong except from God (C.S. Lewis) - The quote is from Mere Christianity, p 30 "And what did God do? First of all He left us conscience, the sense of right and wrong: and all through history there have been people trying (some of them very hard) to obey it. None of them ever quite succeeded."	
Sharing meals with people or during a gathering; being able to feel outside of it and sense the energy of people connecting, witnessing joy shared in a family gathering or in community	
Signs - Seeing signs as a response, e.g., asking God for a sign of hope. Experienced a loss and immediately asked God for a sign. And a little while later, my granddaughter shared that the Swans had finally returned. Others I know do similar things – it might be a cardinal or another kind of bird.	
Spiritual aspect of nature is a thread	
The divine is in places away from distractions	
The power of prayer	

There is grace even in our worst moments
There is no place that God is not
Walking down various side streets I found small parks and special places that were relatable and helped me find calm
Walking with God, you are cleansed
Ware are not alone
Watching others sharing is “a moment of immortality, i.e., we see our lives continuing on when we are gone
We are all vessels of God's spirit
We are a loving faithful community
We can also see the divine in unexpected places (homeless shelter) and in unexpected people (Greta Thunburg) where God breaks through – if we are listening
Working of the Holy Spirit - The way people happen across my path. I may not have realized at the time, however, looking retrospectively I can see the working of the Holy Spirit, e.g., an opportunities that came through people have been important to my faith and its stickiness
Worshipping in a community of faith is where you will find people who care for one another, who look out for one another, where you can find connection, and see the face of God.
You can see God in people that Jesus was drawn to - the outcasts and “unworthy”
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself