



# What Do United Methodists Believe?

The United Methodist Church is founded on a Wesleyan theology of grace, anchored in Scripture, and grounded in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ as the Son of God, together with the continuing movement of the Holy Spirit. We understand salvation as an open gift from God, received by individuals through God's grace and accepted in freedom.

As part of our shared Christian and ecumenical heritage, United Methodists use the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed in common with many other Christian traditions. These historic creeds express core affirmations of the Christian faith that unite Christians across denominations.

According to our foundational statement of beliefs in The Book of Discipline, The United Methodist Church shares the following basic affirmations with other Christian communities: God is the one true, holy, and living God – Eternal Spirit – Creator, Sovereign, and Preserver of all things visible and invisible, infinite in power, wisdom, justice, goodness, and love.

Learn more: [UMC.org/What-We-Believe](https://www.UMC.org/What-We-Believe)



## We Believe there are two Sacraments that were ordained by Christ

### BAPTISM

- Baptism is the rite of entrance into the saving work of God and membership in Christ's body, the Church. In it, we die with Christ to our old selves and are raised with Christ to walk in newness of life. By the water and the Holy Spirit, the baptized receive cleansing from sin and new birth into the life of God.
- Baptism is offered to all persons of any age or ability. All who are baptized should be nurtured and led to faithful discipleship to Jesus Christ, and, when they are ready, to profess the faith of the Church for themselves.



### HOLY COMMUNION

- The sacrament of Holy Communion is the instituted means of grace by which God sustains the Church in the redeeming love and work of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. In it, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, with our gifts of bread and wine, and seek the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us and the gifts "that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and we may be for the world the body of Christ redeemed by his blood."
- The table of the Lord is open to all persons who love Christ, earnestly repent of their sin, and seek to be at peace with one another.

## We Believe in the Trinity, that there is one God in three persons

- God the Father and Creator, who brings creation into existence, upholds and reveals the ways of life that make peace and wholeness, and ever works to heal and transform life through the power of love
- God the Son, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of a new creation who through his life, death, and resurrection saves us and all creation from the power of sin and death
- God the Holy Spirit, who comforts, convicts, sustains, challenges, guides, and empowers us to participate in God's life and mission in the world.

## We Believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is fully human and fully divine

- The eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, born of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit
- He lived as a ministering Servant, suffered, and died on the cross
- He was buried, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven to be with the Father, and shall return
- He is the only Savior and Mediator, who intercedes for us, and by him all people will be judged.

## We Believe the Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary for salvation

- The Old and New Testaments reveal God's saving work through the Word of God, who is Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father.
- The Bible is received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice
- Whatever is not revealed in or established by the Holy Scriptures is not to be made an article of faith nor is it to be taught as essential to salvation