

Assurance

Many people will ask, “How can I have the assurance I am saved?” It is important to remember that our salvation does not depend on our own effort. It is God who saves us. In the Bible, God offers many promises that give us the confidence that we are truly saved. Here are just a few:

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. *Titus 3:5*

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. *Romans 10:9*

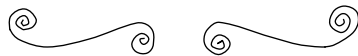
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:9

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
Romans 10:13

Next Steps

Hempfield United Methodist offers a **mentoring** program that helps new followers of Jesus Christ get oriented to their faith. We partner those who wish to grow one-on-one with mature believers who can answer questions and help direct the early course of faith. If you are interested in finding a mentor, you can contact:

Mike Vinson 717-285-4508
Joyce Young 717-898-3331



For other questions contact us at... **Hempfield United Methodist Church**
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Salvation

Jesus Christ came to earth to be our Savior. He came to teach us the way to God and make it possible for every person to have a new life centered in God. He came to remove the barrier that separates us from the God who made us and loves us. He did this by offering his life on the cross as a sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. He then rose again from the dead, conquering death itself and giving us the hope of eternal life. Today, he lives and moves among his people by the power and presence of his Holy Spirit. He promises us that he will soon return to restore the human race to God’s original purposes. He offers the gift of eternal life to all those who turn to him. Jesus Christ said,

“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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.”
John 3:16-17

Jesus Christ did all this for you. He invites you to begin a new life with God at the center of your life. He offers you a new beginning as a free gift. We receive this gift in a simple way: we acknowledge that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and we accept this gift for ourselves. We then invite Jesus into our life to be our Savior, Master, and Friend. Jesus is ready right now to offer salvation to any who turn to him. Jesus said,

“Listen, I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come into you and eat with you, and you with me.” **Revelation 3:20**

We are broken.

The first step in accepting the gift of salvation is to realize that we are all broken. The Bible calls this brokenness “sin.” Sin is not so much the things we do; it is the condition of our heart. We are out of sync with God. We love the things that God hates and we hate the things God loves. This brokenness is a very serious condition. On a global level, it is responsible for all the human-generated suffering in the world. On an individual level, it is the cause for all our personal pain, both in our relationships with other people as well as our secret faults. Sin is the universal condition of every human being, and it disqualifies us for citizenship in the eternal Kingdom of Heaven. The Bible says,

**“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
(Romans 3:23)**

God loves us.

The second step in our salvation is the recognition of God’s love for us. God loves every person in the human race and deeply desires us to return to God. It is therefore not God’s will that any person would perish, but that all people might turn to God and live. In order to remove the judicial penalty for our sin, God sent Jesus Christ to offer himself as a sacrifice. Jesus died in our place to pay the debt. His death removes the barrier that separates us from God so that we can have a new beginning. Because of the love of God, any person who turns to God can inherit eternal life. We are drawn to God because of God’s great love for us. Jesus’ offering of himself on the cross is the absolute demonstration of this love.

Jesus said, “Greater love has no one than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)

Our Response

The gift of salvation requires our response. In the same way a gift has to be accepted, so salvation is a gift that has to be received. We receive salvation through opening our hearts to God in prayer. The following prayer captures the spirit of person who is ready to receive God’s gift.

Dear God,

Thank you for your love, and for the salvation you have made possible. Thank you that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins. I willingly open my life to you, and invite you in.

Accept me as your child

Forgive me of my sin.

Give me the assurance of my salvation.

Empower me to live a new life.

Let my life reflect your love to the people around me.

Guide me in the ways of Jesus Christ that I might receive the blessings you have prepared for me. Let my life forever give honor and glory to you. Amen.

How to pray this prayer:

Offer this prayer to God in sincerity. Pray through each phrase as you think about its meaning. Trust that God hears you and is ready to receive you as his own. Pray it many times until it becomes part of your soul.

