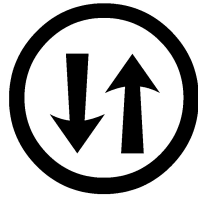
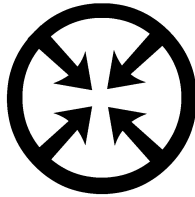


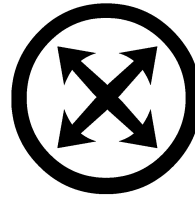
VALUES & BELIEFS @ FHPC



Gather in Worship



Grow in Faith



Go in Mission

Gather in Worship

The One, True God

We worship the Triune God, who eternally exists in perfect community as three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Perfect unity in diversity was present as God carved out the oceans, gave land movement, and light to the skies. God's Word breathed life. From God flows the wellspring of everything good and perfect. Within the Trinity, God radiates relational harmony, coequality, limitless power and knowledge, justice, holiness, and selfless love. God is intrinsically relational, as reflected in the distinct creation of humans and God's personal relationship with them. This is not a distant God, but One who is close and active in our midst.

Jesus Christ

We believe Jesus Christ—the Son of God, Word made flesh, our Savior and Redeemer—is fully human and fully God. We believe Jesus changed *everything*. The trajectory of human existence was forever altered when he proclaimed and embodied the good news: tending to the poor in spirit and body, freeing captives, performing miracles, disrupting insincere religious shows, redefining orthodoxy, forgiving sinners, and extending love through the call to repent and receive his gospel truth. Jesus descended into the pain and messiness of humanity – Love came down – communing with those whom others avoided, rejected and socially ostracized. Love came for all of us. In Jesus, we see and experience the fullness of God wearing our skin and taking on our wrath. We gather in worship to celebrate what God has done for us—that through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are saved now and always. Salvation from our diseased spiritual DNA is God's free gift to us, offered in grace, received by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. As we await Jesus' final return when all things will be restored and made new, we gather to remember, celebrate, and worship the Living God.

Sacraments

Christians are called to remember and identify with Jesus Christ through the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The Sacraments are outward symbols of inward grace, representing Christ's sacrifice for us and inviting us to remember and participate in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection as a family knit together in him. Baptism is the sign and seal of our redemption, inviting us to identify with Christ's death and resurrection. The Lord's Supper provides the recurring opportunity to commune with the risen Lord alongside fellow Jesus-followers, remembering his love on the cross, celebrating His redemptive gift, and reflecting on the new life we've been given.

Biblical Feasting

We delight in God's Word. We believe that the Bible, comprising the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament, is the wholly trustworthy, Spirit-infused, authoritative Word of God, useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. God personally and divinely communicates with humans through the Holy Scriptures. Laboriously penned by chosen human hands, while fully revealed and inspired by the Spirit, God's Word guides us in all aspects of life. The interplay between the Creator and the created spills over the pages of this love story unfolding God's redemptive plan for humanity. We gather around the Word during our worship services, inviting God to inform and transform us through its truth.

Story

We value God's story as it is revealed in the Bible, the singular narrative of restoration that is alive and active through the Church today. We affirm the central truths of historic, reformed, orthodox Christian faith, seeing ourselves as the continuation of the ancient conversation between God and God's people. We were created to live for something much larger than ourselves; we are called to emulate the Triune God's love. Gathering in worship allows us to hear God's life-giving story as a people, discovering afresh the relevance of God's truth for today and finding ourselves living this story out together. We anticipate God's restoration of all things under Jesus' authority and believe we are called to participate in his Kingdom here and now. While the Bible is unchanging, we believe the historical context in which we communicate God's story is always changing, requiring our God-given creative and imaginative efforts to communicate, share, and usher in Kingdom realities. We long for our church to be a refuge *for* the world, not *from* the world; a place where people will be accepted fully for who they are and find that they too are part of God's epic story.

Relationships

We value the image of God in each person and believe we were created to live deeply with one another, carrying each other's burdens, sharing our gifts and resources, praying for and confessing our sins to one another, suffering and celebrating together. We believe church is a people, not a place. Our Sunday morning worship services provide the context for us to experience God's presence as the Church—God's people—sitting side-by-side in pews, coming from an array of places and circumstances. We seek to carry God's Name and story of redemption into the world *together*, living the way of Jesus in the company of friends. Throughout history, God has used community to embody and proclaim God's salvation to all people. Jesus commands us to love each other and says that *this* is how everyone will know we are his disciples, through our *love*. We value relationships because Jesus valued relationships. We desire to be a distinct and personal community that emanates the good news of Jesus and reflects the harmony of the Trinity. Gathering as a people regularly is critical to the growth and encouragement of relationships with God and each other, allowing us to both receive and give as we contribute to and invest in the lives of those we serve and journey alongside.

