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

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

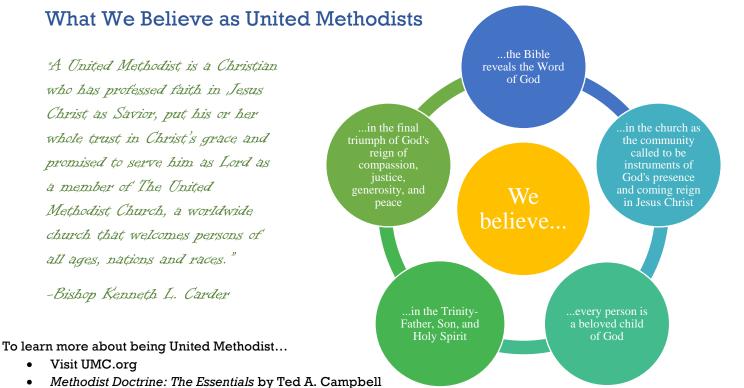
The United Methodist Church was created on April 23, 1968, when The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church united to form a new denomination.

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.



• 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+)
- MomCo
- Ignite Children's Ministry
- Fuel Youth Ministry
- VBS

Serve

- ASP
- Eat Out for Outreach
- Methodist Home for Children
- Note in the Pocket
- Ronald McDonald House
- The Bed Project
- The Blood Connection
- Tri-Area Ministry
- UMCOR / Disaster Relief
- Connections Team
- Note Writers
- · Wakefield Wheels
- Funeral Hospitality Team
- Meal Train
- Prayer Shawl Group

Leadership

- Church Council, SPRC, Finance Committee, Trustees Committee, and Lay Leadership and Nominations Committee
- Inviting Team, Engaging Team, and Strengthening
- 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?

Prayers Presence Gifts Service 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
Rev. Erin Pearce, Pastor of Family Ministry
Mandy Johnson, Director of Children's Ministry
Angie Pleasants, Assistant Director of Children's Ministry
Don Bowman, Worship Leader
Cathey McClelland, Administrative Coordinator
Christina Bowman, Communications Coordinator
Yogi Dial, Facilities Manager

2024 Church Leaders

Church Council

Chair – Mike Moser
Vice-Chair – Mark Timberlake
Lay Leader – Richard Thompson
Finance Chair – Kenneth Barham
Trustees Chair – Brion Paulson
SPRC Chair – Kathy McKeown
Nominations Vice Chair – Tara Parris
Lay Delegates to the Annual Conference –
James and Sandie Earp
Communications – Jane Foreman
Men's Ministries Chair - Scott Hungate

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Kathy McKeown (Chair)
John Meehan
Patti Elliott
Andrew Krieman
Nancy Moser
Jeff Vester
Andy Parris
Lauri Nee

Trustees Committee

Brion Paulson (Chair)
Joe Vartanesian
Wayne McCulloch
Erik Van Doornewaard
Tina Krieman
Mark Milam / Dave Buckman
Velvet Nelson
Alison Guptill
Adam Hedrick

Women of Wakefield Chairs –
Tina Krieman / Sissy Barham
Missions Team Chair – Christina Bowman
ASP Reps – Doug Blanchard / Nesha
Daubenspeck
Engaging Team Chair – Cathey McClelland
Strengthening Team Chair – Ryan Migdal
Inviting Team Chairs - Bobby Van
Doornewaard / Jenn Nowalk
Welcoming Team Chair – Christina Bowman
Youth Leadership Rep – Miranda Escobedo

Finance Committee

Kenneth Barham (Chair)
Andrew Krieman
Dave Lindstrom
Jason Mooneyham
Julie Pugh (Treasurer)
Will Pleasants
Emily Paulson (Vice Chair)
Kathy Smiley
Larry Davis

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)

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 – Altar Guild volunteers prepare the altar and sanctuary for worship, including setting up for baptisms and Communion.

Appalachia Service Project (ASP) – ASP's mission is to make homes warmer, safer, and dryer in rural Central Appalachia. Wakefield UMC is proud to have been a part of this mission since 2010. We have a youth trip in the summer, and an adult trip in the fall or spring, to provide critical repairs to raise homes out of substandard conditions. ASP mission trips allow participants to grow stronger with each other, stronger with God, and stronger as a church family.

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

AV (Audio Visual) Team – Volunteers help run the main soundboard, Facebook livestream and livestream audio, and ProPresenter (slides) during Sunday worship.

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 – Each Sunday, volunteers help parents check in their children for IGNITE, the children's ministry of Wakefield UMC. 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.

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.

Communion Servers – Volunteers serve Communion on the first Sunday of the month. *Sign up at (wakefieldumc.org/serve/engage/).*

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.

Connections Team – Volunteers serve as an encouraging point of contact for new members and regular visitors that are newer to our church. Volunteers are paired with individuals/families to help them feel welcomed, make connections and find ways to get involved at Wakefield UMC.

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. David Joyner.

Eat Out for Outreach (EOFO) – EOFO is a quarterly opportunity to make an impact by dining in or ordering take out from local restaurants that commit to giving a portion of their profits to our church. All proceeds from the events are given to one of the following four areas of outreach missions: children, youth, senior adults, and persons with disabilities. All are welcome to attend, including family and friends, so together we can make a positive difference in our community!



Elder – A clergyperson 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 – Volunteers plan and oversee church-wide fellowship events at Wakefield UMC, and also support other teams and ministries with food and drink needs.

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 4^{th} and 5^{th} graders one Sunday a month to prepare them for the transition to Fuel.

Fuel - The youth ministry of Wakefield UMC.

FUEL Missions Volunteer – Adult volunteers help with various youth mission projects throughout the year with our youth group called FUEL.

