



Spotlight on our Denominations *United Methodist Church*



Symbol

WHO WE ARE...

Dates:

1738—Conversion of John and Charles Wesley, already devout Anglican ministers, sparks Great Awakening.

1748—USA Methodists form separate Church body

Numbers:

61 million Methodists worldwide

11 Million USA

United Methodist Church 77 million

Webpage:

<https://www.umc.org/en>

WHAT WE BELIEVE...

Scripture

Historic view: Scripture is infallible and inspired; the sole and final rule of faith.

UMC: Scripture is the “primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine,” but (for most) not infallible. The standard Protestant canon is accepted.

God

The One Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally and the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

Jesus

The eternal Son incarnate, fully God and fully man, conceived and born of the Virgin Mary, died on the cross for our sins, rose bodily from the grave, ascended into heaven, and will come again in glory to judge us all.

Salvation

We are saved by grace alone when Christ regenerates us and forgives us through faith in Christ, who died for our sins. Good works are the necessary result of true faith, but do not obtain forgiveness or salvation.

Death

The souls of believers upon dying go immediately to be with Christ. At Christ's return, their bodies are raised to immortal, eternal life. The wicked will suffer eternal punishment in hell.

The Church

The church is the body of Christ, represented by visible church institutions. Bishops oversee regions and appoint pastors. In the UMC, clergy and laity meet together in a national “General Conference,” every four years. All pastors are itinerate, meaning they move from one church to the next as directed by the Bishop (on average once every 4 years).

Sacraments

Baptism is a sign of regeneration and of the new covenant and is for adults and children. Jesus is really present, and his body and blood are spiritually present, to believers in the Lord's supper.

Beliefs

“Entire Sanctification” is a work of the Spirit subsequent to regeneration by which the consecrated believers are purified from all sin and fit for service—a state maintained by faith and obedience. Methodists are Arminian; i.e., they disagree with all five points of Calvinism.

THINGS WE DO...

LOCALLY

Through *The United Churches* we support
The Food Pantry of Hot Springs
Hot Springs Ministerial Association
Basic Needs Boutique
Barely Used Boutique

DENOMINATIONALLY

<https://www.umc.org/en/who-we-are/directory>

Find how to connect with The United Methodist Church's local congregations, regional and denominational offices, and denominational leaders.

Regional Offices

Churches: Find-A-Church.org is the online directory of churches in the United States.

Annual Conferences: A regional office of programs and ministries.

Central Conferences: Geographical regions in [Africa](#), [Europe](#) and the [Philippines](#).

Jurisdictions: Five geographic areas in the United States, each composed of several annual (regional) conferences.

Bishops/Episcopal Areas: A regional office, supervised by a bishop.

Denominational Organizations

General Boards and Agencies: Our councils, boards, commissions that carry out denominational work.

Camp and Retreat Centers: United Methodist camp and retreat centers in the United States.

National Mission Institutions: These institutions empower women, care for children, educate and build youth, look after the neglected, advocate for social justice, create economic opportunities and change neighborhoods.

THINGS WE DO *(Continued)...*

Denominational Organizations *(Continued)*

National Mission Institutions: These institutions empower women, care for children, educate and build youth, look after the neglected, advocate for social justice, create economic opportunities and change neighborhoods.

Foundations: Organizations that support specific conference or agency related ministries.

School and Seminaries: United Methodist-related seminaries, colleges, universities and precollegiate schools worldwide.

Leadership

Bishops: Primary contact information for bishop of The United Methodist Church

Connectional Table: Primary contact for the Connectional Table

District Superintendents: Primary contact information for district superintendents in the United States

Affiliated Churches

Find information about **[affiliated Methodist churches.](#)**

Ecumenical Organizations

[Learn more about ecumenical organizations](#) with whom we partner.

HOW TO JOIN...

Prerequisites

- Have come to know and accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and have received Him into your heart and life as Lord.
- Have been or are willing to be baptized.
- Have prayed about and decided which one of the three denominations God would have you join. (Yes, you have to choose one of the three.)

Process

- Talk to the Pastor about your desire to join, discussing your personal faith in Christ, the details of baptism, and the desired mode of membership: public profession of faith, certificate/letter of transfer, or statement and reaffirmation of faith.
- Commit to attending a Membership Class.
- Discuss and decide on a worship service (usually on a Sunday morning) to join the church
- Meet with the Pastor, Board of Trustees, and relevant denominational leader(s) prior to the designated worship service (as the Trustees and denominational leaders are responsible for referring prospective members to the congregation of The United Churches).

Procedure

- Come forward at the appropriate time in the worship service and stand with the Pastor.
- Respond positively to the following:

Question 1: Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of the Living God, and have you received Him as your personal Savior and Lord of your life? Do you, and have you?

Answer 1: *I do, and I have.*

Question 2: Are you willing to rely on God's saving and sustaining grace to strengthen you in your life of faith in Christ in whatever way God is calling you; and do you renounce evil and commit yourself to trying to live a life that is pleasing to God from now on? Are you, and do you?

Answer 2: *I am, and I do.*

Question 3: Do you promise to participate actively in the worship services of our church, responsibly utilizing your time, talents and treasures in supporting the ministry and mission of our church family? Do you?

Answer 3: *I do.*

HOW TO JOIN *(Continued)...*

- Listen to your church family's response as the Pastor asks the Congregation: Do we members of The United Churches accept and welcome **[Your Name]** into our church family, and will we support, befriend, encourage, and pray for them as a beloved brother/sister in Christ and pledge to treat as such in the life and work of this family of faith? **Do we, and will we? We do, and we will.**
- Listen as the Pastor declares:
We welcome you in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, into the family of your denomination and The United Churches of Hot Springs, conferring to you all the rights and responsibilities congruent with your membership.
- Join the Pastor in the foyer at the conclusion of the worship service in order to greet and be welcomed by fellow church members.

Perks to Receive

- Church Connects Us with God and Gives us an Opportunity to Worship Him.
- Church Gives Us a Chance to Reflect on Gratitude.
- Church Connects Us Socially.
- Church Helps Us Better Connect with our Spouse and other Family Members.
- Church Gives Us the Opportunity to Receive Encouragement from Others in Our Church Family.
- Church Allows Us to Feel Reverence.
- Church Provides Plenty of Opportunities to Give Back.
- Church Helps "Find the Lesson" in our Trials.
- Church Teaches Us Forgiveness.
- Church Fills Our Hearts with Song.
- Church is Where We "Find Our Purpose" and Find Deeper Meaning in our Lives.
- Church Membership Gives Us the Privilege of Participating and Voting in Elections and Other Business Affairs of Our Denomination and of The United Churches.

Promises to Keep

- Attend worship services regularly.
- Study the Word of God through Bible study.
- Encourage one another.
- Pray for one another and for the needs of our community, country, and world
- Give intentionally and generously of your time, talents, and treasures to further God's kingdom here on earth through His church