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WELCOME TO BLACKHAWK CHURCH

COME IN and be WELCOMED by real people,
ENGAGED in God-centered worship, and CHALLENGED
by Biblical messages that can CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

Blackhawk Church is a group of people on a journey,
growing and changing together.

We long to be anchored by the truth of Jesus and to see
things in a new way, through the lens of the Bible. To see
people as Jesus sees them. You don't have to leave part of
yourself at the door; you are welcome here exactly as you
are in this minute. We all are.

Together, let's make connections with each other and
within the communities in which we live and work.
We want to find ways to grow, to love those around us,
to trust God's story for our lives and to start each day with
fresh hope. Pick up a Fall, Spring or Summer book to learn
more about the ways we work toward those things and
decide if you'd like to take a next step.

Thank you for being with us today.
We're glad you're here.



When I came to Blackhawk in 1994, I was so excited to move to Madison and pastor a church of 300 people. I was thrilled with the idea that I wouldn't have to answer the church phone because they actually paid someone to do that (part time). I wore a suit every Sunday and began a Sunday School class for college students in my home. We had no room in the building for the class, so all five of us would get in my car, drive to my house, have class, and drive back to the church. That idea didn't work very long. Gradually, others found our church – and not just students.

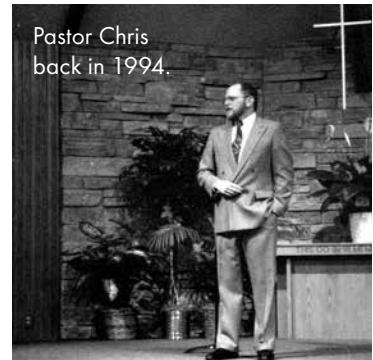
In 1994, I had no idea that our congregation would grow by thousands, that more than 1,400 adults would one day meet in small groups (Life Groups) throughout the city, and that we'd be partnering with some incredible ministries and organizations in Dane County and around the world.

A lot has changed since 1994. But our mission remains the same – to build a loving community that follows Christ in order to reach the community that is all around us, both locally and globally. We are trying to do that by becoming the kind of church the Bible describes – a church with relevant teaching, God-honoring worship, honest friendships, continual prayer and compassionate love for people.

No matter where you are spiritually, I hope you will find Blackhawk to be a place where you can grow in your journey toward God.

Because of His grace,

Chris Dolson, Senior Pastor





Blackhawk Church is on a mission to BUILD
A LOVING COMMUNITY that FOLLOWS CHRIST
in order to REACH A COMMUNITY
that is LOST WITHOUT HIM.

This mission underlies all our decisions,
and compels us to meet the challenges of the
changing and often hurting world around us.

MISSION & VALUES

Christ — We dream about being a community where Jesus Christ is the center of everything we do. We long to be a place where the centrality of Christ is elevated above controversial issues. We desire to be people who worship Christ both individually and collectively and who pursue Him in our daily lives.

Grace — We dream about being a community where we can come as imperfect people to celebrate and share in God's transforming grace. We long to have each person come to know God's free gift of eternal life through Christ. We seek to be a community that extends God's grace in tangible ways to one another and to those with whom we live and work.

Celebrating God's Grace through Baptism

"Therefore, 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)

Baptism is a visible picture of an invisible reality. Upon trusting Christ, you are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. This is something we can't actually see. Water baptism pictures the fact that, as a believer, you are buried with Him (immersed in water) and raised with Him (coming out of the water) to new life.

At Blackhawk, we believe that every person must exercise personal faith in Christ when he or she is old enough to understand the Gospel. If you believe that Christ died for your sins and that He is your only hope for eternal life, then baptism might be the next step in your journey of faith.

The Child Dedication Celebration, on the other hand, offers parents an opportunity to make a spiritual commitment to God concerning the upbringing of their child. This commitment involves a lifestyle of praying for the child, teaching from God's Word and setting a Christ-like example for the child.

*Baptism and Child Dedication Celebration services are both held throughout the year.
To learn more, visit blackhawkchurch.org.*

Truth — We dream about being a community where the search for truth is approached with honesty and humility. We believe that the ancient narratives, letters and poems of Scripture are God's gift to lead us toward that truth. We affirm the central truths of historic Christian faith and at the same time seek to engage with the difficult issues raised by living in a complex world.

Change — We dream about being a community where each individual is so committed to following Jesus Christ that by the power of the Holy Spirit we reorder our lives - our relationships, habits, traditions and possessions - in order to become more like Him. We envision building a community where lives are continually changing because of vital relationships with God.

Others — We dream about being a community that lives not for itself but for others. We long to develop generous hearts where Christ's commitment to love and serve others is valued and practiced by everyone. We hold selfless, humble service of the poor and hurting in our city and world as a high ideal. We seek to be people who freely release resources for God's redemptive work.

Making a Difference Together Through Giving

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Why give?

We believe that cheerful and sacrificial giving is part of offering holistic worship to God. God does not need what we have. However, what we do with what we have guides our hearts. Giving reminds us that everything we have was given by God and we depend on Him to meet our every need. Giving expresses gratitude to God by using His resources to continue telling His story in our community and world.

How can I give?

You may have noticed that Blackhawk does not "pass the plate" on Sundays. If you feel led to give, you may do so in a variety of ways:

- Online giving (one-time or recurring gifts can be made through a bank transfer)
- Offering boxes (located at the entrances/exits of each worship venue)
- Non-cash gifts (to give stocks and mutual funds, obtain a form online)
- Planned giving (contact Darren DeKeyser, Director of Operations, at 608.828.4200)

Can I give to a specific purpose?

