

Welcome to

NEXTSTEP





Reach♥Teach♥Train

Our *hope* is that you grow closer to Jesus.
Our *heart* is to help you find the Way.

Name:

Baptism:

Joined HTC on:

My Deacon is:

If you should choose to leave HTC, please inform the Pastor or the Elders.



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HighTideChurch.org

NEXTSTEP

**He must become greater;
I must become less.**

John 3:30

1 The Intro

WELCOME
COMMUNITY
YOUR NEXT STEP

Pages 1-5

2 Next Steps

SALVATION
MOVING FORWARD
BAPTISM
MEMBERSHIP
WHAT WE BELIEVE

Pages 6-11

3 On Track

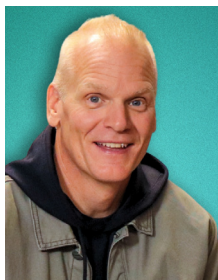
COMMITMENT
SHAPE
GETTING INVOLVED

Pages 12-15

4 Church Structure

JESUS FIRST
FINANCES
NEXT GENERATION
THE APPS
SBC

Pages 16-20



A Welcome from Pastor Andy

Pastor Andy Ehlers

LEAD PASTOR // HIGH TIDE CHURCH

Welcome to Next Step class at High Tide Church

What is your next step? For some of you it's **salvation**; you need Jesus in your life more than anything else. For others, you already have Jesus so your next step is **baptism**, and for others you are looking for church **membership**. No matter where you are in your walk with Jesus, we are here to partner with you and to help you grow in your relationship with Jesus.

We Were All Created for Community

You were never designed to go through life on your own. The **universal church** is made up of true believers in Christ. The **local church** is a snapshot of the universal church.

At High Tide Church you will find believers in every shape and size. Each equipped with their own unique gifts and talents. When we all come together, united in Christ, with all of our gifts working together in harmony, a beautiful thing happens. **His Will is done**. Big and wonderful things happen!

Your Next Step

As you go through this class, seek God's Will in your life. Do you feel Him calling you to submit your life to Jesus? Or, if you have already given your life to Jesus, is He calling you to be baptized? Or, maybe He is saying it's time to join the church. We encourage you to listen in how God is calling you.

Thank you for attending Next Step. We can't wait to get to know you better and for you to get to know us better too! One church body.

**So in Christ we, though many, form one body,
and each member belongs to all the others.**

Romans 12:5

A person wearing a dark suit jacket, blue jeans, and black sneakers is walking away from the camera on a paved path. The path leads towards a bright sunset or sunrise over a landscape of dry grass and shrubs. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong backlight effect. A small teal square is in the top right corner.

What is your next step?

**Salvation
Baptism
Membership**

Salvation

What is Salvation?

What does it truly mean to be saved? As Christians, we believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to eternal life. Salvation is what happens when we surrender our lives to Christ. But what does this entail? It signifies that we cannot accomplish this on our own; no amount of good deeds can grant us eternal life. Our efforts alone will never be enough. It is solely through faith in Jesus that we find salvation. **Have you committed your life to Jesus? Are you eager to explore what this means? If you have doubts or numerous questions, we are here to support you in your journey with Jesus.** The first step is embracing a relationship with Him.

Have you accepted Christ?

IF YES, YOUR NEXT STEP IS:

- Talk with an Elder or Deacon during NextStep Class.
- Determine if you are ready for Baptism.
- Attend our *Moving Forward* class.
- Join a Small Group.

NOT SURE, I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS:

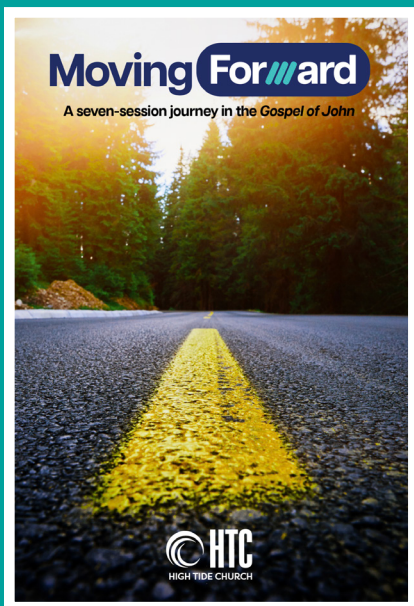
- Talk with an Elder or Deacon during NextStep Class.
- Consider attending our *Moving Forward* class.
- Attend Sunday services and continue to listen to the sermons. If you ever have questions let us know.

