

Welcome to Wakefield UMC!

I am delighted that you have chosen to participate in Wakefield 101 and learn more about what it means to become a member of Wakefield United Methodist Church. Your presence among our worshipping community is a gift and we welcome you!

This class is intended to be a first step in becoming a part of a committed group of Christian believers. Members of Wakefield UMC come from various backgrounds and bring their own gifts and passions to the table. We honor all members' gifts and strive to be a church where all people can grow more in love with God and one another. We may be diverse in our thoughts, opinions, and beliefs, but we all believe in one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Under the direction of our one Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we feel called to serve the surrounding community and be the church Christ has called us to be.

The hope is that as a member of the Wakefield UMC family, you will feel welcomed as we learn, grow, and serve with one another. I hope you will find a ministry to be involved with because you have something unique to offer whether it be serving on one of our teams and committees, volunteering with children or youth, or running the livestream during worship.

Together, we can glorify God and make a difference in our neighborhood, our city, and around the world. Join us as we live out our mission statement of inviting, engaging, and strengthening all on our journey with Christ!

Peace,

Pastor Christina

cparrish@wakefieldumc.org

850-376-5453

10701 Common Oaks Drive

Raleigh, NC 27614

984-258-2022

WakefieldUMC.org

Church Office Hours: Monday (by appointment)
Tuesday-Thursday (9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

Getting to Know Wakefield United Methodist Church...

Our History

Wakefield United Methodist Church is a vibrant and growing church in the northern Raleigh and Wake Forest area. Founded in 2007 as a daughter congregation to Edenton Street United Methodist in downtown Raleigh, the church identified a need in the community to support families of youth after a number of tragedies involving Wakefield High School students. Wakefield UMC began worshipping at North Forest Pines Elementary School and then moved to the Kerr Family YMCA on Wakefield Pines Drive. Along the way, two parcels of land were purchased and sold (one on Star Road and a second on Falls of Neuse Road) with the hope that a permanent church home would be constructed. But God had other plans and in 2020, the church sold its second property and used the proceeds to purchase the building formerly known as Jellybeans. During the construction phase and Covid-19, the church worshipped online and outdoors until Easter Sunday in April 2022 when the inaugural service was held in the new building. Since moving into its first ever permanent church home, Wakefield UMC is dreaming how to better reach its neighbors and continue to be a beacon of hope in the Wakefield community.

Our Mission Statement

“Inviting, Engaging, and Strengthening all in our journey with Christ”

Our hope is to be a church where all people are **INVITED** to experience God’s love and grace.

We want to **ENGAGE** people by creating meaningful fellowship and outreach opportunities that help us connect with one another and the community such that the community knows that they can come to our church in a time of need.

And our ultimate hope is that all who walk through our doors will be **STRENGTHENED** in their journey with Christ as we worship, study, and grow together.

Our Methodist Heritage

The United Methodist Church was created on April 23, 1968, when The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church united to form a new denomination.

But Methodism in the U.S. dates back to 1736 when John and Charles Wesley came to the New World to spread the movement they began as students in England. United Methodists share a historic connection to other Methodist and Wesleyan bodies.

Our denomination’s mission is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” We fulfill this through local churches, districts, annual conferences, and jurisdictions which are a part of our connectional structure with United Methodist churches across the globe.

One thing that makes us unique is our emphasis on grace. We believe in God’s **prevenient grace** (the divine love that surrounds all persons even before we are aware of its presence), **justifying grace** (God’s accepting and pardoning love extended to a repentant believer), and **sanctifying grace** (the Spirit’s continual work of renewal in us as we learn to love like God loves).

Another marker of a United Methodist is our emphasis on the need for both personal piety and social holiness.

What We Believe as United Methodists

“A United Methodist is a Christian who has professed faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, put his or her whole trust in Christ’s grace and promised to serve him as Lord as a member of The United Methodist Church, a worldwide church that welcomes persons of all ages, nations and races.”

-Bishop Kenneth L. Carder



To learn more about being United Methodist...

