

Hope Presbyterian Church of Crozet Profile

We are committed to finding our hope in Jesus and extending that hope to others.

Congregation

The congregation's two predominant features are a love of Scripture and a strong sense of fellowship. We long to know the word of God, to serve the community and each other, and join in worship. Members consider the congregation as family with several having worshiped here since our beginning. We are delighted to welcome visitors and new members to the church and current members share that they feel drawn to this body because of the initial and sustained warm welcome. The faithful, perseverant, and authentic relationships within the congregation extend throughout the week and are one of its greatest assets.

History

Hope Presbyterian Church of Crozet (HPCC) began as a church plant of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville in 2011, with Todd Johnson as our pastor, and was officially organized as a Presbyterian Church in America church in 2022. The church has flourished, with several ups and downs in attendance. During the pandemic of 2020, without skipping a Sunday, we moved to online worship, then to outdoor worship, worship in a community center, and eventually returned to Crozet Elementary School, our worship location for many years and to date.

Approval for particularization was given in November 2022. Todd faithfully ministered at Hope until January 31, 2026.

We are and are striving to be a loving and welcoming congregation of committed believers who rely on the grace of God for their salvation and sanctification, are founded on the truths of the Bible, and love God! While we are a congregation made of fully acknowledged sinners, we continually seek to repent to God and reconcile with each other.

Pastor

Our church is currently being served by a part-time interim pastor, as well as pulpit supply from various pastors within our presbytery.

Worship

The gospel-rich worship at Hope Crozet seeks first to honor God. The service is conducted with an intentional liturgy designed to thoughtfully guide the church body through the various dimensions of corporate worship and includes petitions, confession, praise, thanksgiving, passing the peace, and observing the Lord's Supper. The flow is that of the gospel story: God calls and we adore, confess, are restored, and then learn at his feet. We join together to sing a blend of theologically rich songs including hymns and contemporary music, in which the congregation participates earnestly and joyfully. Worship is planned by church leaders and led by a worship team of rotating volunteers.

Staff & Leadership

HPCC is a church in transition and has a strong ordained and lay leadership. The church staff is currently composed of an interim pastor, a part-time office administrator, and a part-time, temporary Executive Coordinator.

Our Session serves the congregation relationally and in official capacity through preaching, teaching, shepherding, prayer, and offering office hours for private consultation, among many other things. Our three elders, ezer (please see description below)*, and other ministry leaders are seen regularly when leading the worship service; our congregation knows, appreciates, and respects them. Our community group leaders blanket the congregation with God's merciful care. There are numerous team leaders who carry the inevitable unseen load of communal life. Our Executive Coordinator and Office Administrator provide much of the glue that holds the organization and communication life of the church together.

Stepping up and stepping in is a strength of this body.

Current Attendance and Giving

HPCC has 48 members, with an average attendance of 37 people (members plus regular attenders, in-person and via Zoom). We have a 2026 operational budget of \$173,453. Slightly more than 10% of the budget is designated for missions. HPCC has emphasized fiscal responsibility and faithful stewardship such that we operate each year within the annual budget and have substantial savings to provide for financial resiliency.

Facilities

HPCC worships weekly at Crozet Elementary School. The cafeteria is used for the worship service and is also where we have monthly fellowship potluck lunches. The congregation comes together in service to set up and break down every Sunday, which encourages a strong sense of community. While we worship in a rented space, we have used this building for 13 years and have a quiet presence in the community.

In addition, we are in the process of arranging a three-year lease for space in the Old Trail community, which is central to the geography and life of Crozet. We envision using this property for ministry opportunities and community outreach, as well as office and meeting space.

Ministries

In order to grow in grace, use our spiritual gifts, and bless others, HPCC ministers within the church, to the greater community, and to the world through a variety of missions. The discipleship of our own church members is facilitated through community groups, Bible studies, small groups, and weekly meetings for corporate prayer. Members of our church support or volunteer for a variety of ministries in Crozet and Albemarle County. This includes those in urgent need through Love In the Name of Christ (Love, INC), Care Portal, as well as retirement community residents,

and Crozet Elementary School. We support individuals and others such as RUF and long term mission partners.

Once the rental space within the Old Trail community becomes available, we envision other opportunities for outreach and ministries within the community, especially for involvement of young families.

Strategy for Moving Forward

The Transition Team conducted a church-wide survey and discussions in preparation for the pastoral transition. Our congregation is eager to see what the Lord has in store for us in this next chapter. Some of the possibilities our members indicated interest in exploring are more local outreach, additional opportunities for adult education, and expansion of the women's ministry. We want to engage in Crozet with more presence both through ministry to the unchurched and through partnership with other gospel-based churches and ministries.

Conclusion

Hope Presbyterian Church of Crozet is a small yet vibrant congregation that loves to walk with Jesus and each other; all bringing their gifts and abilities to bear as the body of Christ.

We have deep gratitude to God for the work He has done in Hope Church by bringing Todd and Laura Johnson to build a strong foundation, and we greatly anticipate what God will have for us in the upcoming chapter. The Session and our congregation are eager to welcome and support our next pastor and are excited to see the ways he will bring his vision and gifts to serve the Lord with us.

***Addendum to Staff and Leadership:**

The Hebrew word *ezer*, which is typically translated as “help or helper,” first appears in Genesis 2:18 referring to Adam’s need for a “helper fit.” Although the term is unfamiliar, and potentially confusing, it clearly indicates the role of Eve as Adam’s co-laborer, the “blessed alliance” of men and women using their complementary gifts and roles for God’s kingdom and glory. It is most often understood in marriage, where the husband is the head. The understanding of Hope Presbyterian Church of Crozet, along with others in the PCA and the wider Reformed Christian community of faith, is that robust complementarianism applies also within the Church, Christ’s body. The “blessed alliance” is an important message and an example the Church can offer to our culture: not that men and women are the same, but that women can trust godly men to lead, and godly men can listen to and be influenced, advised, and helped by godly women in the Body of Christ, with mutual respect and humility.

At Hope, our *ezers* are godly women who serve as helpers to the Session. They attend the same training as prospective elders so that they understand what is expected from the elders and they are examined by the Session. They are provided the privilege of the floor as non-voting attendees of Session meetings. The primary role of *ezers* at Hope is to assist the Session in the encouragement and support of individuals in the congregation, particularly women, by proactively caring for the

women of the church through regular phone calls, text messages and emails, coffee and lunch dates, prayer, and alerting the elders to particular care needs.