



# Madison Heights New Member's Class

November 21, 2021

11:00 - 11:45am.....Gather & Session 1  
11:45 - 12:45pm.....Lunch & Session 2  
BREAK  
1:00 - 1:45.....Session 3  
1:45 - 2:30.....Session 4

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Section 1: Overview

“ Our mission is to be a refuge for broken people where we *experience* the grace of Christ and *express* the truth of the Gospel.”

What does it mean that we are a “ refuge”?

*We seek to be a true picture of a Biblical Reality— in Ancient Israel cities of Refuge were places that the guilty would flee to avoid judgement. They were pictures of our ultimate refuge, Jesus Christ. True refuge is found in a person, not a place, because we have found refuge in Him, we seek to be a place where the guilty can find him too.*

Numbers 35:10-12 “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall select cities to be cities of refuge for you, that the manslayer who kills any person without intent may flee there. 12 The cities shall be for you a refuge from the avenger, that the manslayer may not die until he stands before the congregation for judgment.”

What does it mean that we call ourselves “ broken people”?

*Jesus said, “I did not come for the healthy, but the sick...”\*\* Each of us is sin-sick and we experience the effects of the Fall in different ways. Our sin has broken fellowship with God, fractured our families and estranged us from our friends and neighbors. Broken people know that true self-awareness leads to sin-awareness— knowing we are guilty and need to flee to Christ.*

\*\*Mark 2:17 paraphrase. Romans 3:23 “...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” Ecclesiastes 7:20 - “Surely there is no righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.”

# Section 1: Overview

## How do we experience the “ grace of Christ”?

*How we experience the “grace of Christ” is that our self-awareness doesn’t end with sin-awareness. It leads to an awareness of our adoption into God’s family. Guilty people ‘who for refuge to Jesus have fled’<sup>1</sup> find their guilt, shame, sin and brokenness washed in the blood of Christ and are made ‘whiter than snow’ because his perfect righteousness has been imputed to imperfect people like us.*

Ephesians 1:7-8 “7 “in him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight”

## How do we express the “ truth of the Gospel”?

*We express the “truth of the Gospel” by telling the whole story of the Gospel— both halves. We have had our sins paid for by the atoning death of Christ on the cross and we have had our righteousness earned by the meritorious life of Christ and his resurrection. We are Gospel people. The Good News proclaims that we are: Smul iustus et Peccator— simultaneously justified and sinful.*

Romans 4:22-25, “That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.”<sup>23</sup> But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone,<sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,<sup>25</sup> who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from the Hymn “How Firm a Foundation”

## Section 2: Church History 101

NOTES:

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NOTES:

## Section 3: Don't Swear in Church... ...UNLESS you really mean it!

### **Question #1**

*When you look in the spiritual mirror, do you see your own wicked heart, and do you know that God sees it too; if God unleashed His wrath on you right now, would you say that you deserved it; and do you believe that you are hopeless unless He chooses to have mercy on you for no other reason than He chooses to have mercy on you?*<sup>[1]</sup>

### **Question #2**

*Forget your past commitments and previous professions of faith, do you right here, right now, believe that Jesus Christ took on human flesh to live the life that you could not live and die the death that you deserved, and do you believe that He did so in order to save you personally, and because you believe this do you turn from your sins to Him, embrace him, collapse onto him and trust nothing else for salvation except Him— just as the Bible says you can?*<sup>[2]</sup>

## Section 3: Don't Swear in Church... ...UNLESS you really mean it!

### **Question #3**

*Will you purpose in your heart and promise with your lips to live like someone who can't live without Jesus? Also, will you make sure that neither you nor anyone else thinks that you have the desire, ability or resolve to pull that off unless the Holy Spirit works in you?<sup>[3]</sup>*

### **Question #4**

*This is the church you are joining. To the best of your ability, with a conscience free of guilt and a worldview big enough to do anything to His glory, will you worship with us, work with us, give with us, laugh with us, cry with us, serve with us, sing with us, spend time with us, share your life with us and let us do the same thing with you?<sup>[4]</sup>*

## Section 3: Don't Swear in Church... ...UNLESS you really mean it!

### Question #5

*Will you live under and embrace the leadership decisions of those in authority over you in this church, and will you do so with specific regard to church decisions and when needed, with regard to your own personal spiritual decisions, understanding this will be especially difficult when you disagree with the church? Do you give us your word that as long as you are a member of this church, whenever there is a disruption in relationships or a distortion of truth, that you will not sit silently even if you are the only one who has to speak up?*<sup>[5]</sup>

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<sup>[1]</sup> Reference original question taken from the Book of Church Order of the Presbyterian Church in America, section 57-5, question 1, “Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?”

<sup>[2]</sup> cf. BCO 57-5, question #2, “Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?”

<sup>[3]</sup> cf. BCO 57-5, question #3, “Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?”

<sup>[4]</sup> cf. BCO 57-5, question #4, “Do you promise to support the Church in it worship and work to the best of your ability?”

<sup>[5]</sup> cf. BCO 57-5, question #5, “Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?”



# Section 4: Worship, Connect & Serve

“Our mission is to be a refuge for broken people where we *experience* the grace of Christ and *express* the truth of the Gospel.”

## STRATEGIES FOR ACCOMPLISHING THAT MISSION:

We seek to experience and express grace and truth in three ways: Worship, Connect & Serve.

