

Welcome

..... TO

HIGHLANDS

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THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:37 – 40 (NIV)



HIGHLANDS IS HOME

We are so glad you're here! It is our desire that "Highlands is Home" becomes more than just a catchy phrase we use, that Highlands truly becomes Home for you and your family.

When we talk about home, our minds go back to our childhood - the memories of growing up, visiting Grandma and Grandpa, hanging out with our brothers and sisters, cousins, watermelon on the front porch. Maybe when you think of home, you don't have happy thoughts. We understand that the idea of home may not be appealing to you. We want to help you find a happy home, one filled with love and acceptance. We're all looking for home, a place to belong - a place where the broken can find healing, grace is given to those with messy lives, the lonely are met with hugs, hope to rebuild is shared with families torn apart and compassion is extended to the dark corners of the world where there is injustice. At Highlands, we are united, devoted, and together we look forward to seeing God move in our midst, believing the best is yet to come.

MISSION & VISION

Our mission as a church is “To Help People Experience Life With Jesus.”

Jesus called His disciples to a life of transformation (both inside and out) that turned the world upside down. At Highlands, we seek to join God in His work of transformation, both locally and around the world. Our vision is to: "Make Disciples. Love Our Communities. Change the World." As we join God where He is at work, we witness the transforming power of Jesus in the lives of those around us.

HOW DO I EXPERIENCE LIFE WITH JESUS?

Oftentimes, we ask ourselves, “Is this all there is?” “When do I get to the ‘good life?’” Jesus said in John 10:10, “I came that you might have life and have it abundantly.” By looking to God and the truth of His Word, we can discover how to truly experience life with Jesus.

Experiencing life with Jesus starts with acknowledging who He is and what He did on the cross for every one of us. We were created to have a relationship with God. However, because of our sin, we are all separated from God. Jesus made a way for us to be saved and have a relationship with our Heavenly Father. How can we be saved? Let's take a look together.

THE PROBLEM

We are all sinners who fall short of the glory of God.

*...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. **Romans 3:23 (ESV)***

You don't have to look around for long to realize our world is in need. There is pain, hurt, and destruction all around us. This is a result of a word you've probably heard before: **sin**. The word “sin” means to “miss the mark.” We miss the mark by not living up to God's glorious standards. Though some of us may consider ourselves “good people” or “better than our neighbors,” the truth is we all have missed the mark, both in outward actions and inward attitudes. Because of sin, we hurt each other, we hurt ourselves, and most importantly, we hurt the heart of God. The Bible teaches that all of us are born with a sin nature, a natural inclination to rebel against God.

THE PENALTY

The penalty for our sin is death and eternal separation from God in a place called Hell.

Our rebellious sin nature separates us from God. According to Scripture, the payment our sin deserves is death. Because God is just, this payment has to be paid.

For the wages of sin is death... **Romans 6:23a (ESV)**

THE PROVISION

God loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die in our place. Through His sacrificial death on the cross, the death penalty for our sins was paid.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.
1 Peter 3:18 (ESV)

THE PARDON

God offers a free pardon from sin and eternal life to everyone who places their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

Because the Lord Jesus paid the price our sin deserved, we can receive forgiveness (pardon) from our sin. Jesus died in our place and rose from the grave, defeating death forever, so we could have eternal life. However, this is a free gift that you must reach out and accept.

...but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 6:23b (ESV)**

How do I accept this gift, you may be asking? It's as simple as ABC!

You must **Admit** you are a sinner, **Believe** Jesus died for your sin and rose from the dead, and **Confess** Jesus as your Lord and Savior!

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Romans 10:9 - 10 (ESV)

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” **Romans 10:13 (ESV)**

HEART OF REPENTANCE

Choosing to follow Jesus involves repentance (a change in thinking that leads to a change of direction). Some people have been in church their entire life and lived out many spiritual habits, but they do not have a clear memory of the moment they turned and followed Jesus. We have to ask ourselves if we are living in a religion or a relationship. Do you recall your moment?

It comes down to one simple question: Have I placed my faith in Jesus Christ? This is a one-time decision, your choice, to place your trust in Jesus, and by faith you will be saved. Once you make this life-changing decision, your eternity is secure. We all continue to struggle with sin, but we cannot lose our salvation. We are saved by grace and kept by grace.

So, before we go any further, if you don't remember your moment or want to make sure you've had a moment, let's pray together now. Pray something like this. You don't have to pray this word for word, but pray honestly from your heart to the Lord.



Prayer of Salvation (ABC: Admit, Believe, Confess):

*Lord, I **Admit** that I am a sinner. I have fallen short of Your glorious standards. I **Believe** that You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross, in my place, to pay the price for my sin. I **Believe** Jesus rose from the grave and defeated sin and death. I **Confess** Jesus as my Lord and Savior, and I ask You to forgive me of my sins. I accept the free gift of salvation and eternal life You are offering me. Thank You for saving me!*

If you just prayed this prayer from your heart, congratulations! You are now a child of the King, and your sins have been forgiven! This is your moment. Nothing and no one can ever take away your salvation. Please let us know about your decision on the next page.



