

Who We Are

The First Presbyterian Church of Hayward is a community of believers endeavoring to live our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As a confessing church, we acknowledge the following to be true:

- That Jesus is Lord and Savior and the sole means by which we know God the Father
- That His Holy Spirit calls us to come together to know Christ more fully
- That the Bible, in its entirety, is the Word of God and we uphold it as the rule of our faith

Knowing that Jesus died for us we joyfully come together to make Him known to others through our worship and our ministries.

We hope that you will join us for worship and experience the Hope that has been a part of our congregation for over 100 years.

Uniquely Presbyterian

For a link to the Presbyterian Book of Confessions

<http://www.pcusa.org/oga/constitution.htm>

Our Purpose Statement

To reach out so others may experience God's love through us

To nurture one another in relationships with Jesus Christ

To equip one another for serving here and everywhere

To worship the Lord and enjoy Him forever

We are a hope-driven church

1. To reach out so others may experience God's love through us:

John 15:12-17: ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

John 17: 20-23 ²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

2. To nurture one another in relationships with Jesus Christ

John 1:35-49: ³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter). ⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." ⁴⁶ "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false." ⁴⁸ "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."

I Thess. 5:10-11: ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

3. To equip one another for serving here and everywhere

II Tim 3:16-17: ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man (or woman) of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Eph. 4:11-12: ¹¹ It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...

Eph. 2:8-10: ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

4. To worship the Lord and enjoy Him forever.

Psalms 95:1-7: ¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. ² Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. ³ For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. ⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; ⁷ for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Today, if you hear his voice,

John 4:21-24: ²¹ Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HAYWARD

What We Believe – Our Statement of Faith

In essential beliefs – we have unity.

“There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” – Ephesians 4:4-6

In non-essential beliefs – we have liberty.

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” – Romans 15:7

In all our beliefs – we show charity.

“If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that could move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.” – 1 Corinthians 13:2

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE

ABOUT GOD

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. God has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1, 26-27, 3:22; Deut 6:4; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Peter 1:1-2; 2 Corinthians 13:14

ABOUT GOD THE FATHER

God is infinite, personal, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love; God concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of all of us; God hears and answers prayer; God saves from sin and death all who come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ. God is a loving Father to His children.

Romans 11:33; Proverbs 3:19; Job 12:13; John 3:16-17; 1 John 4:13-16

ABOUT JESUS CHRIST – THE SON OF GOD

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus though fully God, through the incarnation became fully human and lived a sinless life. Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. Jesus Christ arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. The Risen Christ ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

*Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Col 1:17-18; Phil. 2:5-11
Hebrews 4:14,15; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14, 15; Titus 2:13*

ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD

The Holy Spirit is co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and Jesus Christ. The Spirit is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. The Spirit also lives in every follower of Christ from the moment of salvation. The Spirit provides the Christian daily with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, guidance in doing what is right and boldness to share his or her faith. The Spirit gives every believer different spiritual gifts when they accept Christ as their savior. As followers of Christ, we are privileged to have the Spirit as our comforter and teacher.

2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13,14; 5:18; Galatians 5:25

ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's written Word to us.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105,160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

ABOUT US AS HUMAN BEINGS

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like God in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by sin. Sin is what separates people from God and causes many problems in life. We live in a sin-filled world but we worship a loving and merciful God.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23

ABOUT OUR SALVATION

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must choose to accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross as God's offer of forgiveness, can we have an assurance of salvation and be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his/her life by faith.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5 Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1; 1John 5:11-13

ABOUT ETERNITY

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with God is eternal life.

John 3:16; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15