



NEXT STEPS

WHAT WE BELIEVE

We are Christian

- We believe in a vibrant relationship with God that impacts our lives today.
- Our beliefs are based on the Bible which we believe is inspired by God and is our “rule for life and faith.”

The authority of Faith Arlington Church is granted by the Lord Jesus Christ. Its

governance shall be in accordance with the Scriptures. The final authority in all

matters of faith and conduct shall be the Holy Bible. But here are practical applications that emphasizes a few key areas:

1. We believe in a big God with the power to change lives today – in fact He has the authority over “every square inch” of our world (this is called Sovereignty).
2. God chooses us and offers His love to us freely – we cannot do anything to earn it (this is called grace).
3. God calls us into relationship with Him – He makes the first move, and our job is to respond to God’s call by inviting Him into our lives (this is called salvation).
4. The Bible is the authority for our lives. However, this does not mean we think there are always easy answers. Instead, we think the Bible needs to be studied carefully and that our beliefs should be approached with faith, thought and practice (this is called sanctification).
5. The church should be led by Pastors and staff.
6. Faith Arlington accepts “The Baptist Faith and Message 2000” as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention as an affirmation of basic Christian beliefs, and as a general statement of faith.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL STORY:

- Creation – In the image of God, to do good work and to be in relationship with God.
- Fall – breaks our relationship with God and the whole world suffers in brokenness.
- Redemption – God pursues us and sends His Son to die for our sins and restore our relationship with Him.
- Restoration – Jesus initiates the Kingdom of God and invites us to participate in His work of restoring all things – but we live in the in-between time, waiting for His return to fully restore the world and to live in eternity with Him.

KEY BELIEFS:

Faith Arlington is associated with the Southern Baptist Convention, and our doctrine is consistent with the statements found in The Baptist Faith and Message. Below is a summary of our core beliefs.

The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:9; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35; Matthew 4:4

God – One True God

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

Deuteronomy 4:35, 39; Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Samuel 7:22; 1 Chronicles 17:20; Psalm 86:10; Isaiah 43:10, 11; Mark 12:29-34; John 17:3; Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Genesis 1:1-2; Romans 14:17-18; Isaiah 44:6

God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. ...God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6; Matthew 23:9; Psalm 68:5; Isaiah 63:16; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; John 14:10; Deuteronomy 32:6; Isaiah 9:6

God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. ...He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross, He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.

1 Corinthians 15:28; Psalm 2:7; Matthew 3:17; 1 John 4:10; John 14:13; Hebrews 5:5; Romans 1:4; Luke 9:35

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. ...He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. ...He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Matthew 1:18; John 14:26; Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19; Romans 5:5; Romans 8:26-27; Acts 2:38

Man

Man is the special creation of God, in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. ...By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. ... The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore every person of every race possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Genesis 1:6; Genesis 9:6; Genesis 5:2; Genesis 3; Romans 5:8; Matthew 28:19-20; Matthew 16:15

Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

Luke 19:10; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:8-9; Romans 10:9-10; Romans 10:13; John 3:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31; Psalms 62:1; Acts 2:21; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Peter 1:8-9; Mark 16:16; Matthew 7:13-14; Hebrews 9:28; Psalm 62:7; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 John 5:12; John 10:10

Baptism

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water. ...It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. Acts 10:48; Acts 22:16; Luke 3:16; Galatians 3:27; Mark 1:4-5; Acts 16:31-33

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members ... memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:26; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Evangelism/ Discipleship & Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations... to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Matthew 24:14; Psalm 96:3; Revelation 14:6-7; Isaiah 6:8; Romans 1:16; Acts 1:8

Pastors

After Jesus, our Elders or Pastors/Overseers are the senior leaders of the church. Elders are the senior male leaders of the church who are also synonymously called "pastors," "bishops," and "overseers" throughout the New Testament. Elders are men chosen for their ministry according to clear biblical requirements. Acts 20:28 | Ephesians 4:11 | 1 Peter 5:2

Deacons

To avoid becoming overburdened and to allow sufficient time in prayer and Bible study, Senior spiritual leadership (Pastors) appoint pastoral assistants; these assistants are deacons. Acts 6:1-7 Unlike elder duties, the responsibilities of deacons are not stated in Scripture though their qualifications are. "Deacon" simply means "servant," so our deacons exist to serve the body where needed. 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Christian Hope

We believe we can experience the divine life of God, first in this world imperfectly as the people of God, then perfectly in heaven when we are present with Christ. We believe in the second coming of Christ as human history comes to a close and the effects of sin are once and for all removed.