THINGS TO KNOW:

- You are being prayed for.
- We are here to help you, answer questions and to guide you.
- You will have many questions and that is absolutely normal. We encourage you to attend *Moving Forward*. This class is specifically designed for new believers and those not sure about Jesus yet.

Moving For///ard

Answering Questions Through Conversation



Session One:

Introduction of John's Gospel

Session Two:

Jesus' First Miracle

Session Three:

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand
and Walks on Water

Session Four:

Jesus Gives Sight to the Blind

Session Five:

Jesus Raises Lazarus
from the Dead

Session Six:

Paid in Full; Jesus' Crucifixion

Session Seven:

Jesus' Resurrection



**Moving Forward is a seven-session journey in the Gospel of John.
This is a group for those who are:**

- inquiring about Jesus and His claims;
- starting to follow Jesus; and/or
- growing in their faith in Jesus and His claims

Through this journey in John's Gospel, we will interact as a group over the miracles and the claims of Jesus and discuss their relevance to our own life journey. This journey together as a group will also include some reading from the Gospel of John between meetings, reading and discussion over seven selected passages from John's Gospel, and will also provide ample opportunities for your questions related to the life and teaching of Jesus.

**This class is offered multiple times throughout the year,
please contact us at office@hightidechurch.org
or stop at the Welcome Desk to learn more.**

Baptism

Do I need to be baptized?

When you receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you experience a spiritual rebirth. It is solely through **faith** that you establish a saving relationship with Him. This journey is entirely personal, and no one else can undertake it for you. After accepting Christ, the Bible guides us to undergo baptism. While this act does not grant salvation, it publicly demonstrates to those around you that you are a new creation in Jesus. This act of obedience symbolizes the believer's **faith** in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior. In addition it symbolizes the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

Are you ready to be baptized?

IF YES, YOUR NEXT STEP IS:

- Talk with an Elder or Deacon during NextStep Class.
- Get scheduled for Baptism—you pick the date and service time.
- Let us know if you would like to become a church member also.

THINGS TO KNOW:

- Baptism is a public demonstration and declaration of what God has done in your life.
- Baptism is an outward testimony of an inward reality.
- Baptism is not sprinkling or pouring.
- Baptism is not for non-believers.
- Baptism is not required for salvation.
- Baptism is not a suggestion.
- All baptisms at HTC are done in public.



Church Membership

Do I need to be a church member?

Church membership may not be specifically outlined in the Bible, but Scripture provides a framework for it. Without membership, accountability is lacking. If someone believes they should be able to serve wherever they wish, it creates a gap in responsibility.

We hold both legal and spiritual obligations in this context. Without a commitment to membership, how can we truly invest in our members? Membership is crucial for fostering a relationship that encourages us to go the extra mile for our community. However, if someone expresses a desire to avoid membership, how can we ensure any accountability? How can we stand before God, allowing individuals to act without any guidelines?

Are you ready for church membership?



GROW

IF YES, YOUR NEXT STEP IS:

- Talk with an Elder or Deacon during NextStep Class.
- Determine if you need baptism.
- Turn in your NextStep Membership form.

ONCE YOU ARE A MEMBER YOU:

- Are assigned a Deacon.
- Receive a Membership Letter welcoming you as a High Tide Church member.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20

What we believe

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. **HEBREWS 11:6**

About God

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

**Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; 3:22 • Psalm 90:2 • Matthew 28:19 • 1 Peter 1:2
2 Corinthians 13:14**

About Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all men by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again 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 • 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

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily.

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

About Man

Man is made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. He is the supreme object of God's creation. Man is scarred by disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates man from God.

Genesis 1:27 • Psalm 8:3-6 • Isaiah 53:6a • Romans 3:23 • Isaiah 59:1-2

About the Bible

The Bible is God's Word to all men. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without any mixture of error.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 • 2 Peter 1:20-21 • 2 Timothy 1:13

Psalms 119:105, 160 & 12:6 • Proverbs 30:5

About Eternity

Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union with God, through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are places of eternal existence.

John 3:16 • 1 John 2:25 & 5:11-13 • Romans 6:23 • Revelation 20:15

About Salvation

Salvation is a gift from God to man. Man can never make up for his sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can man be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

Romans 6:23 • Ephesians 2:8-9 • John 14:6 & 1:12 • Titus 3:5

Galatians 3:26 • Romans 5:1

About Eternal Security

Because God gives man eternal life through Jesus Christ, the believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives this security.