Grow in faith

Journey

We believe humanity was formed in God's image, purposed to know and worship our Creator in intimate relationship. It was God's gracious gift of free will that allowed humans the choice to love and worship God of their own volition. In Eden, the first humans misused and manipulated this gift, forever positioning us against God. Sin took us down a seemingly irreversible path of enmity with our Maker as we betrayed and broke communion with God, triggering calamity in seen and unseen places in our lives. The resulting bondage of sin alienated humans from our benevolent Abba God. Today, Adam and Eve's spiritual legacy permeates us still. Our natural and chosen sinful status is irrevocable by human hands. But God is the saving God, the God of second-chances. While we were incapable of saving ourselves or our society from sin's enslavement, God interceded with salvation found in Jesus Christ, our long-awaited Messiah, and altered the trajectory of human destiny. Sin was destined to drive us from God and other humans, finishing us in death. But God, in sovereign love and grace, had other plans. Salvation is God's life-giving, grace-infusing, mercy-wrapped invitation to follow Him as image-bearers once more. We believe that as we continue to work out our salvation, as we grow and follow Christ more fully, God faithfully works inside us, fulfilling his good purpose. We long to cooperate with God's redemptive activity in every area of our lives. We see the necessity in journeying with God, knowing that in the ebb and flow of life, God sees us through desert seasons and dark nights of the soul, as well as mountaintop highs and nourishing valleys.

Spiritual Formation

We believe humans are spiritual and that everyone experiences spiritual formation. The question is, *who* and *what* is informing and shaping the formation? We believe true spiritual formation happens through the God revealed in Scripture, with "Christ formed in us" (Gal. 4:19). In the Bible, the concept of "belief" always informs how one lives. For the New Testament authors, to believe something is to live in ways consistent with what is believed. It is no different for us living in the 21st century. Truly believing Jesus' gospel will seep beyond our words, thoughts, and heart into our actions and lifestyle. Spiritual formation cannot happen through osmosis—hearing sermons or sitting under good teachers; it happens with Jesus living with us, in us, and through us. We want our lives to be different so that we exude something other-worldly, distinct from the values and priorities of our time and culture. Spiritual formation includes

transformation of the heart as one's emotions and intellect are brought into greater alignment with God's, as well as actions and practices including classic disciplines (worship and study, fellowship and confession, solitude and silence, prayer and fasting, and others). Jesus' final words in the Great Commission, in Matthew 28, commence our job description as his people to make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey Jesus entirely. Making disciples assumes that we are learning how to love and obey Jesus, and this is what we seek to do.

Ultimately, it is the Spirit of God that forms us, molding our soul and body to respond to and be more like Christ. This work is not done until we have put off our old selves and put on the new, a growth process that lasts a lifetime. The Spirit enables us to move beyond hearing the Word, to living and breathing and being changed by the Word as it bears fruit in our lives. While we do not believe we can earn God's grace, we do believe we can and are called to actively participate in receiving God's grace. The process of spiritual formation invites our active, attentive, passionate participation. God will not do it for us, but with us. We are grateful we cannot do this on our own—God makes our transformation possible, and we are not alone as we share in this journey alongside our faith family, meeting Christ together every step of the way.

Authentic Community

We value the role genuine community plays in our personal journeys. In a culture that prizes self-sufficiency, individualism, and consumerism, it can be very difficult to break beyond our societal norms and return to the healing and growing experience of selfless, loving community. We believe that belonging and spiritual growth happen best when believers are connected. Authentic Christian community is not rooted in shame, obligation, or performance—it grows from our fundamental need for whole, accountable, accepting, challenging, and constant relationships. God exists in perfect community, and we are called to live out our Christian faith in community. We seek to embark on this community journey through formal means (small groups, Christian education classes, Bible studies, fellowship groups) and informal means (lives shared as a result of small groups, spending time together for meals, fellowship, and play).

