

The Seventh-day Adventist Church

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a Protestant Christian denomination that emerged in the mid-19th century during the Second Great Awakening in the United States. It was officially founded in 1863 by a collaboration of people such as James White, Ellen G. White, and Joseph Bates in an effort to apply teachings of the minister William Miller.

More info: <https://www.adventist.org/who-are-seventh-day-adventists/history-of-seventh-day-adventists/>

Core Beliefs: The Seventh-day Adventist Church shares many core beliefs with other Christian denominations, such as the belief in one God, the Holy Trinity, and Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of humanity. The Church places significant emphasis on the Second Coming of Christ that they believe to be imminent. The Bible is regarded as the inspired word of God and the sole authority on faith and practice. Key doctrines include the Sabbath, the state of the dead, the investigative judgment, and the health message.

More info: <https://www.adventist.org/beliefs/>

Practices and Rituals: Worship in the Seventh-day Adventist Church is characterized by a strong emphasis on Bible study, prayer, and community service. The Sabbath, observed from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset, is the central act of worship and includes Sabbath School (Bible study classes), a worship service with hymns, prayers, a sermon, and fellowship. Other important practices include:

1. **Baptism:** Baptism by immersion is the sacrament of initiation that symbolizes a person's acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment to the teachings of the Church. It is a requirement for membership in the Church.
2. **Communion:** The Lord's Supper, or Communion, is celebrated quarterly and includes foot-washing to emulate Jesus' act of humility and service.
3. **Tithing and Offerings:** Members are encouraged to return a tithe (10% of their income) and give offerings to support the Church's mission and ministries.
4. **Health Practices:** The health message encourages members to adopt a vegetarian or vegan diet, abstain from alcohol and tobacco, and practice healthy living.

Places of Worship: Seventh-day Adventist churches vary in architectural style but typically feature simple, functional designs. Worship spaces often include a pulpit, baptismal pool, and areas for fellowship and Bible study. The Church operates numerous educational institutions, hospitals, and community centers worldwide.

Leadership and Clergy: The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a representative form of governance, with authority distributed across local churches, regional conferences, union conferences, divisions, and the General Conference, which is the highest governing body. Pastors lead local congregations, conduct services, administer sacraments, and provide pastoral care. Elders and deacons assist in various church ministries. The Church encourages active lay participation in ministry and leadership roles. Ministers typically undergo extensive theological education and training to prepare them for their responsibilities.

More info: <https://gc.adventist.org/about-us/governance/leadership/>

Holy Days and Festivals: The primary holy day for Seventh-day Adventists is the Sabbath and is observed weekly from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. Unlike many Christian denominations, Seventh-day Adventists do not celebrate traditional Christian holidays like Christmas and Easter with the same emphasis. Instead, they focus on the significance of the Sabbath and other biblical events. Special occasions such as Communion services and church conferences are important events in the Church calendar.

More info: <https://www.adventist.org/the-sabbath/>

Symbols and Icons: Symbols in the Seventh-day Adventist Church are used to reinforce its beliefs and mission. The most prominent symbol is the church logo, which features three angels circling a globe, represents the Church's mission to spread the gospel worldwide. The cross is also an important symbol and represents the sacrifice of Christ and His role as Savior. The most significant symbol for Adventists that represents their devotion to God is their faithful lifestyle.