- Visit UMC.org
- *Methodist Doctrine: The Essentials* by Ted A. Campbell
- *The United Methodist Way: Living Our Beliefs* by Kenneth L. Carder

Ways to Get Involved

Worship

- Greeter
- Usher
- Scripture Reader
- Communion Server
- Praise Band
- Choir
- AV Team
- Altar Guild
- Children's Check-In
- Ignite Sunday Teacher
- Nursery Volunteer

Grow

- Small Group
- Adult Studies
- Wakefield Wednesdays
- Men's Ministry
- Women of Wakefield (WOW)
- Embers (Age 55+)
- M.O.P.S
- Ignite Children's Ministry
- Fuel Youth Ministry
- VBS

Serve

- ASP
- Methodist Home for Children: Christmas in July and Angel Tree
- Ronald McDonald House
- Note in the Pocket
- The Bed Project
- Tri-Area Ministry Food Pantry
- UMCOR / Disaster Relief
- The Blood Connection
- Meal Train
- Prayer Shawl Ministry

Leadership

- Church Council, SPRC, Finance Committee, Trustees Committee, and Lay Leadership and Nominations Committee
- Inviting Team, Engaging Team, and Strengthening Team
- Missions Team
- Children's Ministry Team
- Youth Leadership Team

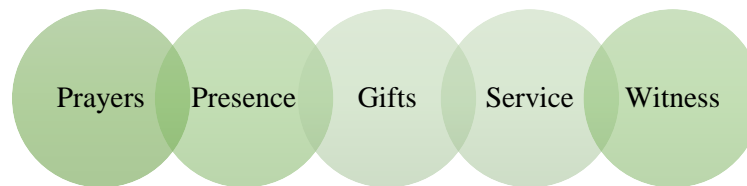
Membership at Wakefield UMC

Baptism is a requirement for membership. If you have been baptized before (in any tradition), we recognize that baptism. If you have never been baptized, you are invited to be baptized when you are ready. Once baptized, you are ready to be received as a member.

You will be received as a member at Wakefield UMC by answering these questions:

1) As members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

2) As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?



Expectations of Membership:

- To pray for the church and worship regularly.
- To continue to grow in your faith by participating in the life of the church.
- To give financially in proportion to your income and share your gifts and talents.
- To serve God by volunteering in service to the congregation and the community.
- To actively share your faith in everyday life and invite others to worship.

Our Church Leadership

Staff

Rev. Christina Parrish, Senior Pastor – cparrish@wakefieldumc.org

Rev. Erin Pearce, Pastor of Family Ministry – epearce@wakefieldumc.org

Mandy Johnson, Director of Children’s Ministry – mjohnson@wakefieldumc.org

Tim Kiernan, Children’s Education Coordinator – tkiernan@wakefieldumc.org

Don Bowman, Worship Leader – don.bowman@wemc.com

Cathey McClelland, Administrative Coordinator – cmcclelland@wakefieldumc.org

Yogi Dial, Facilities Manager

2024 Church Leaders

Chair – Mike Moser

Vice-Chair – Mark Timberlake

Lay Leader – Richard Thompson

Finance Chair – Kenneth Barham

Trustees Chair – Brion Paulson

SPRC Chair – Angie Pleasants

Nominations Vice Chair – Tara Parris

Lay Delegates to the Annual Conference –

James and Sandie Earp

Men’s Ministries Chairs –

Adrian Escobedo / Scott Hungate

Women of Wakefield Chairs –

Tina Krieman / Sissy Barham

Church Council

Communications – Jane Foreman

Missions Team Chair – Christina Bowman

ASP Reps – Doug Blanchard / Nesha

Daubenspeck

Engaging Team Chair – Cathey McClelland

Strengthening Team Chairs – Ryan and

Miriam Migdal

Inviting Team Chairs - Bobby Van

Doornewaard / Jenn Nowalk

Welcoming Team Chair – Christina Bowman

Youth Leadership Team Rep – Miranda

Escobedo

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Angie Pleasants (Chair)

Kathy McKeown (Vice Chair)

John Meehan

Patti Elliott

Nancy Woodis

Nancy Moser

Jeff Vester

Andy Parris

Lauri Nee

Finance Committee

Kenneth Barham (Chair)

Andrew Krieman

Dave Lindstrom

Jason Mooneyham

Julie Pugh (Treasurer)

Will Pleasants

Emily Paulson (Vice Chair)

Kathy Smiley

Larry Davis

Scott Allen

Trustees Committee

Brion Paulson (Chair)