John 10:29 • 2 Timothy 1:12 • Hebrews 7:25 & 10:10-14 • 1 Peter 1:3-5

**He saved us, not because of righteous things
we had done, but because of his mercy.
He saved us through the washing
of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.**

Titus 3:5

Are You on Track?



Track 1: Belong

It all begins with having a saving relationship with Jesus. Our heart at HTC is to help you come to know Christ, but we also know this is a personal relationship between you and Jesus and only you can make that commitment. We are here to help you move forward in your faith walk with Jesus.

Track 2: Grow

After salvation there is so much you can do and honestly it can be a little overwhelming. Getting connected is the best way to move forward. This can be through our **Moving Forward** class or joining a **small group**. Our **website**, the **Welcome Desk**, or emailing us at **office@hightidechurch.org** are three great ways to find out more about how you can grow at HTC. Reach out to us. We want to help you get connected.

Track 3: Serve

Now it's time to get involved. Serving at HTC is a fantastic way to get to know more people at HTC and to grow closer in your relationship with Jesus. Serving is actually "doing" your faith.

There are many areas of service at HTC— for church members and non-members alike. *Please note that some volunteer positions require church membership; all volunteers must have a background check.

Track 4: Go!

And finally, it's time to go out into the world and share the love of Christ with everyone. Whether it's in your neighborhood or in another country, we are all commanded to go out into the world and make disciples of Christ.

What it means to commit.

First and foremost, we want to stress that we are all sinners and it's only through what Jesus did for us that we are saved. The values listed below are all based on the character and qualities of Jesus—the standard of which we strive to mirror. We know fully that as imperfect humans we will never completely reach this standard on this side of heaven—but **our hearts must be in a position to walk in a way that is glorifying to God.**

■ **I WILL** be diligent to exercise self-control so that my lifestyle exhibits true and Christian love and personal holiness.

■ **I WILL** faithfully assemble with this body of believers, striving to maintain unity and doing all that I can do to encourage love and good deeds in others, as I seek to exercise my spiritual gifts in faithful service.

■ **I WILL** consistently contribute, as a good steward of God's blessings, time, talent and resources, in the measure that God prospers me, so that our local and worldwide ministry of spreading the gospel may continue.

■ **I WILL** teach biblical truth to my family and friends, as God gives me these opportunities. I will do this with a desire to see them come to trust Jesus Christ and to be saved.

■ **I WILL** always be willing to both give and receive Godly council and instruction with meekness and in love.

■ **I WILL** commit to praying for the ministry and leadership at HTC, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and for the lost who need the Savior.

■ **I WILL** practice complete abstinence unless married, and if married, complete fidelity within a heterosexual and monogamous relationship. Complete abstinence and fidelity means that regardless of marital status, I will pursue purity and avoid sexual immorality such as adultery, premarital sex and pornography.

ROMANS 13:11-14, 1 CORINTHIANS 6:15-20, 10:8, EPHESIANS 5:3, 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-8, HEBREWS 13:4

■ **I WILL** seek to preserve the gift of marriage and agree to walk through the steps of marriage reconciliation at HTC before pursuing divorce from my spouse.

MATTHEW 19:1-12, MARK 10:1-12, LUKE 16-18, 1 CORINTHIANS 7:10-11

NOTE: For the role of the church in the process of divorce, see Paul's concern for the regulation of legal matters within the assembly of the church. **1 CORINTHIANS 6**

■ **I WILL** refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, gossip and other sinful behaviors as the Bible dictates.

ROMANS 1:28-32, 13:13, GALATIANS 5:19-21, EPHESIANS 5:18, JAMES 3:3-18



SHAPE

SHAPE is designed to help you discover your uniqueness in Christ. When you are “in-SHAPE,” you find your special God-given ministry calling.

Spiritual Gifts

What gifts has God given to me?

Heart

What would I LOVE to do?

Abilities

What natural talents and skills do I have?

Personality

Where does my personality best suite me to serve?

Experience

What life experiences have I had?

Come and discover your unique **SHAPE**



Getting Involved!

Check out the Ministries at High Tide Church.

The most effective way to deepen your journey with Jesus is through service. Below is a list of ministries offered at High Tide Church. This list is continually expanding, be sure to visit the website or stop by the Welcome Desk to get the latest updates and details.

