



New Albany  
Presbyterian Church

# Mission & What We Believe

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From the time that Jesus rose from the dead and his followers went out into the world to proclaim the greatest news of all-time, Christians have held to statements that summarize what they believe. The amazing love that God has for his people in spite of human sinfulness compels Christians to continue to share this wonderful Gospel message. The earliest statement of faith was “Jesus is Lord.” Throughout time, as the church endured external persecutions and internal debates about the nature and content of the Christian faith, more extensive statements, catechisms and creeds developed. The PC (USA) Book of Confessions is an historic collection of these statements that our denomination endorses. Below, we have highlighted the most important of these beliefs.

We believe that the sixty-six books of the Bible are God-breathed, without error and authoritative. The Bible is unlike anything else ever written. It is the revelation of God’s character and God’s ways, seen most clearly in the person, work, life, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible contains much that is difficult and challenging to us today, yet we believe that it is completely true. It shows us the great love of the All-Powerful Creator, who sent His Son to save us.

In the Bible we find that God reveals Himself as One God, supreme and sovereign over everything that exists. He does not share his deity or His glory with any other, nor is He one god among many. We also find that God is Trinitarian—eternally existing as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is three in one.

We believe that all humans are made in the image and likeness of God, which is the unique source and foundation of human dignity and value. God created us “very good,” and created us for relationship with Him. This is why we love and value all people, welcoming any who would come to NAPC, regardless of any differences we might have.

In spite of this gift of creation and relationship with God, humans have without exception turned from God, rebelling against His loving authority. The Bible calls this “sin,” and every one of us stands condemned, by nature and choice, guilty of willfully turning away from God. Devastatingly, there is nothing that we can do ourselves to remedy this position of sinful rebellion. Many times we are warned by Jesus and the apostles that the penalty of sin against a perfectly just and righteous God is death—both physical death and eternal death apart from God in a horrible place called Hell.

If this were the end of the story, what an unremittingly bleak story it would be. But it isn’t! The amazing reality of God’s love for us and His plan to redeem us is revealed in the life, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus. Jesus Christ, who has existed for all eternity, through whom and for whom all things were created, was born humbly into the world in an obscure small town in Judea. He lived a perfect life, showing compassion to the poor and the outcast, and challenging the religious leaders to turn from their self-righteousness. He preached that all must repent of sin and believe the good news of the Gospel. He was unjustly condemned, brutally beaten, executed in the most excruciating and shameful of ways on a wooden cross, and died. His death was a substitute for our own. By submitting to his Father’s will to die for us, he paid the penalty for our sin. Three days later, he literally and victoriously rose from death, having conquered the power of sin and Satan, and appeared among his disciples. Forty days later, he ascended into heaven, and at the Jewish festival of Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit to indwell every believer who repents of their sins and by faith trusts in Jesus Christ alone to reconcile them to God the Father.

As Peter said in an early sermon, “there is only one name under heaven by which we must be saved.” Salvation from an eternity of separation from God depends wholly and completely upon the free gift of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection (which we call grace). We receive this free gift only by faith. This gift is offered to any who would repent of sin and trust in Jesus. It is for good reason that we call this the greatest news of all-time!

All of those who follow Jesus are commanded to “put away sin” and lead lives of increasing obedience to God. This will never happen perfectly in this life. Yet, as Christians, continued repentance of sin and faith in Christ over time should lead to an increasingly joyful, sacrificial, compassionate and purposeful life. We should increase in generosity, love and commitment to the truth of the Gospel. We should decrease in fear, in sinful behavior, and in self-centeredness. This will happen not through an effort to earn God’s love, but in response to His love which has already been freely given.

Every follower of Christ is called to belong to and participate in a local church. The local church is the physical, tangible representation of the invisible Church made up of all believers in Jesus throughout time. Elders are appointed to lead God’s church, but they are the undershepherds to the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ. Joyful obedience to him and his Word are the first priority for leaders of God’s church. God has given two sacraments to His church: baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Baptism is the sacrament of confirming one’s faith in Jesus Christ (either as a believer or as the believing parent(s) of their children). The Lord’s Supper is the sacrament of eating and drinking in communion with the Risen Christ.

Finally, all believers in Jesus hopefully and patiently await the time when Jesus Christ will return. He will not return in the way he came to Bethlehem. He will come in glory and power, to judge the living and the dead. Those who have trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation by faith will go to their eternal reward with God in Heaven; those who have rejected Jesus Christ will go to eternal punishment.

We believe in these truths that the Bible reveals to us. Because of God’s great worth, glory and love, we commit ourselves to proclaiming and embodying these truths in word and deed. To Him be the glory forever and ever!

(see below for all supporting Scriptures)

### **Paragraph 2**

2 Timothy 3:16 - <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

2 Peter 1:21 - <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 24:35 - <sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

John 3:16 - <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

### **Paragraph 3**

Deuteronomy 6:4<sup>4</sup> “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Isaiah 46:9-10 - for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, <sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done,

saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.’

1 Timothy 2:5 - <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 13:14 - <sup>14</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Matthew 28:19 - <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . .

#### **Paragraph 4**

Genesis 1:26-27, 31 - <sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

Luke 19:10 - <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

#### **Paragraph 5**

5. Romans 3:23 - <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Ephesians 2:1-4 - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—  
<sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us . . .

Psalms 51:5 - <sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

James 2:10 - <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

Revelation 20:12-15 - <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

#### **Paragraph 6**

Romans 5:12 - <sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

Romans, 6:23 - <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:16-18 - <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Matthew 5:17 - <sup>17</sup> "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

John 1:1-4 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

<sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Colossians 1:15-20 - <sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Hebrews 1:1-3 - Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high . . .

Isaiah 53:5 - <sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Romans 5:8 - <sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:10 - <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 Corinthians 15:3-6 - <sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

1 Timothy 1:15 - <sup>15</sup> The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. <sup>1</sup>

Acts 17:30-31 - <sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Ephesians 2:8-9 - <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

1 John 5:11-12 - <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

John 14:6 - <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Romans 3:21-26 - <sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

## **Paragraph 7**

John 10:10 - <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Titus 2:11-14 - <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Galatians 5:16-24 - <sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I

warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

### **Paragraph 8**

Colossians 1:18 - <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Ephesians 1:22-23 - <sup>22</sup> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

1 Corinthians 12:27 - <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

2 Timothy 2:19 - <sup>19</sup> But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his . . ."

1 Peter 5:1-4 - So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: <sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Matthew 28:18-19 - <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Matthew 26:26-28 - <sup>26</sup> Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

1 Corinthians 11:23-29 - <sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. <sup>27</sup> Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup> For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

### **Paragraph 9**

Revelation 19:11-16 - <sup>11</sup> Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. <sup>13</sup> He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Matthew 25:31-46 - <sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you

hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup> And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

John 5:25-29 - <sup>25</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. <sup>27</sup> And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.