



October 28, 2021

It's with sincere gratitude and appreciation that we say thank you to both the pastoral leadership and membership at Harvard Avenue Christian Church for a warm and generous welcome. Our family joined the Church at a time of personal hardship, losing a beloved family member. The warmth and sincerity of the congregation has changed our initial perception of Harvard Avenue Christian Church from familiar faces in Sunday service to trusted friends and now our church family.

We joined Harvard Avenue during a time of transition. Pastor David Emery had not yet arrived and while the Church was seeking leadership, Kevin and Courtney filled the sanctuary each Sunday with a congregation eager for devotion. Shortly after the announcement of Pastor Emery we entered into a worldwide pandemic that has resulted in immeasurable hardship and loss for friends, family, and neighbors. The unwavering commitment of Harvard Avenue Christian Church's leadership and congregation is a testimony to the power of faith, the message of our God, and the belief of his followers to stand resolute and worship in times of peril.

One of my favorite parts of Sunday morning is grabbing a quick coffee, saying hello to new and old friends (*albeit through a mask*) and signing in our daughter, Ella to The Orchard, the children's ministry at Harvard Avenue. The enthusiasm of the kids, eager to get to ministry reminds me of how I grew up in a church and I'm excited to share that same opportunity and experience that I had as a child with my daughter.

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."
Proverbs 22:6

We look forward to Pastor Emery's enduring leadership of the congregation and our family is excited about the growth and future of Harvard Avenue Christian Church. My hope is that we can continue to grow in fellowship, faith, and in abundance to further our outreach ministry and spread the message of God.

As a fellow new member, I share in your excitement of joining the church. I look forward to meeting each of you and we're eager to share new and exciting changes coming to Harvard Avenue. You'll learn more in the coming weeks about our stewardship program and ways that we as a congregation can become more involved in the advancement of Harvard Avenue Christian Church. Our continued growth is a testament to the blessings of our membership and the significance of the Lord's message.

The future is bright, the opportunities are great, and we are blessed.

Peace,
Justin Close