

PURPOSE AND VISION FOR SAFE HARBOR PRESBYTERIAN

GOD IS IN THE BUSINESS OF CHANGE. BEGINNING WITH THE REMARKABLE AND WONDEROUS TRANSFORMATION OF OUR INDIVIDUAL HEARTS BROUGHT THROUGH OUR REDEMPTION WE HAVE IN CHRIST. ONCE GOD WORKS SALVATION IN OUR LIVES HE BRINGS HIS SPIRIT WHO BRINGS NEW LIFE INTO OUR FAMILIES, CHURCH, JOBS, COMMUNITIES, AND WORLD.

Purpose

WHY DO WE EXIST?

SHPC EXISTS TO GLORIFY GOD BY EXTENDING THE TRANSFORMING PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST TO INDIVIDUAL LIVES, OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY, THE DELMARVA PENINSULA, AND THE WHOLE OF THE WORLD. (SEE 5 PURPOSES IN MINISTRY DESCRIPTION)

WHO ARE WE?

Safe Harbor is a church that lives and loves as a family of faith declaring the glory of God and enjoying the supremacy of Christ in all things. We are united in worship and prayer, nurtured and equipped by each other in love, empowered by grace and Led by God's Spirit so that we may reach out in compassion and zeal and share the good news of Jesus Christ with others, while providing a safe harbor for all.

Vision

SHPC IS A FAMILY OF FAITH THAT FINDS OUR GREATEST DELIGHT IN OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, WE ARE LEARNING TOGETHER TO BE MOVED BY HIS HOLINESS AND MASTERED BY HIS GRACE, AND WE ARE ABOUT OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS OF EXTENDING HIS LOVE AND FORGIVENESS INTO THIS WORLD; THEREFORE:

We believe God has called us to bring the power of the Gospel to bare on as many lives as possible (starting with our own renewal and revival) resulting in the expansion of Christ's Kingdom throughout the Eastern Shore of Maryland blossoming into a growing network of churches and ministries of hope and joy that spread the Kingdom

of Jesus Christ across the spiritually barren Delmarva Peninsula and then ultimately throughout the whole world.

Culture

We will glorify God as we live out the love and grace of Christ to each other and the world in a Gospel saturated movement aimed at building Christ's Kingdom one heart at a time.

Mission

MISSION STATEMENT: We are a church that glorifies God in worship and prayer as we nurture and equip our church family in love and reach outward in compassion and faith to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others, providing a safe harbor for all.

**MISSION SUMMARY: EXALTING CHRIST, GROWING IN GRACE,
REACHING THE WORLD.**

Mottos

Building the Kingdom, One Heart at a Time.

A Light on the Island to Lead You Home

THE 5 PURPOSES OF SAFE HARBOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EXPRESSED IN A THREEFOLD MISSION SUMMARY

PURPOSE #1 – WORSHIP

(EXALTING CHRIST)

We Will Exalt Christ -

- *By giving our lives to Christ as a spiritual act of worship*
- *By living our lives for the Supremacy of Christ in all things and investing our lives in the Kingdom.*
- *By filling our lives with the joy found in communion with Christ and his people - culminating in meaningful (truth) and moving (spirit) weekly services of worship.*

PURPOSE #2 – FELLOWSHIP

(GROWING IN GRACE)

We Will Build Relationships -

- *With God — for Christians : this primarily takes place through opening God’s word and our lives to each other in small groups.
– For non-Christians: this primarily takes place through invitation to worship, ministries, events and small groups by members of SHPC.*
- *With others: People are the primary focus of all of our ministries especially, small group, mercy and outreach ministries.*
- *In Christian Community: we share our lives together and live transparently with each other in Christian community demonstrating love, grace, and encouragement in the Lord to the ends of growth in grace and knowledge of Christ.*

PURPOSE #3 – DISCIPLESHIP

We Will Make Fruitful and Faithful Followers of Christ -

- *Through specific programs that address people in their specific spiritual situations showing them what it means to know and live for the Lord. “Meeting people where they are and moving them forward”. This primarily takes place through small groups, seminars, men’s and women’s ministries for adults, and through youth ministry, and children’s and youth classes for children and youth.*
- *Through raising up and training servant leaders. This occurs in each area of ministry with intentional mentoring and training in grace and service, and through specific classes designed to train potential, new, and existing leaders.*

- Through mentoring – Godly mature women mentoring younger less mature women, Elders and lay ministers mentoring younger men, Training Dads to be godly men, lovers of their wife and examples of faithfulness to their children.