Joe Vartanesian

Wayne McCulloch

Erik Van Doornewaard

Tina Krieman

Mark Milam / Dave Buckman

Velvet Nelson

Alison Guptill

Adam Hedrick

Lay Leadership/ Nominations Committee

Allison Brower

Thorne Daubenspeck

Lara Mooneyham

Stephanie Hollowell

Doug Blanchard

Tara Parris (Vice Chair)

Jeff Guptill

Sandie Earp

Bonnie Lindstrom

Learning the Lingo at Wakefield UMC

Terminology unique to Wakefield UMC (in green)

Terminology in the United Methodist Church (in red)

AccessACS (ACS) – Wakefield UMC’s church management software that manages our membership database and financial records. You must have an AccessACS account to make a financial gift, schedule online giving, edit your profile, or view the church directory. For questions about giving, email finance@wakefieldumc.org. To be added to the membership database, email Cathey McClelland at cmcclelland@wakefieldumc.org.

Adult Study – Seasonal studies are offered throughout the year. A study is an opportunity to gather and learn for a set amount of time, without the commitment to remain a group once the study has ended. Examples include Sunday Morning Studies, Church Wide Studies, etc.

Altar Guild – A group of laity under the direction of the Senior Pastor that prepares the altar and worship space for worship. Responsibilities also include setting up for baptisms and for Communion on Communion Sundays.

Apportionments – Dictated by the North Carolina Conference, Wakefield UMC’s assigned portion of giving to support international, national and regional missions and ministries.

ASP – Appalachia Service Project (ASP) is a Christian ministry that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair and replacement in Central Appalachia. This mission helps Wakefield UMC to live out its original vision of providing a Christian presence in the lives of youth and families in the community. Wakefield UMC has sent teams of youth/adults on an ASP trip(s) every year since 2010, with the exception of 2020.

AV (Audio Visual) Team – A group of volunteers that help run the main soundboard, Facebook livestream and livestream audio, and ProPresenter (slides) during Sunday worship. To volunteer, email wumcmedia@gmail.com.

(The) Bed Project – A ministry of Wakefield UMC in which volunteers build and deliver twin beds and bedding to children in surrounding counties who need a bed. Contact Amy Timberlake at amydtimberlake@yahoo.com.

Bishop – An elder elected to provide oversight to an annual conference, and as part of the Council of Bishops, to the denomination. Bishops appoint clergy to serve the congregations and ministries of their annual conferences. The bishop of the North Carolina Conference is Rev. Connie Shelton.

Book of Discipline – The United Methodist Church’s book of law, doctrine, administration, and organizational work and procedures. *The Discipline* governs our practices as the United Methodist Church.

Charge Conference – The annual – and sometimes specially called – meeting of a United Methodist congregation to elect leaders, set pastors’ salaries, buy and sell property, and more. A charge conference is typically held in the fall of each year.

Children’s Check-In Counter – Located to the right of the sanctuary, when looking from the main entrance, the counter is where parents check in their children for Ignite. Children and parents are given matching stickers for an efficient and secure check-in/check-out.

Children’s Ministry Team – Under the leadership of the Director of Children’s Ministry, this team organizes and oversees programming to empower and teach children about the love of Christ and how to grow in their discipleship.

Choir – The adult chancel choir practices and performs seasonally under the direction of Shane Ray. Contact Shane Ray at srayecuunc@gmail.com.

Church Council - The church council of Wakefield UMC envisions, plans, coordinates, and implements the administration and ministry of the church. The church council is made up of a chair, vice-chair, lay leader, lay delegates to annual conference, pastors, as well as the various chairs and representatives of the committees and teams at Wakefield UMC.

Conference Room – The room located adjacent to the Coffee Bar and near the main entrance of the church equipped to host in-person and virtual meetings.

Confirmation - Confirmation is an opportunity to respond to the grace of God available to us, as acknowledged in baptism, and to promise to live as a person of faith. Youth attend confirmation classes (usually in 6th grade) and then are publicly confirmed as professing members of the church.

Deacon – A clergyperson ordained to ministries of word, service, compassion, and justice. Deacons help connect the ministries of the church and the needs of the community. Pastor Erin is an ordained deacon.

District Superintendent (DS) – An elder appointed by the bishop to oversee the work of the local churches and supervise the work of the pastors in his or her district, and to participate with the bishop in the making of the appointments of pastors. The DS of the Heritage District is Rev. Ismael Ruiz-Millan.