WORSHIP	CONNECT	SERVE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lord's Day</li><li>• Preaching</li><li>• Music</li><li>• Teaching</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Smaller Groups</li><li>• Men's Ministry</li><li>• Women's Ministry</li><li>• Children &amp; Youth</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MHC</li><li>• Madison County</li><li>• World</li><li>• Going &amp; Sending</li></ul>

## WORSHIP

Our worship service is accessible to our current culture but built on historical elements that have stood the test of time. Some of the elements that make our Sunday morning experience uniquely 'Madison Heights' are:

- Expository Preaching
  - We place a premium on expository, grace-based preaching that demonstrates a humble dependence on Christ, honest and transparent application of the Truth, delivered in a friendly, winsome manner.
- Engaging Music
  - Our music is Christ-focused, not man-focused and more participatory than performance-based. It is blended to provide a mix mainly of historic hymns along with some contemporary songs. Regardless of the song choice, we strive to choose songs whose lyrics are consistent with our theology.
- Excellent Teaching
  - We are committed to Biblically-based Christian Education for children, youth and adults. We strive to offer Sunday School classes and other opportunities with varied content, all of which are accessible for our people.

# Section 4: Worship, Connect & Serve

## CONNECT

As broken people, we must be *shown*, not merely *told*, that we are loved. The Grace of Christ is more than a concept; it is the currency of our culture at MHC. It is what the community of MHC “feels like.” We connect in three primary ways:

- Smaller Groups
  - True community is about relational connection. A true community is a refuge— a safe place where we can “be ourselves” as we seek to become more like Christ and especially when we fall short. We primarily find this connection through smaller groups of believers. We believe everyone must be connected to a small group, but the specific type of small group is a matter of preference.
- Men’s & Women’s ministry
  - Our ministry culture includes some gender-specific contexts for friendship, deeper transparency, and growth in sanctification. We embrace a broad range of fellowship and discipleship activities that are an extension of our Christian world and life view.
- Student ministry
  - MHC is a refuge for all students to experience grace and hear the truth of Jesus joyfully contextualized for them. We believe our stewardship over this unique season of their lives is very important.

## SERVE

People who have experienced and expressed grace in worship and community must share that grace in service. Since we are a covenant community, it is appropriate to call MHC an *itinerant refuge* for broken people — this is where our neighbors will see us as ‘Grace for Madison.’

- In our Church
  - Madison Heights is our primary mission field. Membership means *engagement*— giving away the grace we have experienced and having our spiritual gifts developed. While we are intentional not to “over-program,” our goal is that *everyone serves somewhere*.
- In our Community
  - Our secondary mission field is Madison County. We are called to take the itinerant refuge mentality with us into the community. Whether it’s hands-on work, leading a group or project or serving on a ministry’s board, we participate with like-minded people and ministries in the Kingdom.
- In our World
  - Our broader mission field is the world outside of Madison County. Whether it’s campus ministry, global missions, or some other type of gospel-based ministry in the broader culture, we believe we are all called to participate in the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ. There are seasons when you can ‘go’ and other seasons where you can ‘send’ by giving and praying. Regardless of how we engage, all of God’s people are called to participate.

# Appendix

Church Office: 601-605-9929 • [Mhcoffice@Madisonheightschurch.Com](mailto:Mhcoffice@Madisonheightschurch.Com)

## ELDERS

- Biggs, Trey
- Bumpas, Wally (M)
- Edwards, Aaron
- Ellis, Jason
- Goldman, Justin
- Gregory, Paul
- Henderson, Rod
- Laws, John
- Little, Rod
- Primos, Ken
- Rhea, Randy (M)
- Rowland, Daniel
- Smitherman, Adam
- Vines, Matt, Clerk

## DEACONS

- Jordan Cantrell
- David Carney
- Wesley Day
- Robbie Edgar
- Andrew Edwards
- Zack Keup
- Josh Mann
- Chris Poole
- Trey Rice
- Hal Smith
- Stephen Snell
- Alston Sory

Senior Pastor: Randy Rhea  
601-540-8930  
[Randy@Madisonheightschurch.Com](mailto:Randy@Madisonheightschurch.Com)

Women's Ministry: Rebecca Goldman  
251-709-6324  
[Rebecca@Madisonheightschurch.Com](mailto:Rebecca@Madisonheightschurch.Com)

Assistant Pastor: Wally Bumpas  
662-319-0767  
[Wally@Madisonheightschurch.Com](mailto:Wally@Madisonheightschurch.Com)

Nursery Director: Emily Carney  
601-213-6813  
[Nursery@Madisonheightschurch.Com](mailto:Nursery@Madisonheightschurch.Com)

Executive Director: Jean F. Larroux, III  
601-622-4043  
[Jean@Madisonheightschurch.Com](mailto:Jean@Madisonheightschurch.Com)

Student Ministry: Molly Wilke  
601-678-9706  
[Molly@Madisonheightschurch.Com](mailto:Molly@Madisonheightschurch.Com)

Director Of Administration: Laura Henderson  
662-571-8895  
[Laura@Madisonheightschurch.Com](mailto:Laura@Madisonheightschurch.Com)

Caleb Wilke (Sr. High)  
662-671-0630  
[Caleb@Madisonheightschurch.Com](mailto:Caleb@Madisonheightschurch.Com)

Office Manager: Lauren Ammons  
601-605-9929  
[Lauren@Madisonheightschurch.Com](mailto:Lauren@Madisonheightschurch.Com)

Adam Kowalczyk (Middle School)  
540-878-0578  
[Adam@Madisonheightschurch.Com](mailto:Adam@Madisonheightschurch.Com)