PURPOSE #4 – SERVICE (REACHING THE WORLD)

We will Send Servants into Ministry -

- By identifying spiritual gifts, godly passions and Christian maturity and matching these with ministry opportunities.
- By creating ministry teams led by lay people responding to God's call.

PURPOSE #5 – MISSION

We will Reach the World -

- By creating a climate that identifies opportunities and strategies for building both SHPC's ministry and for sending each believer into our community with the Gospel.
- Through missions, church planting, and leadership training focused outside of our immediate ministry area.
- Through internship programs and short term staffing that serves our present needs while training for future harvests outside of the Kent Island area.

7 CORE VALUES FOR SAFE HARBOR PRESBYTERIAN

Exalting Christ – our Primary Response to God's grace to us in Christ is to live for his glory in all things

1. Excellence in Worship - We believe that Christ is exalted as we worship well in his name - worship is central in the life of all those who are in Christ.

Worship that glorifies God, both in daily life and the regular gathering of the church, is the natural response of the believer to the grace of God. We desire to facilitate participatory corporate worship experiences that give God glory, honor and praise, that open the way for authentic encounters with Him and that bring His followers great delight.

Growing in Grace – our Calling is to grow deep in our love and understanding of Christ's love toward us and others

2. Growth - We believe that growth takes place as we pursue Christ's

Kingdom together for his glory- discipleship and spiritual growth are essential for all who are in Christ and numerical growth comes to a congregation as God blesses us and we love each other.

A church full of Christians who are nurturing each other, are running hard after God, living with godly intent as His children and using their gifts to extend His Kingdom, brings God great glory and is a powerful witness to the world. We are eager to see every Christian live as a learner, minister, evangelist and steward.

3. Transformation - We believe that through the Good News of Jesus Christ, God transforms individual lives, relationships, communities and culture – growth, maturation, and multiplication is expected of all those who are in Christ

This conviction brings confidence and hope, challenges us to boldness and courage, and calls us to trust and pray. Because of this confidence in God's transforming grace, we want to dream big dreams and be involved in ministries of extension and multiplication.

4. Grace - We believe that God's grace permeates every aspect of our lives together – spiritual growth comes as we die to our sinful, fleshly, and worldly behaviors and live in step with the Spirit as those who are IN Christ.

Whether a person is a mature believer, a young Christian or a seeker, God's grace speaks to the heart and satisfies the soul. Everything that we do will announce and present grace rather than law and legalism. We intend to communicate a warm, winsome and caring Reformed faith.

5. Community - We believe that the Christian life is best lived in community – the world will know that we are in Christ by the love we show one to another.

The Christian life is not meant to be a solitary experience. We will encourage everyone to be in a small group and will strive to bear each others burdens and hold one another accountable to living a godly life.

Reaching the World – our Mission is to share the love of Christ with others

6. Mission - We believe that the local church is a mission outpost.

It is impossible to separate the Christian life from mission and harvest. As a mission outpost, the church and its members actively seek ways to penetrate the world, our community, and individual lives with the Gospel.

7. Contemporary - We believe that effective ministry must be biblically based as well as culturally relevant.

We do not need to sacrifice biblical truth nor cultural relevance. We adhere to the principles and practices of the Reformed faith without trying to look or sound like we came from the 16th century. All of our ministries will be in the "vernacular", speaking directly to the immediate cultures and people without compromising scripture or theology. We connect to our contemporary cultural while cherishing our traditions and heritage.

Christian Culture Expressed at Safe Harbor Presbyterian

We will glorify God as we live out the love and grace of Christ to each other and the world in a Gospel saturated movement aimed at building Christ's Kingdom one heart at a time.