We need each other as we grow in God—reading, reflecting, and living the Word; existing as generous stewards of our time and resources; making space for rest and God's priorities; developing rich prayer lives; discovering how to work with Christian distinctiveness in every station of life; serving as agents of change and reconciliation wherever we find ourselves. We value joy, celebration, liturgical seasons, and humor, as these gifts give texture and responses to God's goodness. We take great joy in partnering with God and each other as we engage the world, embracing the truth that every life is sacred and hope is real and among us. We celebrate the Divine in the daily together, pursuing lives of hope, gratitude, and worship.

Go in mission

Missional Living

We believe that everything we do is part of God's mission. In Latin, *Missio Dei* means the "sending of God" or "mission of God." Being *missional* is not about church growth or isolated social justice; it's about living out the truth that God is the Sending God, the One who takes the initiative to redeem all creation. As contemporary missiologists say, "God's Mission has a Church" rather than "the Christian Church has a mission." We believe the Church is to be God's instrument of mission in the world, where we are invited to participate in the work God is already orchestrating. We recognize God is the Savior and we are not.

As "sent ones" of the Sending God, we believe everything we do plays a role in this mission. We assume God is not only at work in our congregation, but in our neighborhoods, schools, local apartment complexes, parks, and cities. We acknowledge that many people are not attending or looking for a church family and we seek to discover and live out ways of bringing Jesus to them in their lives, wherever they are. We do not expect people to come to us; we need to go to them. Jesus stopped at nothing to extend himself to humans, traveling unlikely roads to meet those on the fringe. Across Scripture, we see God continually moving toward people, and we want to continue this mobile, risk-taking, missional work. We believe evangelism and social justice go hand-in-hand and that every Jesus-follower—part of the priesthood of believers—is purposed and equipped by God to be an agent of reconciliation. As we strive to engage every sphere of our lives missionally, we are aware of the diverse array of subtle, yet critical, changes that may occur. This may lead us to pour out love to a family on our child's soccer team, encourage a homebound congregation member, serve with our hands and heart in Africa, or start a friendship with the coffee barista we see so often. God's plan for

transforming the world is the Church, and we are humbled by and grateful for this divine call.

Right Here

God uses the gifts and talents of our congregation to make all the ministries of Fletcher Hills Presbyterian Church possible. From watering flowers and greeting guests, to teaching children and leading committees, we are grateful that all hands are on deck in the life of FHPC. Many volunteers join our leadership team—consisting of elders, deacons, and staff—to promote ministry inside and outside of our church walls. We value serving others with our time, gifts, and financial resources, and care as a response to God’s grace. We recognize each person’s unique gifts and strive to empower people to serve the body of Christ in our faith family, community, and world. It is a joy to discover repeatedly how God designs a mosaic with people, requiring all shapes and sizes to create a masterpiece. While one person thrives in hospital visitation, another is astute running new media and technology, and still another has skills to captivate the attention of young minds or to educate the mature adults among us; all are used by God as we care for one another and the ministries entrusted to us.

Out There

We believe God’s love is for everyone. Led by the Spirit of God, we are passionate about hearing peoples’ stories and bathing them in prayer, relieving suffering and fighting injustice, and joining the God of the oppressed and the lost by living the transformative message of the resurrected Jesus. Jesus calls his Church to be a compelling force for good in the world, and we believe that the Church is its best, truest self when it serves, sacrifices, loves, and cares about the things God cares about. We see this happening first and foremost through our relationships and our shared human story. We were created to live for something larger than ourselves. We are called to exude compassion and justice, caring for those who are underprivileged and forgotten. We believe only Jesus can truly get to the root of social injustices caused by sin and brokenness. We seek to be a people compelled by Christ’s love, drawing all to the Living God, caring for all of creation. We seek to follow Jesus as he heals people and institutions through his mercy and justice. We desire to be people whose hearts burn for the world around us, marked by generous, sacrificial, humble and radical giving of our best resources and people. We want to sacrifice our time and money generously. We long to be a people continually awakened to our identity in Jesus and the unique mission he has given each of us within the Great Commission. This kind of “Jerusalem to...the ends-of-the-earth” mission begins in our partnership with organizations already serving particular peoples with experience and expertise. We strive to go beyond sending money to partnering with time and informed prayer; bearing good news with the feet that carry us into new places of opportunity, as we mentor a student unlikely to graduate at Patrick Henry High School, befriend the homeless downtown, or travel across the border to love and learn from brothers and sisters ministering in Mexico.