

What We Believe...

As a part of The United Methodist Church, Faith UMC stands in the broad tradition of the Christian faith, founded in the bedrock belief of the early church that Jesus Christ is Lord. This confession, expressed by Simon Peter in Matthew 16:16 ('You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God...'), is foundational to all other understandings, for it implies not merely that Jesus was the unique Son of the living God, but that He lives today, as well, calling men and women to follow Him as the Sovereign of their lives. We believe that it is only through entering into a personal relationship with this Lord that life in its fullest measure is to be found, and that salvation comes wholly through the grace of God, and not through any deeds or works which we may perform. This gift of grace is available unto all persons, for our Father in Heaven is not willing that any should be lost (Matthew 18:14). With St. Paul we affirm the proclamation found in Romans 10:9, "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

We likewise confess our belief in the Triune God consisting of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe in one God and that, within that unity, is a community of love. It is a great mystery that is better experienced and worshiped than described. We believe that the end result of God's grace in us is our sanctification in Christ, as we become more and more like Jesus in our actions, in our thinking, and in our love towards others. We believe that the triune God's great redemptive love will find its ultimate fulfillment in the renewal of creation. In short, we believe what God did in the resurrection of Jesus will one day be what God does in us and for creation.

We believe in the Bible as the Word of God by which our lives are to be both informed and measured. The Bible is trustworthy and true and contains all things necessary for coming to the saving knowledge of God revealed in Jesus Christ. We affirm the biblical witness to itself found in 2 Timothy 3:16 that "all scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness," so that we may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. While we do not take the Bible literally at all points (as it does not present itself in that fashion), we take it seriously at all times.

We believe that the true church of Jesus Christ extends far beyond our own denominational identity and we gladly join in love and in mission wherever possible with our sisters and brothers who may be a part of other expressions of the Body of Christ. As Ephesians 4:5-6 reminds us, there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." Those who wish to become a part of our congregation who may have been baptized within another Trinitarian Christian community are thus welcome. Baptism is a sign of inclusion and incorporation within God's family, and accordingly, as the vast majority of Christians throughout the centuries have agreed, the sacrament is open not just to those who may be able to profess their faith publicly, but to children of believers, as well. Similarly, when we gather together to celebrate the other sacrament of the church, Holy Communion, we believe that the table of the Lord is open to all believers who may be present irrespective of age, denominational affiliation, or church membership.