

Statement of Faith

Charlotte Connally

When I was little, I was taught to believe what my parents told me, their faith beliefs, and follow the actions they do. Now that I am older, I dream on my own note, believe what I believe, and follow the trail I blaze.

I believe in a triune God who loves us, listens to us, and enlightens our spirits each and every day. You might not know it, but God is always with us whoever we are, and wherever we are! One way we can connect to God is through church and thinking how our faith can make a difference.

Church is a holy, loving, and caring place where we can go spiritually and/or physically to grow, learn, and get closer to God. Even if you do not go to church often, that does not lose part of the connection you have with God and your holy family. I like to practice my faith by going to church, reading the Bible, praying, practicing acts of love by God and Jesus, and by living out the life of a disciple and follower of Jesus and God.

The Holy Spirit is a loving force that always surrounds us as a safety net and a blanket of love, inspiration, and a light in our life. I understand the Holy Spirit as a reminder of all the parts of God. The Holy Spirit brings us many gifts from God and makes us who we are and who we are to our faith mission.

Faith. It might seem like a scary word to dive into, but when you do, you are enlightened in the hands and words of God. We are called to believe in one triune God, and the teachings of Jesus that we can use in our own daily lives. Faith allows us to connect with God even when God is not visible. Faith is not a noun, adjective, or even a verb, but a pronoun you place in front of the beliefs you believe initiated with church, God, Jesus, and more. Everyone does not have to have a faith, and if that is so, that does not make them less important to God or everyone else.

In my faith, I believe that God's desire for the world is to create an equally loving, kind, and diverse nation with all of us. I know that God wants us to be who we are in the world, and to be authentic. In God's image, God wants us to love our neighbor like they are our brothers and sisters. I believe that God needs us to think that we are one body in Christ, so we love and see everyone as us and God. A homeless person on the street, that is me. I need to help them. A person getting bullied, that is me. I need to help them. We are all different, yes, but we are all one body in Christ who needs to love and support each other. If we can see one body in Christ, our nation will be bound back together one person at a time to be happy and healthy ingrained in the love of God.

When people encounter a homeless person, people are scared, grossed out, and think that they are less because they do not have as much money as other people have and they have to live on the streets. I actually think that homeless people have more courage, bravery, and confidence in themselves than a bunch of people do. In society today, we are constantly wanting and needing the best. We are not realizing what you are robbing yourself of at that moment! We need to have that kind of self-confidence and bravery to ask for help and have the perseverance to go through the toughest times. People need to realize what you are setting yourself up for in the future, and change our attitude towards people and the way others are living.

Faith allows me to admire homeless people, people with cancer or any illness, and immigrants. I admire those people every day for the tiger they are building inside of themselves and the mentality they are setting themselves up with. I am very thankful that I have what I have today, but I believe that God sets up everyone with their own gifts inside them no matter their status, economically or materially. Faith, God, Jesus, and our brothers and sisters allow us to help those in need, learn and ask for what we need from others, and build ourselves from our role models. It does not matter what people look like on the outside, but it's the inside that matters. Who are you building yourself up to be on the inside?

God forgiving us for when our actions, words, and thoughts fall down the wrong path is an amazing example for how we should act towards our brothers and sisters in this world.

Today in present America, we are making intentional negativity with ourselves and others. Some people have trouble with their emotions and actions, so we are called by the light of God to wrap them in the blanket of love we are wrapped in to help them through their struggles and our struggles together. Not everyone has a perfect life, and even with God, we are not all perfect human beings. Together as a whole loving family, let's reach out a hand to help our brothers and sisters. God's purpose for all of us is to do what our mind and soul take us, but also to reach out our hand and open up our soul to whomever comes down the road, lost and needing help. We need to not only see and hear out of our faces, but out of our hearts where God can hold a lantern to guide us by God's light.

Jesus did not sit back and wait for someone to say, "yes, you can go." Jesus acted and had no regrets on his actions he took! I believe that our faith allows us to have that blanket of love and comfort holding us tight. But it also has the mixed medium of allowing us to go and blaze a trail of wisdom and dreams with confidence!

Statement of Faith

Frances Fendig

Church has always been a big part of my life from singing in choir to spending the night during overnights. I always feel more connected to God when at church with my friends. I feel the Church has given me the ideas to come up with what I believe in as a person. I believe that God desires love and kindness for this world. That is how God would teach and I think that is worth following. I think God is someone who we trust and can pray to at all times.

I do not think how we treat our planet is part of God's plan. We all make mistakes and we are all human. We need to keep studying and trying to make a difference. We should try to follow God even if we don't know where God will lead us. I have learned so much about our environment through my science classes at school and try to do my part in protecting it.

I believe we are called to love one another the way God loves us, unconditionally. We are called to lift others around us even if we feel down. I think we should be obligated to do service towards others if they need it. We are expected to not hold grudges against others and are supposed to forgive.

This all brings me to the question, who is God and what is faith. God is someone who loves and watches over us at all times. Everyone has a different view on who God is and I believe God is someone who cares and looks out for us whenever needed. Faith is having trust in something that you don't 100% know for sure. Faith allows us to connect with God even if God is not physically present.

Statement of Faith

Zaylie Barber

Highland Presbyterian Church: a place I have attended for as long as I can remember. A church in which I have maintained friendships 13 years long, learned to sing, and learned the history of all that came before it. This pretty brick building on Cherokee Road, however, has taught me far more than how to find a bible passage. I've learned to love, to laugh, to look at the world in a way that is more than how I interact with it, but how it interacts with itself and God.

I believe God is not a physical form or a person, but rather the ever guiding, always loving force that created everything we know. God desires peace, and for all of their creations to live harmoniously. For us to heal rather than hurt, to love more than hate, and give as much as we receive. I think God is so much more than a big finger in the sky, but rather a creator that watches over and interacts with all of us, guiding us to make the right choices and to try to fix our mistakes.

The world itself is a far cry from what I believe to be an idealistic Presbyterian world. It is corrupt in many ways, but I believe an important part of this faith is being able to see the good around you. To love God is to take that appreciation and trust, and use it to be a part in creating a better world. I think Jesus was the example, in a way, of how to live our lives so that we can make decisions that positively impact the world, and are driven by Christ. I don't believe that Jesus literally did many of the things described in scripture, but that doesn't give the stories any less merit or value.

The Holy Spirit is the section of the trinity that I have never fully understood, but I think that's part of what makes it so important. I believe that it is the most present form of God, and the part of God that interacts the most with the world. In the trinity, it is the representative of Christians, and the guiding force that leads us to live a life guided by Christ.

My faith allows me to connect with people on a deeper level, because it acts as a sort of equalizer. Instead of seeing people's political party, race, gender, or any of the separations we choose to put between us, I can try to see other people as just that, people. We were all created equally, and should be treated as such. Just believing in these things, however, is only half of what makes a person Christian. For me, your actions are equally if not more important than your beliefs, and in the future I hope to try and make the world a better place than it was when I came into it, by taking my faith and putting it in motion.

Getting confirmed and becoming a part of this church is important to me because it marks the transition from student to member, the last step, but also a new beginning. I hope I can be a valuable contributor to this community, and, as God wants us to do, leave it a better place than when I entered.