Therefore :

- 1. We will place a priority upon building the Kingdom over taking care of our own needs – we ask the question, “Are we doing this for us, or for Christ and His Kingdom?”*
- 2. We display Kingdom life as Christ transforms our hearts so that we strive for personal and corporate holiness. This takes place in our church, a gracious community of faith, by shepherding hearts, not trying to control and maintain acceptable behavior. The first step toward godliness is dependence upon Christ and conviction by God's Holy Spirit bringing transformation that comes from falling on our knees in repentance and faith at the foot of the cross, not gritting our teeth and trying to be good. Repentance and faith are the keys to our entrance into a life with Christ and grow even more important as we daily die to our sin and live for Christ.*
- 3. We grow the Kingdom through relationships not programs and ministry activities. Ministries and programs are a means to an end, not an end in themselves. The end to which we strive is Kingdom growth – growing deeper in our walk with Christ, growing deeper in our love and care for others, and growing in number as we reach the lost around us.*

4. *We advance the Kingdom as we serve Christ as His ambassadors penetrating this world with His presence, not protecting ourselves from the world and isolating ourselves from those lost in the world.*
5. *We enjoy Christ and His Kingdom as we love and encourage one another in grace and forgiveness, not souring the fellowship with demands and personal expectations nor falling into the sins of gossip and condemnation. We care for one another in small groups and celebrate Christ with each other in corporate worship.*

We will build the Kingdom over caring for ourselves, we will penetrate the World for Christ, not protect ourselves from the world, We strive for godliness by shepherding hearts not controlling behavior, we will live as a community that builds relationships over maintaining ministries, we will encourage not condemn.

12 Key Characteristics of Our Ministries

- 1. Biblical Faithfulness – True to God’s Word, biblical theology, and the great commission*
- 2. Healthy Families – Practical Covenantal theology (Christian education and spiritual development of children as well as parents, mentoring and instruction for marriages and for childrearing – Dt 6:6,7)*
- 3. Transformational Worship – Emphasis on excellent worship that is Spirit and truth filled (John 4:23)*
- 4. Discipleship – Passing along the things we learn, demonstration, mentoring, empowering*
- 5. Love and Encouragement - Emphasis on community, one another in love, small group ministry, fellowship events and gatherings*
- 6. Gift Based Ministry – Ministry activity is to be carried out by “gifted” volunteers. Pastors and teachers equip believers to do the work according to the gifts given them (Eph 4:11-13)*

7. *Renewing our Minds - (Education) an emphasis on continued learning*
8. *People Orientation – people take precedence over programs and property*
9. *Edifying Speech – We will encourage, praise, and build-up; not bite, devour, tear-down nor injure.*
10. *Missionary Mandate – Mission outpost mentality – the world is our mission field and every member a missionary, every action of our church measured by the great commission*
11. *Cultural Relevancy – Meeting people where they are and understanding who they are.*
12. *Celebration of Failure – Valuing godly attempts to do new and better things, or even the hard right things. These attempts often end in failure – but these kind of failures are to be celebrated as courageous leaps of faith, not mistakes to be avoided in the future.*

Affirmation of Faith

The Word of God

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it is our only supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31, 32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32).

The Trinity

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. (Genesis 1:1, 26; John 1:1, 3; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19, 20; Ephesians 4:5,6).

God the Father

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He is sovereign and foreordains whatsoever comes to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of each person, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through his only begotten son, Jesus Christ. (Luke 10:21, 22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; Romans 1:7; 1 Timothy 1:1, 2; 2:5, 6; 1 Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6).

God the Son: Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people and personal visible return to earth at the consummation of this age. (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1; 20:28; Romans 9:5; 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:21-23; John 20:30, 31; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:4; Acts 1:11; Romans 5:6-8; 6:9, 10; Hebrews 9:28; 1 Timothy 3:16).

God the Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, to bring eternal righteousness and judgment and to regenerate, sanctify and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. (John 14:16, 17, 26; John 16:9-14; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 5:22-26).

Regeneration

We believe that mankind was created by God, in His own image; that Adam and Eve and all their offspring sinned in the first sin and all rebellious acts afterwards flow from a corrupt nature as a result of Adam's sin. This original and subsequent sin brings about physical, spiritual and eternal death (which is separation from God), and all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners by choice and therefore under condemnation. We believe that in order to repent and forsake sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior we must be regenerated by the Holy Spirit, and by God's grace, become new creatures in Christ, we are therefore, then, delivered from condemnation and receive eternal life. (Genesis 1:26; 5:2; 3; 2:17; Ecclesiastes 2:11; John 3:14; 5:24; 5:30; 7:13; 8:12; 10:26; Romans 9:22; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelations 19:3, 20; 14:15; 21:18; Psalm 51:7; Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:14; Romans 3:19; 5:19; Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9; John 3:16; John 1:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:1).