You may give to the:

- General Fund (covers the ongoing ministries at Blackhawk)
- Building Fund (used exclusively to accelerate debt reduction)

All gifts are tax-deductible. To learn more, visit blackhawkchurch.org/giving.

Together — We dream about being a community where everyone is cared for and loved. We dream about equipping each person to do the work of ministry. We seek to be a diverse community of people who have discovered their gifts, awakened their passions, and joined together to participate in God's purposes in our world.

Celebration — We dream about being a community of people who are free to celebrate His gifts of life, love and grace. We recognize that life is difficult and at times overwhelming. We long to enjoy life and each other as we build a community in a stressful world.

WHAT we BELIEVE

We are considered an evangelical church and historically are linked together with a long line of Christ-followers who have for centuries depended on the Bible as the basis for their beliefs. We believe the Bible is uniquely God-inspired and without error in the original writings. At Blackhawk you will hear messages that focus our attention on what the Bible says and how that message can transform us into becoming the kind of people God wants us to be.



WE BELIEVE:

There is one God,
Creator of all things, infinitely perfect
and eternally existing in three persons:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ is true God and true man. He lived a perfect life,
died on the cross, a sacrifice for our sins.
He arose bodily from the dead.

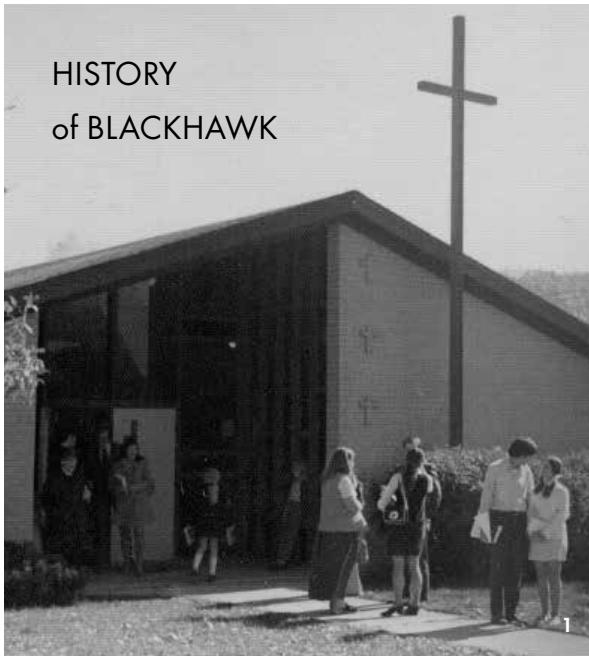
All people are sinners and need God's forgiveness.
Those who trust in Jesus Christ and Him alone for their salvation
become true members of the body of Christ.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ
and to indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer
for godly living and service.

At the end, everyone will experience bodily resurrection
and the judgment. Those who have faith in Christ
will enjoy eternal fellowship with God.

*For a complete statement of faith, visit efca.org, homepage of the Evangelical Free Church of America,
of which Blackhawk is a member.*

HISTORY of BLACKHAWK



Woven into the story of Blackhawk is a constant thread of passionate and committed Christ-followers who sacrifice time and resources to respond to what God is doing. There is a consistent commitment to care for those in need, to reach all generations with the message of Christ, and to work together to accomplish God's purposes in Madison and the world.

Blackhawk was founded in 1965 when a small group from Bethany Evangelical Free Church on the near east side decided to plant a church further west. After meeting in a home for almost two years, they purchased a small building on Blackhawk Avenue (thus the origination of the name). Nineteen people signed the original charter. Their dream was a church to reach the growing west side of Madison.

Under the leadership of several faithful pastors and many committed lay-people, significant growth occurred over the next 20 years. In 1986 the church relocated to Whitney Way on the near west side of Madison to welcome more people.

In 1994 Chris Dolson became the senior pastor. About 300 people called Blackhawk their church home, and they continued to build a strong community with a heart to reach others with the truth and compassion of Christ. Under Chris's leadership, the mission of **"Building a Community to Reach a Community"** was initiated by the elders.

As Blackhawk grew, its demographic reflected that of the community. A ministry to college students began as a small group and grew to reach hundreds of students over the coming years. Blackhawk became the church home of many connected with the University of Wisconsin.

Innovative planning helped the church continue to make room for those who were coming. Not wanting to effectively "close the doors," new service times were added as well as video and offsite venues. **A building meant to accommodate a congregation of about 600 grew to a Sunday attendance of over 3,000 by 2007.**

In the fall of 2007, Blackhawk Church relocated to Brader Way on the far west side. The building was designed with multiple worship venues, and the commitment to small groups grew stronger in an effort to keep the growing church "small." In this new location many more young families began to make Blackhawk their church home, and college students continued to come by shuttle bus.

To better reach the campus and center of our city, Blackhawk opened a site downtown in 2010. In 2013, we opened a site in Fitchburg to minister to those who live in that area and beyond.

Our commitment to our mission continues as we grow in Christ, love one another, and together serve our city and partnerships in various places throughout the world.

We invite you to join the story God is telling through Blackhawk.

Photo Key on next page

Photo Key: History of Blackhawk

1. *Blackhawk Avenue Location, 1974*
2. *Whitney Way Location - Groundbreaking, 1986*
3. *Majestic Theatre Site, 2010*
4. *Brader Way Location - First Sunday, 2007*
5. *Former Pastors celebrating Blackhawk's 25th Anniversary, 1990*
6. *Whitney Way Sanctuary - Dedication Sunday, 1987*
7. *Blackhawk Fitchburg, Savanna Oaks Location, 2013*



BLACKHAWK
CHURCH

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