

## MILE MARKER NEW MEMBER

When a new member joins our congregation through baptism or transfer of letter, they become part of our living body. Becoming part of this community means you are part of all here now, all who have come before, and all who will come in the future.

For this reason we ask that all new members add their names to the tree in our main hallway on one of the leaves. All new members also receive a new member packet and are invited to our new member classes which are held as requested or needed.

## MILE MARKER 25YR MEMBER

Some of us are lucky enough to stay in one place for 25 years, or just keep coming back “home” time and again. Members who spend a quarter of a century with us have many stories to tell, and this is a mile marker to celebrate these stories.

Those who have been members for 25 years are asked to tell their stories in some form that can be saved, viewed, and enjoyed by all. This can be written story, recorded story, or story through art or another medium. All we ask is that it tell “My Story of Harbor View” in whatever form that comes to them. These amazing stories are then brought out at various church wide celebrations so all can understand what it is that makes HVPC who we are and are ever becoming.



## MILE MARKERS FOR LOSS

When we lose a member here at HVPC, we must remember that they are not gone from us, but that they live on as those who helped us be who we are and are becoming. In remembering this we have 2 mile markers that we use to recognize the process that we go through in a loss.

First, we add their name to the trunk of the tree in the main hallway. This area is a place for those who have formed us as a church. Former members and ministers together supporting us and giving us roots.

Second, we hold occasional classes focused on the beauty of life. These creative faith classes often talk about weaving together joys and sorrows, and allow for space so those who have stories of lost ones can tell them freely together. This is important as the stories of those we’ve lost are also our stories and we must always remember them together as a community of faith.

## OTHER MILE MARKERS

In addition to these formal mile marker programs you will notice we try hard to celebrate all kinds of mile markers in life together. It may be a wedding, or it may be a warning that some teenager passed their driving test. But we love to share our lives together.

For that reason, we remind everyone of the importance of being active in the community of faith, open to sharing our lives, and willing to listen and love each other at every turn. The warmth of God’s love is found in our own sharing of life together. Blessed be the tie that binds!

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Harbor View Presbyterian Church

# MILE MARKER PROGRAM





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Here at Harbor View we recognize that life is full of mile markers. Places we remember passing as we roll along the road of life.

We also realize that faith is full of mile markers as well. With that in mind we have created a program to connect special moments in life with important pieces of the faith journey.

## MILE MARKER BAPTISM

The first mile marker in life is our birth. We believe that God claims us even as we're formed inside our mother's womb. This claim on our lives is celebrated at our baptism. The baptismal promises are the basis for all the other mile markers of faith.

For that reason, we celebrate each new baptism with a certificate, a copy of *The Baptism of Your Child*, and a candle, all to remind the family and the child of God to "remember your baptism and be grateful"

## MILE MARKER AGE 3

The second mile marker we celebrate is at age 3. At this age children are beginning to really process language and understand meanings in stories that they read and have read to them.

For that reason, we celebrate this mile marker with a story bible given to each child. These story bibles are based on the NRSV translation that we use as a congregation here at HVPC and are given in hopes that families will enjoy reading the scriptures together at home.

## MILE MARKER 1ST GRADE

Here at Harbor View we welcome children as full participants in worship, but realize that some younger ones struggle with the attention span needed for parts of a worship service. Thus we include age appropriate worship bags to help guide children as they participate in worship. By the time Children have reached the end of their 1st grade year, many children are beginning to be able to better understand worship and we offer this formal welcome to worship mile marker.

At this mile marker, children and parents receive a copy of *A Children's Guide to Worship*, a welcome to worship packet, and something special to aid in worship at home. Also at this mile marker children may participate in a special worship class discussing some of the important parts of worshipping together.

## MILE MARKER 3RD GRADE

By the time children complete third grade is has been shown that they are able to start grasping and grappling with the ideas of scripture.

For that reason at the end of their 3rd Grade year, children are presented with a Student Bible. This NRSV translation included fun facts and activities for learning along with the scripture. We hope this will encourage study and further development of faith ideas presented here at HVPC.

## MILE MARKER 6TH GRADE

The entrance into middle school is an important moment in the life of a child. Expectations tend to change as they begin to understand that their opinions matter and begin to become more aware of their individuality, while seeking acceptance in a larger community. For that reason we celebrate this moment with a number of "Welcome to Youth" activities including recognition in worship, a personal invitation to youth, a special gift, and the creation of a personal rock for the youth galed.

## MILE MARKER CONFIRMATION

We offer a confirmation class during the spring for any interested youth who are at least half way through their 8th grade year. We do confirmation at this time as developmentally youth are beginning to truly form their own beliefs by this time and they will have had some time to explore the subject matter of Confirmation during their first 3 years with the youth group. Upon completion of the class, our confirmands will receive a bible of their choice and certificate.

## MILE MARKER GRADUATION

We celebrate many graduations throughout life at this mile marker but specifically focus on our high school graduates. In the time and culture we live in, most of our youth are sent out as young adults to other places and lives ahead that may not involve regular time with the church of their youth.

For that reason, we celebrate their time with us and their next steps with personalized gift bags full of useful and interesting items connected to our time with them.

## MILE MARKER ELDER

A step into church leadership at a whole new level is what we celebrate when someone feels called to be an elder for the first time. Being an elder is rewarding but also challenging as you see the inner workings of a community of faith.

For that reason we celebrate with a useful but slightly irreverent look at what it means to be Presbyterian and a leader by giving all first time elders a copy of *The Presbyterian Handbook*.

