

# At Chapel Hill UMC We Are:

## Christ Centered

Jesus is our Lord, Savior, Teacher, and Friend.  
-John 3:14-16

## Bible Based

We take scripture seriously and believe it contains all things necessary for life, death, and life after death. -2 Timothy 3:16-17

## Grace Focused

Jesus accepts all people without judgement or condemnation and so do we. There is nothing we can do to make God love us more, or love us less.  
-Luke 15:11-32

## Relevant to Everyday Life

We believe we are called to take the ancient text of Scripture and make it real and alive for contemporary life. -John 10:10

## Intentional About Our Faith Formation

In response to God's love, we strive to help one another strengthen and deepen our relationships with God and others.  
-Galatians 2:20

## Striving to Live a "With-God" Life

The God we know and love through Jesus is not a distant God, but is with us, for us, and active in our lives every day. Acknowledging this reality, we strive to change our behaviors and live our lives as Jesus would if He were in our place. -John 1:14



# CHAPEL HILL

United Methodist Church

**Welcoming all people  
to experience and share  
the extraordinary grace and love  
of Jesus Christ.**



# Mission and Values

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## What is unique about Chapel Hill?

At Chapel Hill we have a special calling to welcome **all people** into our congregation no matter what their past or current situations, without judgment or condemnation, just as Jesus did when He walked this earth. We know all of us currently have, or have had, struggles in our lives, and we know that a strong faith makes a big difference in helping us face life every day. The moment you walk in our doors, we hope you will sense the love and acceptance that permeates our church community.

One of the most unique things about Chapel Hill is our **focus on "grace."** Most people know "grace" is a religious term but they don't fully understand its meaning. Grace is defined as "undeserved love." When Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He earned our way into heaven even though we (humanity) didn't do anything to deserve it. What this means in practical terms is once you accept God's gift of grace by acknowledging Jesus' death for you, you no longer have to worry about earning your way into heaven by pleasing God through your actions.

Grace is what sets Christianity apart from all other religions in the world. They have different beliefs and practices describing what you must do, and how often you must do them, to set yourself right with God in the hope that you might, someday, earn your way into heaven. But, the truth is, **there is nothing you can do to make God love you more, or love you less.** Jesus paid the debt for you. That is the good news found in the Bible. It is as simple as that. And, that is the message you will consistently hear at Chapel Hill.

Another uniqueness you will find at Chapel Hill is our emphasis on **living a "with-God" life.** Jesus had a different worldview than most of us. He understood the universe we live in is not merely a physical place, it is spiritual as well. He told us we do not have to wait until death to go to heaven to live with God. The Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven is available to us whenever we choose to surrender to God and trust in His willingness to interact with us on a daily basis. Doing so means living your life with a constant awareness of God's presence and availability and changing your life in ways that acknowledge this reality. When you know God is with you, you realize you are not alone and have the courage to do such things as: tell the truth when you might otherwise lie, not shout at others when you become angry, and reach out to the poor and homeless...in other words, become more like Jesus on a daily basis.

**At Chapel Hill we are committed to welcoming all people to experience and share the extraordinary grace and love of Jesus Christ.** We believe we are called to change the world by changing hearts through love, not by creating feelings of guilt or by advocating new laws. Our desire is to learn more about Jesus' teachings, how the Bible applies to our everyday lives, and how we can have a "with-God" life each and every day.



## Our Journey

### Together Involves: Prayer

We believe in the power, privilege, and practice of prayer. -Matthew 6:7-13

### Presence

We recognize regular participation in worship, fellowship, small groups and other activities is a blessing to ourselves and others. -Acts 2:45-47

### Gifts

We are called to use our God-given time, talents and treasures to become Christ to one another and to share our resources with the World. -II Corinthians 9:6-15

### Service

We are a community of servants utilizing our spiritual gifts for the glory of God and the betterment of humankind. -I Corinthians 12:1-11

### Witness

We believe God calls us to bring the least, the last and the lost into the Kingdom of God. -Luke 15

### Sacraments

We believe Baptism and Holy Communion are means of God's grace which empower us for Christian life and witness. -Matthew 28:16-20; I Corinthians 11: 23-26