



PLATT PARK CHURCH FAQ's

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GENERAL QUESTIONS

What kind of church is Platt Park Church?

Platt Park Church is a community of ordinary people trying to follow Jesus in authentic and meaningful ways. If you visit, you'll likely find people who are thoughtful, welcoming, spiritually curious, and honest about both faith and life.

Our teaching is centered on Jesus and rooted in historic Christianity, while also engaging honestly with the realities of modern life. We place a strong emphasis on spiritual formation, healing, transformation, and learning to live with God in everyday life.

You don't need to have everything figured out to belong here. Many people at Platt Park Church are exploring faith, recovering from difficult church experiences, or simply longing for deeper spiritual connection and community.

What are Sunday teachings like?

One unique aspect of Platt Park Church is our rotating teaching team. Rather than hearing from only one voice every week, you'll experience teaching from pastors as well as gifted members of the church community.

This creates a broader and more communal approach to learning and spiritual formation. Different teachers bring different life experiences, perspectives, and insights, while remaining rooted in Scripture and centered on Jesus.



What does it mean that Platt Park Church is “egalitarian”?

Platt Park Church believes women and men are equally gifted and called by God to lead, teach, pastor, and serve in ministry.

In practice, that means you’ll see both women and men serving throughout the life and leadership of the church. We believe the church reflects the fullness of God more beautifully when everyone is free to use their gifts and calling without limitation based on gender.

Does the church talk about politics or social issues?

Our primary focus is helping people encounter and follow Jesus.

Because people within our church hold a variety of political perspectives and convictions, you probably won’t hear partisan political messaging from the stage. Instead, we seek to create space for thoughtful, prayerful discernment as people navigate civic and cultural life.

We encourage people to seek God sincerely, engage the world with humility and integrity, and extend grace toward those who may come from, or hold different conclusions.

Our desire is to be a church where people can worship, grow, and belong without political alignment becoming the center of community life.

Is Platt Park Church a safe place for people with doubts, questions, or difficult experiences?

We sincerely hope so. Many people who come to Platt Park Church are spiritually curious, recovering from painful church experiences, wrestling with questions, or searching for deeper meaning and healing.

You do not need to believe everything we believe in order to participate in community life with us. We value honest questions, thoughtful conversation, and the reality that faith is often a journey rather than a finished destination.

Our hope is that people experience growing peace, healing, awareness of God, and genuine belonging here.



VISION & CULTURE

What is the vision of Platt Park Church?

Platt Park Church sees itself as a unique spiritual community in the heart of Denver — a place where deep faith, spiritual curiosity, thoughtful teaching, healing, and authentic relationships come together. We believe what makes us unique is that the invitation to personal encounter with God is central to the heart of Platt Park Church. Our church is deeply committed to cultivating community and spreading love within our larger community, but we fundamentally believe all of that originates and flows out of an authentic encounter with God.

The church includes longtime followers of Jesus, people exploring faith for the first time, and many somewhere in between. Rather than trying to become a large, highly-programmed church, the vision is to continue becoming more deeply who the church already is: grounded, welcoming, spiritually alive, and open to others.

You'll sometimes hear people say, "We just want to keep the blue doors open." That captures a lot of the church culture — creating space for anyone seeking God, community, and spiritual growth.

What does "flat leadership" mean at Platt Park Church?

Although the church has a Lead Pastor and leadership team, the culture of leadership is intentionally collaborative. Rather than functioning like a top-down organization where one person or a small group makes all the decisions, Platt Park Church tries to discern direction together through prayer, conversation, wisdom, and shared leadership.

The Lead Pastor's role is less about control and more about helping cultivate our communal listening and responding to God in all aspects of our life together.

What is children's ministry like at Platt Park Church?

Children's ministry focuses on helping kids experience God's love in safe, joyful, and relational environments.

The curriculum emphasizes core spiritual values — things like forgiveness, courage, patience, joy, resilience, and kindness — taught through Bible stories, discussion, and activities that connect faith to everyday life.



Parents are viewed as the primary spiritual influence in a child's life, so the church purposely partners with families rather than replace them in their child's faith formation. Parents receive updates about monthly themes and are empowered to continue conversations at home.

Many parents also volunteer periodically in children's ministry, which helps create a more connected and communal environment for kids and families alike.

Can parents talk with church staff about challenges in raising kids or teenagers?