Elder – A clergy person ordained to ministries of word, sacrament, order, service, and witness. Elders preach and teach God’s word, administer the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion, order the life of the church for mission and ministry, serve all people, and are a living witness to the work of Christ in the world. Pastor Christina is an ordained Elder.

Embers – A group created for the age 55+ members at Wakefield UMC. The Embers meet once a month for fun and fellowship.

Engaging Team – A team of laity under the direction of a chair and Senior Pastor (or administrative coordinator) that plans and oversees church-wide fellowship events at Wakefield UMC.

Finance Committee – Creates the budget for ministry at Wakefield UMC and develops a plan to raise adequate funds to support the church.

Flame – A special youth group program for 4th and 5th graders one Sunday a month to prepare them for the transition to Fuel. Contact Pastor Erin at epearce@wakefieldumc.org for more info.

Fuel – The youth ministry of Wakefield UMC. Contact Pastor Erin at epearce@wakefieldumc.org for more info.

Funeral Hospitality Team – A group of laity that coordinates a reception and offers support to bereaved families when there is a funeral at the church.

Greeters – Greeters from the church congregation are located at both entrances of the building and the Welcome Counter on Sunday mornings to welcome and assist members and guests. To volunteer to be a greeter, contact Cathey McClelland at cmcclelland@wakefieldumc.org.

Heritage District – One of eight geographic districts in the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Wakefield UMC is in the Heritage District.

Holy Communion – Communion is typically celebrated on the first Sunday of the month during worship. Children stay in worship for a special children’s sermon and to receive Communion. Communion is typically distributed via “intinction” which means that congregants are given a piece of bread and then dip it into a cup of grape juice (symbolizing the body and blood of Christ). Wakefield UMC practices an “open table” meaning all who love God are invited to receive and you do not have to be a member of Wakefield UMC. To volunteer to be a Communion server, contact Cathey McClelland at cmcclelland@wakefieldumc.org.

Ignite – The children’s ministry of Wakefield UMC. Contact Mandy Johnson at mjohnson@wakefieldumc.org for more info.

Inviting Team – A team of laity under the direction of a chair and the Senior Pastor that oversees evangelism, specifically through the lens of marketing, at Wakefield UMC. The Inviting Team uses the website, Facebook page, ads, mailers, signs, and other marketing efforts to advance the mission of Wakefield UMC.

Jellybeans – The former occupant of our church building... a skating rink!

Laity – Those who are not clergy in a local church.

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference – A lay person who attends annual conference sessions as a member of Wakefield UMC and interprets the actions of the annual conference to the congregation. The conference is held once a year by the North Carolina Annual Conference for all clergy and an equal number of lay delegates.

Lay Leader – The principal layperson at Wakefield UMC who represents and leads the laity in ministry.

Lay Leadership and Nominations Committee – Invites church members to participate in lay leadership opportunities. The Senior Pastor serves as chair and a lay person serves as vice-chair.

Meal Train – Volunteers who sign up to make and deliver meals to church members who are recovering from surgery, caring for a new baby, etc. To volunteer, contact Shirley Morrison at shirleym.morr@gmail.com.

Men’s Ministry – The men’s ministry includes regular prayer breakfasts that offer fellowship, as well as opportunities for service to the church and the community.

Missions Counter – Located closest to the main entrance, the Missions Counter is the drop-off location for mission donations and a place where you can learn more about what monthly mission Wakefield UMC is supporting. Year-round donations are collected for Note in the Pocket, a local non-profit organization that helps clothe schoolchildren in Wake County.

Missions Team - A team of laity under the direction of a chair and the Pastor of Family Ministry that oversees mission and outreach opportunities at Wakefield UMC.

M.O.P.S. (Mothers of Preschoolers) – M.O.P.S. is a faith-based support group for moms with kids, ages 0-18. It’s a place for community, friendship, support, and

growth. M.O.P.S. typically meets on the first and third Fridays of the month. For more information, email wakefieldmops@gmail.com.

NCCUMC.org – The North Carolina Annual Conference website.

Newsletter – Wakefield UMC’s newsletter is sent out weekly via email. It contains a plethora of information about what is going on at Wakefield UMC and includes a weekly article written by a staff member. To be added to the newsletter email list, contact Cathey McClelland at cmcclelland@wakefieldumc.org.

