

How We Worship

Typical worship services in United Methodism will include:

Singing

Since the days of Charles Wesley, the hymn-writer and early Methodist leader, lively singing has been, and remains, an important aspect of United Methodist worship. Many larger United Methodist congregations have incorporated more contemporary styles of music and audio-visual technology into some of their worship services, though these churches generally also offer more traditional services

A Biblical Message (Sermon)

Listening to the reading of Scripture and a sermon based upon the Biblical text is virtually always included in United Methodist worship. Many United Methodist churches follow the Revised Common Lectionary for their Sunday Bible readings.

Prayer

Many churches include a time of response or a prayer time in which people may share concerns or pray with ministers. This time of response may include celebrations of baptism, confirmation, or profession of faith.

Holy Communion

Some congregations celebrate communion on the first Sunday of the month and a few celebrate it only quarterly. A growing number of congregations celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion on a weekly basis, as John Wesley himself encouraged his followers to practice. In adopting the statement on Holy Communion entitled This Holy Mystery in 2004, the General Conference of the Church urged congregations to move toward weekly celebration of communion and to use the official liturgies of the church when doing so. It is the practice of our church to celebrate communion on the first Sunday of each month and on special occasions. Communion is served with bread and grape juice.

Giving

Almost every service has an opportunity for those gathered to give of their "tithes and offerings" to support the ministry of that particular congregation. Through apportionments, a portion of those gifts go to Christian ministries that have a national and/or global impact.

The chancel of United Methodist churches usually features a lectern and baptismal font on one side of the altar table and a pulpit on the other side. The chancel also features the Christian Flag and sometimes, a processional cross.

Methodist Order of Worship (typical)

Prelude/Silent Meditation
Welcome and Announcements
Sung Introit Call to Worship
Opening Hymn
Altar Processional
Greeting those around us (Passing of the Peace)
Prayer of Confession
LORD'S Prayer
Responsive Reading (Psalter)
Gloria Patri
Affirmation of Faith (Apostles' Creed)
Daily Scripture Reading and Gospel Lesson
Offering of Tithes and Gifts
Doxology Prayers and Concerns of the Congregation
Closing Hymn
Altar Recessional
Benediction

Chapels

Most Methodist churches have a chapel room providing a quiet and prayerful atmosphere for individual prayer. Chapels are usually open to public use during daytime hours. The chapel for our church is located on Lakeview Ave. No. Please feel free to use the chapel for personal prayer or quiet scripture reading.

Invitation

Should you be in the position of seeking a church home, either as a long-time believer in Jesus Christ or as one seeking, we sincerely welcome you to worship and fellowship at First United Methodist Church of Winter Garden.