You can scan the QR code or visit hf.church/SALVATION to let us know and to receive a 21-day study to guide you on your first steps of following Jesus. If you'd prefer a physical copy of the study, please ask your Campus Pastor for a copy of *First Steps: Beginning Your Walk with Jesus*.

Life with Jesus starts the moment we accept Him as our Savior. This is the most important decision each of us will make in our life, but it is only the beginning of our journey with Him. Experiencing life with Jesus is not a call to do more or achieve more; rather, it's a call to submit your life to Jesus, relying on a relationship with Him and following Him each day. Scripture calls this living a "full life" as a disciple of Jesus.

Here at Highlands, we have numerous ways for you to grow as a disciple of Jesus, including small groups, spiritual formation studies, and our four week discipleship study called *The Path: Following the Way*.

If you have further questions or would like to talk with someone about what it means to be saved and/or how to get plugged into one of our discipleship opportunities, please talk to your campus pastor after the meetup.

GETTING TO KNOW HIGHLANDS



HISTORY

- 1994** Pastor Jimmie Davidson and family moved to Abingdon to plant Highlands Fellowship
- 1995** Our first service was held on Easter Sunday, meeting in Coomes Recreation Center
- 2000** Built our first building and held our first gathering on Easter Sunday of that year
- 2004** Purchased a home near the Abingdon campus to house international pastors and leaders, training them in the Purpose Driven model
- 2006** Opened our first satellite campus in Bristol, VA followed by locations in Marion and Bluefield, VA
- 2012** Called Pastor Allen Jessee to lead the church upon our founding pastor being called to join a church in California
- 2012** Began streaming our Sunday morning gatherings online
- 2018** Partnered with Bluefield College to launch HFCollege, an accredited program that allows students to gain practical experience in ministry
- 2020** Began broadcasting our Sunday morning gatherings on local television
- 2024** Called Pastor Tim Brown to lead the church as Pastor Allen Jessee followed God's call to lead our regional and global networks

STRUCTURE

Highlands is pastor led, staff driven, and board protected.

We seek Jesus' wisdom and guidance daily; He is our ultimate leader. Our leadership consists of our Lead Pastor, Directional Leadership Team, and Board of Directors. The Directional Leadership Team oversees the church staff who is tasked with equipping volunteers for ministry. Together, we carry out the mission and vision of the church.

Leadership and Staff provide support for Highlands Fellowship multi-site campuses, HFCollege, Global Strategic Partners and our Regional Pastor Network.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

The biblical principles that we follow are found in the Great Commandment and Great Commission, and we follow a set of Core Beliefs that govern all we do in our church.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT:

Jesus replied: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart... soul and... mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

Matthew 22:37 – 40 (NIV)

THE GREAT COMMISSION:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” **Matthew 28:19 – 20a (NIV)**

CORE BELIEFS

Our Core Beliefs give us diversity in our church family. Because your family is different from my family - we do things differently, we see the world differently, we have our own ways of doing things - our essential and non-essential beliefs allow us to live in harmony.

In essential beliefs, we have unity. (Ephesians 4:4 – 6)

In non-essential beliefs, we have liberty. (Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22)

In all our beliefs, we show love. (1 Corinthians 13:2)

STATEMENTS OF BELIEF

God

There is only one living and true God. He is Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all things. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

(Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Matthew 3:16 - 17)

God, The Father

The Father is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present, and all-wise. God is sovereign over all creation and Father to those who place their faith in Jesus Christ. In Him, we have our being. He is loving, gracious, merciful and just. (Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; 2:7; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

God, The Son

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. Sent by the Father, He joined us here on earth, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, becoming fully man while remaining fully God. He lived a perfect, sinless life while on earth. He died on the cross to pay for the sins of the world, was buried and rose victorious over sin and death on the third day. He is now seated at the right hand of God, will return to earth to rescue His church, and reign over His new creation. (Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 4:14, 15; John 1:1 - 5; 14:10 - 30; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; Romans 1:3, 4; Acts 1:9 - 11; 1 Timothy 6:14, 15; Titus 2:13; Rev. 21:1 - 5)

God, The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He brings awareness of our sin and our need for Jesus. The Holy Spirit lives in each person at the moment of salvation. He provides the believer power for living, understanding of spiritual truths, guidance to do what is right in our daily walk, and a spiritual gift to serve the church. (2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7 - 13; 14:16, 17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18)

The Bible

The Bible is God's Word to us. It is the supreme source of truth, inspired by the Holy Spirit, written without error by man in its original form. It is the final authority in all matters of faith, practice and truth. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105, 160; Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5)

Humanity

People are created in the image of God, male and female, to be like God and with God. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, from the fall of humanity in Genesis 3 until now, all are born with a sinful nature that separates us from God. We are incapable of repairing this relationship apart from the salvation of Jesus. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3 - 6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2)

