

We Believe

Approved by the Leadership Team
May 23, 2023

This is what we teach and believe, and we understand that not everyone who comes here is ready to accept all these claims—and that's OK. Church is not a place for people who have everything together or figured out. We want to walk with you as you explore these ideas. We are more interested in helping you get to know God's love through Jesus Christ than getting you to accept a checklist of ideas.

Section One: What do we believe as Christians

Our beliefs are grounded in the Bible interpreted through the historic creeds of the Church, especially the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. This means that

- We affirm that there is one God who exists as three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
- This God created everything in the universe;
- The second Person—the Son or Word—became the Jewish human being Jesus of Nazareth;
- The Son became human (this is what “was incarnate” means in the Nicene Creed), lived among us, taught us, died on the cross for us so all our sins could be forgiven;
- Jesus did all these things so we can return to right relationship with God, grow into who we were created to be, and ultimately be raised from the dead like him;
- Holy Scripture, or the Bible, is composed of the Old and New Testaments and contains all the things we need to get to know God, return to right relationship with God, and grow into who God wants us to be;
- God has given us ways to know we are forgiven and become more like Jesus such as being baptized, receiving communion regularly, being part of a Christian community (Church), and praying and reading the Bible;
- Having our sins forgiven, coming back to right relationship with God, growing into who God created us to be, and being freed from death are completely the result of God's love freely given (grace) and we do not earn these things through our own power;
- Any ability we have to respond to God or work alongside God comes from the Holy Spirit working within us.

We Believe

Approved by the Leadership Team
May 23, 2023

Section Two: What makes us United Methodist?

We are part of a world-wide connectional system called Methodism, and as such we adhere to polity and doctrine found in our United Methodist Book of Discipline. (See Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church Part III Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task ¶102-105)

We believe that salvation is a gift from God that is enacted through God's grace freely given before we are aware of our need and that salvation is a process that continues throughout our lives.

We share John Wesley's belief that faith and love are the marks of a Christian life, and they must be put into practice. Faith and Love are put into practice through "good works", not only through formal efforts within our congregation, but by individuals in the church.

We believe that as a church we are to be in mission. Some of the ways we reflect that belief is by working with and supporting organizations such as Yadkin Christian Ministries, Hands of Hope, the Yadkinville Elementary School program, and NETworX

We believe we are to follow Wesley's "Ordinances of God". We have the opportunity to participate in public worship every Sunday morning either in person or online. We celebrate Holy Communion every first Sunday. We are provided with Podcasts, book studies, and devotional materials to aid us in our personal and family life walk in faith.

We believe that we are an inclusive church. Our hearts and doors are open to all people because as disciples of Jesus Christ we are commanded to love and serve in Christ's name.

We Believe

Approved by the Leadership Team
May 23, 2023

Section Three: Statement of Inclusion

Membership & Inclusion

Yadkinville UMC believes that God is the essence of Love, and we welcome all people wishing to fellowship and worship in the name of Jesus. We serve God and all his children by striving to be an inclusive church family with a common goal to serve as disciples for Christ in our community and beyond. We celebrate the many differences related to our diverse backgrounds, experiences, talents, culture, and families that make us unique and special.

Section Four: How do we live out our faith as a Church?

Service & Participation

Yadkinville United Methodist Church believes that God loves ALL his children. As disciples in our community and world, we are an open and hospitable place for spiritual growth with paths for disciples to carry out their work in our community. The doors of our church are open to all who wish to fellowship and worship with us.

Church Leadership

When considering persons for leadership in the church, local and universal, we will not disqualify someone on the basis of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, physical ability, education, or social status. We will seek a diversity of voices and opinions, and our primary focus will be on equipping and empowering leaders with the proficiency & passion to meet the needs of our community, church, and denomination.

Remain UMC

We remain part of the United Methodist Church and trust that God is at work transforming the church to better follow Christ' example of love.

Book of Discipline

We call on the General Conference to change the Book of Discipline to open Ordination and Marriage in the Church to members of the LGBTQIA+ community.