WHO WE ARE

Our Mission

The Mission of Faith Arlington is to declare the Good News of salvation and lead those who believe to live in obedience to the Scripture and bring honor and glory to Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28: 18-20; Matthew 5:16; 2 Corinthians 4:6)

Our Vision

The Vision of Faith Arlington is to reflect the glory of God as we are transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ, who died for our sin so we could have abundant life. (2 Corinthians 3:18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; John 10:10)

Our DNA

- A church where everybody is part of the family (hospitality/one another's)
- A church who cares about those who are "not yet here" (outreach / evangelism)
- A church who blesses the community (serving)
- A church who takes risks (responding to God's call, in faith)
- A church that kids & youth love to be part of (passing faith to the next generation)
- A church where everybody is on the team (priesthood of all believers) We know that everyone has a calling to be used by God

OUR VALUES

1. Christ-Centered: Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16 (NIV)

The main thing is the Gospel of Jesus Christ: The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, out of his great love, for the forgiveness of our sins, our eternal salvation, and to bring God's Kingdom to earth. We focus our ministries, energy, and resources on proclaiming the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

God-Loving: Worshipping God Every Day in Every Way.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

Mark 12:30 (NIV)

We are made to live our lives connected to God, loving and serving Him, always. And weekly, in reverence and awe, we experience a multi-faceted time of Spirit-led worship together that includes a diversity of people. We desire to connect others to God that they too might experience the joy of walking through life alongside Him.

2. Biblically Based: Rooted in the Word.

"Everything in the Scriptures is God's Word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live."

2 Timothy 3:16 (CEV)

We are hungry to be fed by God's Word, reading and studying the Bible together and in private devotions. God speaks to us and shapes us by his Word, making us more like Jesus. Our personal and corporate decision-making is grounded in the truths of Scripture.

3. Grace-Filled: Come as You Are, but Don't Stay that Way.

"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV) Faith Arlington is a community of real people, free to be themselves without judgment. **It is a place of grace where all are loved and accepted as Christ has loved and accepted us.** God's grace not only welcomes us, but it also changes us. We believe that when God's truth is planted in people who are grounded in God's love, lives will be transformed.

4. Relationally Bound: Growing in Community.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another..."

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

We are committed to living life with one another. Life change happens best in community. Community happens in the corporate worship setting as well as home groups and small group studies. We worship together and learn together, laugh together and cry together, as the body of Christ.

5. Family-Oriented: Your Family, Our Family, God's Family.

"...you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children.

Now we call him, 'Abba, Father.'"

Romans 8:15b (NLT)

Faith Arlington seeks to bless all members of our family: children, youth, young adults, parents, married couples, singles, and seniors. Many of our worship events and our ministries are intergenerational, bringing together persons in various stages of life. We seek to be a church family that strengthens individual families.

6. Servant-Hearted: Bearing Fruit in the World. "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." eps 2:10

He served; we serve. We believe every person has a gift to share and a place to serve, in the church and in the world. We put our faith into practice as we humbly share the love of God in Christ Jesus through our words and deeds, from Shelby County to the ends of the earth.

7. Prayer-Saturated: Presenting Everything to God.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

We believe in the importance of turning to God regularly in thanksgiving for his grace, in petition for our needs and those of the world, and in humble openness to hear God's Word for us. We believe that God hears and responds to our prayers. We envelope one another in prayer.

8. Generation to Generation: Teaching our Children to Know the LORD.

"After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel." Judges 2:10 (NIV)

We pass on our faith and values, from generation to generation. We train our children so that they might be filled with wisdom, grow strong in character, and become persons of grace.

WHERE DO I FIT?

We find two paths to consistent growth in people:

- 1. Meaningful relationships**
- 2. Investing in a purpose - give your life to something that matters and makes a difference**

So, at Faith Arlington, we want you to do two things:

1. Find a Home group - people to do life with:

You will need to risk engaging and setting time aside, but the reward is meaningful and life-giving connection.

2. Find a place to serve and give

Not only will you make good relationships there... you will find that it is fulfilling. God has called our church to impact lives, and it takes all of us to make that happen. You will get to be part of the important work God is doing.

Forms & Links

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[Spiritual Gifts Assessment](#)

[New Member Form](#)

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