

I'm ready to connect!

Name:

Address:

Phone(s):

E-mail:

- I want to talk with someone about repentance.
- I've never been baptized, but now I want to be a part of God's family.
- I want to join by transfer of my membership from (name & location of church):

- I want to reconnect with God's family by reaffirming my faith.
- I want my child(ren) to become a part of this congregation. (Names and birth dates:)

Hand this page to the pastor.

Connecting with God



**Gray Memorial United Methodist
Church**

2201 Old Bainbridge Road
Tallahassee, FL 32303

graymumc@comcast.net • www.graymemorialumc.com



**Gray Memorial
United Methodist
Church**

How do I invite God into my life?

Methodists believe that God is already seeking you. We don't find God; God finds us. We come to love God and to seek God because God first loved us. God is waiting for you to open the door.

The first words of Jesus' public ministry were: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." (Mark 1:15) God gives us the open opportunity to repent -- to change the direction of our lives -- and to believe that the things of God's kingdom that is coming are good news indeed.

John Wesley, one of the founders of the Methodist movement, claimed that true repentance would show fruit in one's life. Those who wanted to walk in Jesus' way would show it in their lives by "doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind"; by "doing good; by being in every kind merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all"; and then by doing the usual religious things: participating in worship, reading the Bible, praying, hearing preaching, participating in Christian fellowship, receiving the Lord's Supper, fasting.

***Want God in your life? Pray, of course.
But show the fruit of repentance in your life.***



Getting saved, Methodist style

Methodists know salvation in three tenses: past, present, and future. We have been saved. We are being saved. We will be saved.

John Wesley taught that the saving grace of God came in three forms. First there is **prevenient grace**, the loving-kindness and saving intent of God toward us before we ever recognize our need for God. Then there is **justifying grace**, the grace that connects our repentance with the love of God and sets us on the right path. (This alone is sometimes called "being saved", but God's salvation is much greater than this.) Finally there is **sanctifying grace**, the work of the Holy Spirit throughout the rest of our lives to make us what God wants us to be, disciples fit for the Kingdom.

Want to be saved? Thank God for God's love that has always been there. Show repentance to connect with God's love. And allow the Holy Spirit to work in your life.

One other thing about being saved: For Methodists it's not something that happens to individuals alone. God works through the company of those who seek God, who are changing the direction of their lives, who are connecting with the love of God, and who are growing in grace. You don't have to go it alone. We hold each other up in love. That's what Church is for.

Joining the church

The doorway into church membership is baptism. Methodists practice baptism for people of all ages. Methodists do not re-baptize; once is sufficient, and God's grace does not falter. Methodists also practice profession of faith for those baptized as children who are ready to make a lifetime commitment to the things of God.

Baptism makes one a member of Christ's universal church, as well as a member of a local congregation. One exercises one's membership among God's people locally.

We receive members by baptism, by transfer, and by profession or reaffirmation of faith.

Adults not already baptized become members by **baptism and by profession of faith**. The profession of faith is in response to these questions:

- **Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?**
- **Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?**
- **Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?**
- **According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?**

Those who have been baptized already, and who have a membership in another Christian congregation, may be received as Professing Members by a **transfer of their membership**. We will be happy to write to another congregation for your transfer.

Some previously baptized will have allowed their active membership to lapse, and may have been removed from the rolls by their former congregation. These can be received as Professing Members by a **reaffirmation of their faith**, responding to the questions above.

Children can be received by baptism or by transfer as Baptized Members from other congregations.

Want to join our congregation? Fill out the information on the back and hand it to the pastor.