FUEL Sunday Night Volunteer – On Sunday evenings from 5:30-7 pm, adult volunteers serve during meal time and lead small group discussions during FUEL.

Funeral Hospitality Team – Volunteers coordinate receptions and offer support to bereaved families when there is a funeral at the church.

Greeters – Greeters are stationed at the church entrances and Welcome Counter before and after Sunday services to share a kind word, open a door, and lend a helping hand to first time visitors, as well as regular attendees.

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.



Ignite - The children's ministry of Wakefield UMC.

IGNITE Teacher – The children's ministry of Wakefield UMC is run by volunteers that teach IGNITE classes once a month or serve as substitute teachers when needed.

Inviting Team – This team oversees evangelism at Wakefield UMC, specifically through the lens of marketing. 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 – Meal Train volunteers provide meals to individuals and families following a significant illness, surgery, birth of a baby, etc.

Men's Ministry – The Men's Ministry includes regular Saturday morning breakfasts and Sunday evening socials that offer support and fellowship, as well as opportunities for service to our church and community.

Methodist Home for Children (MHC) – MHC works so that all in their care, children and families, have the hope and the skills they need to build healthy, self-sufficient, and productive lives. Wakefield UMC supports MHC throughout the year with three drives: Cases for Kidz (duffle bags), Christmas in July (backpacks & school supplies) and Angel Tree (Christmas presents).

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 and Tri-Area Ministry.



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.

MomCo (formerly M.O.P.S) – This faith-based support group is for moms with kids between the ages 0-18. It's a place for community, friendship, support, and growth. MomCo typically meets two Fridays per month from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

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.

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).

Note in the Pocket (NITP) – NITP believes that it is unacceptable that children are limited in their educational and social development because they do not have appropriate clothes for school. Wakefield UMC helps to provide stylish, good quality clothing items that empower children to succeed in the academic environment. NITP also provides for family members as well, so all sizes are needed. Our church serves as a year-round community donation drop-off site for clothing and shoes. Our NITP Donations Collection Team of volunteers oversees the donations and delivers them to NITP. We also have a group volunteer day at the NITP center three times a year to sort clothing, three focused clothing drives, and participate in the annual NITP 5K Rundie.

Note Writers – First time guests receive a hand-written note or email from a member of the Note Writers team after attending their first Sunday service. Kind words, an invitation to attend future services and information about upcoming events are shared.

Nursery Volunteer – Volunteer in the nursery to spend time with our smallest church members in the infant and toddler rooms! *Sign up at* (wakefieldumc.org/serve/engage/).

Prayer List – Prayer requests sent out weekly via email.

Prayer Shawl Group – 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.



Praise Band – A group of musicians and vocalists that lead the congregation in song during worship on Sunday mornings, under the direction of the Worship Leader. All gifts and talents are welcomed! The praise band practices on Wednesday evenings and/or Sunday mornings.

Realm – Wakefield UMC's church management software that manages our membership database, giving, and financial records.

Ronald McDonald House (RMH) – RMH supports families worldwide by helping them access the medical care and resources they need. Essential care is provided including places of respite for parents, space for children to be children, and communities of support for all family members dealing with a child's medical crisis. Four times a year, a group of Wakefield UMC volunteers go to Ronald McDonald House to make meals for the families. Our church also collects monetary donations prior to the service days to provide supplies for the meals and help stock the snack rooms at the house and hospital.

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 – Two volunteers read the Scripture lesson(s) during worship on Sundays. *Sign up at (wakefieldumc.org/serve/engage).*

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 Wing.

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 the Pastor of Family Ministry that oversees discipleship at Wakefield UMC. This team is responsible for suggesting curriculum, promoting spiritual grown opportunities, and helping every member grow in their faith.

The Bed Project (TBP) – Sleep is essential for the overall physical and mental development of children. A bed is a basic need to facilitate a good night's sleep, however, for many children in our area this is an unmet need. Since January 2023, TBP has given Wakefield UMC the wonderful opportunity to serve the community by building twin beds to ensure these children sleep comfortably. TBP relies on the generous donations given by the congregation of Wakefield UMC and members of our community. The supplies for one bed cost approximately \$250.

The Blood Connection (TBC) – Blood sustains precious human life. When we share blood, healing happens; individuals thrive; and families remain whole. Wakefield UMC hosts quarterly blood drives throughout the year. Please consider donating to save lives through TBC. They conveniently bring their mobile bus to our church parking lot. Anyone from our church, surrounding community and beyond can donate.

Tri-Area Ministry (TAM) – TAM is a food pantry that was founded in 1988. It is a nonprofit, 100% volunteer organization with a mission to provide food to the food insecure in our community. Wakefield UMC collects food donations for TAM throughout the year in a bin located in front of the Missions Counter. We have a team of volunteers that gathers and weighs the donations, and then delivers them to TAM in downtown Wake Forest. Three times a year we hold specific need-based drives to gather timely supplies for families in need in our area.

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.

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) – As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, UMCOR assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR provides support to those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events - to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable. Wakefield UMC has a fundraiser once a year to support UMCOR's important work helping those in need. Volunteer trips are also organized as needed.

Ushers – Ushers 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.



VBS – Vacation Bible School (VBS) is an annual event held for a week in the summer for children aged three through fifth grade. Volunteer for a day or the whole week to help the children of our church and community learn about Jesus, build relationships and have fun!

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.

Wakefield Wheels – A wonderful way to serve our neighbors and share God's love! Volunteers help those in our community that do not have transportation to attend our Sunday services. Volunteers will use their own vehicles to pick up and drop off local residents that live within a couple miles of our building.

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 our congregation to come together in fellowship, share ideas about our church, and engage in mission 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.