



# FCC Membership Biography

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## *John Hopkins*

I grew up in a Lutheran church in Red Wing, MN as a child. My family regularly attended Sunday service. Right around the time that I would have been confirmed, my parents decided to move our family over to a smaller more "Alive" church. That was the New River Assembly of God Church, also in Red Wing. Even as a child, the differences between the two churches was very apparent. It wasn't long after we started going there that I felt God pulling on my heart and really accepted Jesus as my Savior. Then, after about another year, I was baptized publically in front of the congregation. I was heavily involved with the youth group there throughout high school.

I called New River my home church until I left high school in 2004. Once I left for college I turned most of my attention towards school/sports/friends and did not attend or call any church there my home. I did fall away from my faith for that time as far as the choices I made. I never questioned that God was real or that He wasn't still alive or my Savior. I just didn't actively involve myself with a church or read my Bible. I mostly lived my life that way for the next 10 years. I would attend when I visited my parents but that was few and far between.

In 2013, I started a job in Somerset and moved to New Richmond. After I moved up here I started looking for a church home. I bounced around to a couple in New Richmond and Woodbury. All were Biblically based and most were Baptist churches as I knew that was the church and teaching that I believed in. Nothing really stuck and I never made a full commitment to actively attend regular services or get involved with church members.

In 2018 I met the woman who would eventually become my wife. She had been attending Faith Community for a while and early on in our relationship she invited me to come to church with her. I did and what I found over the first few weeks that I came was that Faith Community shares the same Biblical values that I do. While dating Alisha and seeing how big a part her faith was in her life, it sort of reignited my faith flame. It was/is a large part of our relationship. We call Faith Community our home and continue to stay involved as much as we can.

Alisha and I got married in June of 2020 with Pastor Szyman. She and I also volunteer on the Welcome team. We started as the coffee/doughnut people (pre-covid) then moved to Ushering when we opened services back up.

Coming back to having a church I call home has changed my life. My faith and walk with Christ has never been in a better place. Alisha and I are expecting our first child this December and are excited to watch her grow up in the church and light her little flame for Jesus.