North Carolina Annual Conference – In the United States, the United Methodist Church is divided into jurisdictions and annual conferences. There are five jurisdictions (Wakefield UMC is in the Southeastern Jurisdiction) and within the Southeastern Jurisdiction, there are 14 annual conferences (Wakefield UMC is in the North Carolina Annual Conference which comprises the eastern half of our state).

Prayer List – A list of prayer requests sent out weekly via email. To submit a prayer request, to be shared publicly or remain confidential, contact Pastor Christina at cparrish@wakefieldumc.org.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Shawls symbolize shelter, peace, and spiritual sustenance and are gifts of hope and comfort. This group crochets/knits new shawls, prays over them, and distributes them. Contact Sandie Earp at sgearp@gmail.com.

Praise Band – A group of volunteers under the direction of the Worship Leader who leads the congregation in worship and song on Sunday mornings. All gifts and talents are welcomed! The praise band practices on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. If you are interested in offering your musical or vocal gifts, contact Don Bowman at don.bowman@wemc.com.

Safe Sanctuaries – This UMC program was designed to make church activities safe for our children. It has two core policies: 1) All volunteers who work with children must complete a background check and 2) There must always be two (unrelated) adults present with children.

Scripture Readers – One or two laity read the Scripture lesson(s) during worship on Sundays. To volunteer to be a reader, contact Cathey McClelland at cmcclelland@wakefieldumc.org.

Small Groups – Small groups are usually made up of 8-12 people who are committed to deepening their relationship with God and with one another. Every group is unique. Each group decides together when and how often they meet and what they want to study. Some groups are committed to regular Bible study, while others are primarily focused on building community with each other.

Small Group Room – A small, comfortable room with couches and chairs designed for smaller groups and meetings. The Small Group Room is located at the far end of the Fellowship Hall near the Youth Space.

SPRC – Staff-Parish Relations Committee. Tasked with all staff hiring, except senior pastors whom are appointed by the Bishop of the North Carolina Conference.

Stewardship Campaign – This campaign, typically held in the fall, encourages members and regular attendees to commit their financial gifts and time to Wakefield UMC. The Finance Committee uses the Commitment Cards to help determine the next year’s budget. Congregants also commit to using their time and talents to become more involved at Wakefield UMC.

Strengthening Team – A team of laity under the direction of a chair and the Pastor of Family Ministry that oversees discipleship at Wakefield UMC. This team is responsible for suggesting curriculum, promoting spiritual growth opportunities, and helping every member grow in their faith.

Trustees – Responsible for supervising and maintaining both the physical property of the congregation and gifts made to the congregation.

UMC.org – The official website of the United Methodist Church.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) – The humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church. UMCOR’s work of alleviating human suffering around the world includes disaster relief and supplies, disaster risk reduction, health, and humanitarian development.

Ushers – Ushers for Sunday morning worship stand at the sanctuary doors to welcome people, pass out bulletins, and collect the Sunday morning offering. They also direct the Communion flow on first Sundays. To volunteer to be an usher, contact Cathey McClelland at cmcclelland@wakefieldumc.org.

VBS – Vacation Bible School (VBS) is an annual event for children, between the age of three through fifth grade, held for a week in the summer. The program is coordinated by the Director of Children’s Ministry and Children’s Ministry Team. Contact Mandy Johnson at mjohnson@wakefieldumc.org for more info.

Wakefield Wednesdays – Offered seasonally, this weekly program is meant to be a casual opportunity to eat, fellowship, and learn together. Studies that can stand well on their own are intentionally chosen so that individuals and families can attend the Wednesday(s) that work best with their schedule. Learning opportunities for children and youth are also offered so that the whole family can participate.

Welcome Counter – Located in the middle of the foyer, the Welcome Counter is a place where members and guests can learn more information about Wakefield UMC and pick up a small welcome gift if it is their first time visiting.

Welcoming Team – A team of laity under the direction of the chair and Senior Pastor who act as the hospitality team of the church. Greeters and ushers sign up to volunteer on specific Sundays. Whether or not a member is on the Welcoming Team, all members are encouraged to be a part of the Wakefield UMC culture of hospitality.

Women of Wakefield – Women of Wakefield offers an opportunity for women of the congregation to come together to fellowship, share ideas about our church, and engage in missions opportunities and service projects.

Youth Leadership Team – Youth leaders under the direction of the Pastor of Family Ministry that help to plan and implement opportunities for growth, mission, and fun for the Fuel youth ministry.