Salvation

Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it by faith alone. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by turning to Jesus Christ and trusting in the sacrifice He made on the cross can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into their life by faith. (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8, 9; John 14:6; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1)

Eternal Security

Because salvation is born of grace, it is kept by grace. While all believers were given the gift of salvation, we are called to persevere in the faith. Ultimately, salvation is sealed by the Holy Spirit and protected by the power of God's hand. When a person receives Jesus by faith and commits to follow Him, his/her salvation is eternally secure. (John 10:9, 29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 10:10, 14; 1 Peter 1:3 - 5)

Eternity

We believe that those who have received the free gift of salvation will experience eternal life with God. God will make all things new. Those who have received Jesus will ultimately be made new, and there will be a new heaven, new earth, and God will live with His people forever. Those who have not received Jesus will be separated from God in Hell. (John 3:6; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17 - 18; Revelation 20:13 - 15; 1 Corinthians 2:7 - 9)

The Church

The church is global, made up of believers of all nations. Jesus calls us to gather to pray, study the Bible, build community, and worship. The church is called to be the hands and feet of Jesus, providing hope to a broken world. (Revelation 5:9, Acts 1:8, Colossians 1:18; Matthew 28:18 - 20; Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 4:15 - 16; Hebrews 10:24 - 25; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 14:26)

ORDINANCES OF BAPTISM & COMMUNION

We believe baptism is the immersion of a person in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, after salvation. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried and risen Savior. While baptism is an important step of obedience for every believer, Scripture does not teach that it is a requirement for salvation. It is the outward expression of an internal decision. (Matthew 3:13 - 16; Acts 2:41; 8:36 - 38)

We observe the Lord's Supper (Communion) to remember the sacrifice Christ made for us through His death on the cross. The bread symbolizes His broken body, and the cup reminds us of His shed blood. (Matthew 26:26–28; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26)

STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE & SEXUAL EXPRESSION

We believe in the biblical view of marriage and sexual expression; namely, that marriage is a lifelong one-flesh covenant union between two sexually different persons (natural born male and female), from different families, and that all sexual relationships and expressions outside of marriage are sin.

We believe that living in the way of Jesus means embracing His vision of faithfulness in sexuality. This practically looks like abstaining from all sexual relationships outside of the biblical vision of Christian marriage expressed in lifelong covenant union between a man and woman, avoiding pornography, inappropriate relationships that compromise our witness, and pursuing life-giving holiness by the grace of God. Practicing this vision of faithfulness in sexual expression should come from a deep inner transformation of the heart (Matthew 5:27 - 28).

We strive to express this belief in accordance with the way of Jesus, which is full of grace and truth. We welcome all people, regardless of their beliefs and practices, to attend Highlands and to hear the good news of Jesus.

EXPRESSION AND PRACTICE OF BELIEFS

We invite all people to come as you are and experience the new life Jesus offers. We pray each person who walks through our doors feels welcome and leaves transformed by finding salvation and forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ.

We see something beautiful about Jesus in that the people who often lived in disagreement with His teachings were the same people who felt invited like none other to sit in Jesus's presence around the table and to discover a better way. These included tax collectors, prostitutes, adulterers, and others deemed as the lowest of the low on the moral ladder. Many of those people decided to follow Jesus as their Lord and Savior, turning from a life of sin, and finding forgiveness and transformation in Christ. We aspire to be a church that is uncompromisingly committed to the teaching of Jesus in our beliefs, and who welcome all people that they may find the love of Jesus just as compelling as we do. Come as you are and leave transformed by experiencing life with Jesus!

Highlands Fellowship Membership Covenant

1. I have received Jesus as my Lord and Savior, been baptized by immersion, and am committed to living the biblical, Christian lifestyle as described in the statements of belief.
2. I align with the church's mission, vision, strategy, and statements of belief.
3. I commit to protect and promote the unity of our church by demonstrating love through my words and actions.
4. I commit to actively participating in the life of the church, including things such as gatherings, serving, spiritual formation courses, and small groups.
5. I commit to give faithfully, regularly, and generously of my financial resources to help fulfill the mission and vision of the church.
6. I commit to helping others experience belonging with the church, and to sharing the hope and love of Jesus with those who don't know Him.
7. I understand that by completing the online membership registration, and acknowledging that I have read and align with the mission, vision, strategy and statements of belief, and signing the membership covenant, I have completed the membership class requirement.

To sign the membership covenant, please [scan the QR code below](#) or visit hf.church/MEMBERSHIP. Completing your membership registration online helps us keep an accurate record of your information and covenant. Please let us know if you need assistance in filling out the online registration and covenant.

TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP

(Membership, *The Path*, Small Groups, Serving)



NOTES



THE GREAT COMMISSION

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:19 – 20a (NIV)

Highlands
FELLOWSHIP