Absolutely. The church recognizes that parenting today can feel complicated and overwhelming, and there's no assumption that anyone has all the answers. Staff members and ministry leaders are available to listen, offer perspective, pray, and walk alongside families as they navigate different seasons of life.

Families with teenagers are often encouraged to connect with youth leaders who spend significant time with students and understand the cultural realities they're growing up in. Families with younger children can also connect with children's ministry leaders for support and encouragement.

What if I feel passionate about a cause or need in the community?

We believe God often works through the passions and initiatives of people within the congregation.

Many outreach efforts and partnerships have started because someone in the church saw a need and invited others to participate. If you're already involved with a nonprofit, community initiative, or service opportunity, the church would genuinely love to hear about it and explore ways to support or participate.

The church sees its role less as controlling ministry and more as equipping and amplifying the good work God is already stirring in people's lives.

What if I want to start a group or ministry that doesn't currently exist?

New ideas are welcomed.

Some of the church's most meaningful ministries and groups began because someone felt a desire to create space for connection, healing, learning, or service. If you have an idea, the leadership team would love to hear it, help you think it through, and discern together what it could become.



What does being part of the Reformed Church in America (RCA) mean?

Being part of the Reformed Church in America connects Platt Park Church to a long historic Christian tradition dating back to 1628.

The denomination provides theological grounding, accountability, support, and connection to a larger network of churches, while still allowing local churches significant freedom in how they live out ministry within their own communities.

Platt Park Church is part of a regional group of churches called a “classis,” where churches support, encourage, and pray for one another. We are uniquely a part of the City Classis, connected with churches across the nation whose ministry context is highly populated urban centers.

In practical terms, the RCA connection helps the church remain both deeply rooted in historic Christianity and responsive to the unique needs of the local community.

FINANCES

How does the church handle financial giving?

Platt Park Church views financial giving as an act of trust, generosity, and shared participation in ministry.

Church leaders aim to steward resources carefully, responsibly, and transparently. Ministry leaders oversee their own ministry budgets, while elders provide broader financial oversight and accountability.

The church culture values simplicity, resourcefulness, and wise stewardship rather than unnecessary spending or excess.

Is the church financially transparent?

Yes. Financial transparency is considered an important part of trust and healthy community life.

The church regularly shares financial updates with the congregation, including quarterly snapshots of income, expenses, and overall financial health. Full financial reports are also available for those who would like additional detail.



Why does the staff seem larger than some churches of similar size?

Most staff members serve in part-time roles, with hours varying significantly depending on responsibilities.

This staffing model allows the church to support areas like pastoral care, family ministry, groups, administration, and community outreach while remaining financially responsible.

The philosophy behind staffing is not simply to “do ministry for people,” but to equip and empower the church community to care for and serve one another.

Does the church own its building?

The congregation maintains and cares for the church property, while the building itself is held in trust within the governance structure of the Reformed Church in America.

Is the church in debt?

No. The church currently carries no debt and has worked intentionally over the years to maintain healthy financial stewardship.

Recent major projects — including a significant roof replacement — have been paid for through reserves rather than loans.

Does the church give money outward?

Yes. Generosity beyond the church itself is an important value at Platt Park Church.

The church gives at least 10% of income outward to ministry partners, nonprofits, and causes beyond its own walls. In addition, many ministries within the church are designed to mobilize people to serve and love the wider community.

How does the church approach giving?

Giving at Platt Park Church is framed as an invitation rather than an obligation.

Our invitation in giving is simple: we encourage individuals and families to-

Ask God how He wants you and your household to practice faith and generosity, and walk that out in obedience and trust. As we grow in Christ, faith will be tangible in every aspect of our lives. We will grow in seeking God, listening to His invitations, and responding to God in faithful obedience. At Platt Park Church, giving is never about guilt or pressure—it's about responding to God's love in faith, joining in His work through our church, and discovering the freedom that comes when we trust Him and follow His lead.



The church believes generosity is ultimately about trust, participation, and learning to live open-handedly with every area of life — including finances.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Platt Park Church deeply values honesty, openness, and conversation. If you have additional questions about beliefs, leadership, finances, ministry philosophy, or church culture, the staff and elders genuinely welcome those conversations.

You are encouraged to reach out to whichever leader or staff member feels most approachable and comfortable to you.

<https://plattparkchurch.org/new-here/leadership>

