

Scott Schaftlein Giving Story
September 2026 11:15 AM Service

- Hello, my name is Scott Schaftlein, I am a grateful member of Highland Baptist Church. A little bit about me: I am married to Andrew, who you all see every week in choir, and we have two 6-year-olds, Bebe and Birch, who are in the children's choir.
- My faith journey like so many in this room has not been a 'straight' line. I have had quite the zig zag journey to my faith. See, I was raised Catholic and like so many of our LGBT+ sisters and brothers, I had to hold many different things in place, almost like a puzzle, and for me, many of the pieces didn't fit together.
 - See I loved being part of a community, I loved learning spiritual wisdom and recognizing the universal truth of our faith, that we are all connected, connected by a larger spiritual force. Through the example of God sending his son, Jesus to us and for our salvation. Through Jesus's radical compassion to serve the least among us, to recognize that none of us are alone. That God bestowed each of us we have gifts with gifts to share with the world, to make the world better. I loved those pieces of the puzzle.
 - But there were other pieces. That community told me that the feeling I had inside, who I was attracted to and who I wanted to love were not right in God's eyes, as a child, it felt like I was damaged goods, that I was intrinsically bad.
 - Throughout much of my adult life, I have zig zagged between faith and skepticism, between wanting a community to celebrate and grow my faith and follow Jesus's example of radical love and service on one hand, and on the other hand, the fear and often, reality, of being seen and treated less than, a sinner for simply loving who I love.
- Fast forward, my husband and I had been "church shopping" on and off for a while and he found Highland. I followed him here.
- I no longer felt the need to zig zag, to effectively hide and dodge who I was, a place where I could celebrate and grow my faith in God as well as be 100% my authentic self.
- For this faithful giving season, we are anchored in the themes of
 - Planting seeds for Highlands long term future
 - Cultivating good soil so we can leverage current financial resources for future Highland ministry and justice efforts
 - Fostering a culture of engagement so we can get more folks engaged.
- These themes really speak to me because when I made the decision to join Highland, I wanted to get involved. I was able to plan seeds and cultivate good soil through joining the interim search committee in 2024, the strategic planning committee and the ministry council last year.

- I have made Highland one of my top 3 non-profit financial commitments and if you have not already, I hope you choose to do the same
- I have used this analogy before, but giving to Highland Baptist Church for me is in many ways like paying for good medical care for my and my family's spiritual health. You would not hesitate to take a loved one to get the best medical care when needed, let's ensure we can do the same for our spiritual bodies and for the new members that will walk through these doors in the days and years to come.
- So please give what you can so we can grow and spread the magic of Highland both within these walls as we welcome new members of the community and outside, as we go and do the work that Jesus calls us to do.