The Church

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body, of which, Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the visible church, local and worldwide, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ (identified by a credible profession of faith) along with their children, all of whom are baptized and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has entrusted the members of the local church with the privilege of being Christ's ambassadors to a lost and dying world and are employed with the primary task of bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to this world in which we live. (Ephesians 2:19-22; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:19-21; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:23-25).

Evil

We believe that, from the time of the fall, all of mankind and human history has been plagued by sin and battles against evil. We believe in the existence of a personal devil, who, although has been dealt a mortal blow by Christ on the cross and whose doom is already secured, is still working in the world to destroy the souls of men and that he and all his angels will, after the final judgment, eternally perish in the lake of fire.

Christian Conduct

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of his fellow men; that his heart should seek after God and His Kingdom, that He should be filled with joy as he receives God's blessing and providences; that he should, as he keeps in step with the Holy Spirit, pursue peace and be blameless before the world; that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions; that the Christian life is one lived by faith in the power of the Holy Spirit; and that the true believer

should constantly pursue Godliness seeking to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 4:11-13; Romans 12:1-3; Hebrews 12:1, 2; John 14:15, 23, 24; 1 John 2:3-6; 2 Corinthians 9:6-9; 1 Corinthians 4:2; Colossians 1:9, 10).

The Sacraments

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has given two sacraments to the church, baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the in-grafting of the believer and their children into the visible church by the symbolic use of water in the name of the triune God. We believe that Christ instituted the Lord's Supper for commemoration of His death, and to impart spiritual nourishment to all who partake rightly of the sacrament. We believe that these sacraments are both a sign and seal of God's covenant of grace. We believe that these two sacraments should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Religious Liberty

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that believers are not to stand as judge over one another, nor those outside of the church; that believers are bound by God's word and their consciences controlled by the Holy Spirit and therefore have the freedom to act in ways that may differ from person to person according to each man's scruples bounded by the immutable Word of God; that God has appointed elders in each church to direct and discipline those believers who act contrary to God's Word; and that church discipline is one of the marks of the true church of Jesus Christ and is exercised for the Glory of Christ, the purity of His bride, and the reclaiming of the wayward believer. (Matthew 18; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, 9:4, 19, 22,23, 10:23-33; Colossians 2:20-23, 3:5,6; Romans 14:7-9, 12).

Christian Community

We believe that in Christ we share a bond stronger than any blood relation. We believe that because of this bond it is essential for all Christians to share their lives together, and that God will be most glorified in our midst when we love each other more than ourselves, and when we grow deeper in our relationships with each other so that we may encourage one another on in faith and good deeds. Sharing our lives together in our pilgrimage of faith is the New Testament model for Christian living and therefore we must fight against the trends and practices of our culture that separate, alienate, and isolate individuals and families from each other and live together graciously in Christian community.

Denominationalism

We believe that believers should never be divided by religious organizations, and that there is only one true church, that is, all who are in Christ Jesus. Denominations exist because of sin: sin that has clouded our understanding and sin that has built walls of pride and independence separating one believer from the next. The church of Jesus Christ should be connected and accountable between individual congregations and should unite with each other to accomplish the global purposes of the Church. Churches are to be ruled by elders and are gifted with ordained pastors and teachers to equip the membership for works of service. We believe that the Presbyterian Church in America is not the only manifestation of the one true church, but is the collection of individual congregations that from our understanding (as fallible as we may be) most closely adheres to God's word, the Bible, and applies Holy Scriptures most faithfully in ecclesiastical practice. While Safe Harbor is a member of this denomination, the highest authority is vested not in the denomination, but in the elders of our local church as they act together to discern God's will through his Word and Spirit. (Acts 15:36, 41; 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:1; Galatians 1:1-3; Revelation 1:4, 10,11).

The Last Things

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the consummation of this age into His eternal kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal blessedness of the righteous and the endless suffering of the wicked. (Matthew 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20; 1Thessalonians 4:15; 2 Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15).