- Beach Babies
- Card Ministry
- Christmas Caroling
- Currents
- Facilities
- Food Service
- Gforce (Elementary)
- God Cares
- HTC Kids (PreK)
- H2O Middle School
- H2O High School
- **Mending Hearts****
- Men's Ministry
- The Pantry
- Parking Lot Team
- Prayer Team
- Security Team
- S.H.A.P.E.
- Sports Ministry
- Start a New Ministry Team
- Tech & Production
- Ushering Team
- Welcome Team
- Women's Ministry
- Wonderfully Made
- Worship Team

****Mending Hearts** includes healing ministries such as **Grief Share, Divorce Care, Prodigals & Promises, Pain to Purpose, Foster the Family, and more.**



There are many areas of service at HTC—for church members and non-members alike.

**Please note that some volunteer positions require church membership; all volunteers must have a background check.*

But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24

Jesus first!

ELDERS

- Preach God's Word
- Teach God's Word
- Pray Over the Church
- Lead the Church
- Shepherd the Flock

DEACONS

- Equipment & Building
- Benevolence
- Oversee Volunteers
- Oversee Finances
- Oversee Worship
- Oversee Missions

STAFF

- Lead Pastor
- Associate Pastor
- Worship Pastor
- Youth Minister
- Children's Director
- Preschool Director
- Office Administrator
- Communications Director
- Tech/AV Assistant
- Facilities

An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Titus 1:6-9



Finances at HTC

High Tide Church is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), as an autonomous church. The church functions under the authority of the elders. The elders hire the pastor and make financial decisions on behalf of the church. HTC is incorporated and has 501(c)(3) non-profit status through the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCMD). HTC is the owner of all property, vehicles and equipment.

Accountability

- Treasurer
- Bookkeeper
- Offering Counters
- Financial Oversight Team
- Annual Review (by an outside agency)
- Yearly Tax Statements

Ways to Give

- Hightidechurch.org
- Unassigned/General Envelopes
- Assigned Giving Envelopes

Giving Envelopes

We offer unassigned/general envelopes as well as assigned envelopes for cash and check donations. You can use either type of envelope—you will receive an end-of-year tax statement regardless of your choice.

Yearly Tax Statements

You can expect to receive your annual tax statement by the end of January. Statements will be sent via email for online donations, while all other statements will be mailed. Please ensure that your contact information is accurate and current in our system.

Giving Funds at High Tide Church

- General Fund
- MORE 2.0
- James 1:27
- The Pantry
- Annie Armstrong
- Lottie Moon
- Missions

Financial Report

In March, both a printed and electronic version of the Annual Financial Report is made available to the entire congregation.



THE NEXT *Generation* at HIGH TIDE CHURCH



Beach Babies

This ministry is for babies 3 months to 32 months.



This ministry serves Pre-K age kiddos from 33 months to 5 years old.



For kiddos in Kindergarten through 5th Grade.



Two ministries that serve Middle School (grades 6-8) and High School (grades 9-12).

CURRENTS

A college & career ministry for young adults ages 18 to 25 years old.



A ministry for those with intellectual and physical disabilities.

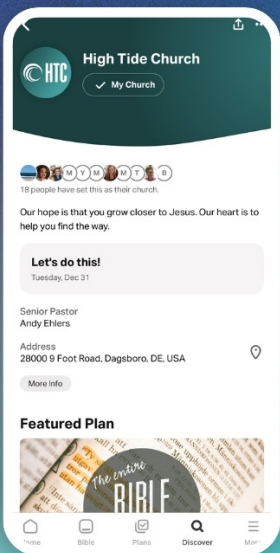
Learn more at hightidechurch.org/next-gen

Get the Apps

Church Center by Planning Center



- Register for Groups & Events
- View the Calendar
- Member's Directory
- Sign-up to Volunteer
- View the Weekly Bulletin
- And more!



Follow us on the The Bible App for High Tide Church





High Tide Church and the Southern Baptist Convention

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) is a fellowship of nearly 47,000 Baptist churches scattered across the United States and its territories. These congregations, comprised of numerous racial, ethnic, language, and socioeconomic people groups, are called “cooperating churches.” They have organized themselves to accomplish a specific set of missions and ministry initiatives, all for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people everywhere.

six
SEMINARIES



Seminary Students Trained
24,946
2023-24 Academic Year



112,032 VOLUNTEER
DAYS 2025 NAMB
Ministry Report

Largest mission sending organization in the world.



3,522 Missionaries
OVERSEAS



3,299 Missionaries
DOMESTIC

Lottie Moon
\$206.8
MILLION

Annie Armstrong
\$74.2
MILLION

250,643
Baptisms

Source: www.sbc.net/about/what-we-do/fast-facts/

To learn more about SBC go to **SBC.net**.