



Special Edition Newsletter November 20, 2023

GOD GIFTS US WITH A NEW NAME

Beloved Church,

The congregation worshipping at 2703 Augusta Street has undergone many name changes: Memorial, Trinity UMC, Buncombe Street UMC – Trinity Campus, and Fellowship United Methodist Faith Community. And as a new church working towards chartering, we took time to discern our new name for this new chapter. The Leadership Team created a discernment process that allowed us to hear from the congregation, and most importantly, hear from God. We put in 12 hours of deliberation together, and countless hours of prayer apart until we felt the Spirit draw us towards unity and consensus on a single name. Yesterday in worship, we announced the name that God has given to us as a blessing. And we shall be called:

Open Hearts United Methodist Church

With over 90 church name suggestion cards, we were able to hear your thoughts on who you believed this church to be and the values it holds when you answered the question “How does this name represent us as a congregation.” Over and over again, it became clear to us that even with a variety of name suggestions, we already had our identity. We are a church that is warm and welcoming, that is open-hearted, and filled with grace. Many people remarked on how easy it was to come to this congregation because they were welcomed with open hearts by those already here. We just had to discover the name that represented that identity.

“Open Hearts” quickly identifies who we know ourselves to be, but it communicates that identity to the world with unmistakable clarity. This name is a promise to the Greenville community that we will be steadfast in who we have always been in the past, and who we hope to be in the future: a congregation that loves like Christ and is open to all.

If you would like to hear the worship service and hear more about the name change from representatives of our Leadership Team, you can click the link below.

Your Partner in Ministry,

Rev Karen Jones

[View here](#)

Honoring the Legacy of Trinity

The Leadership Team recognize the difficulty and grief of our members from Trinity UMC and Buncombe Street UMC – Trinity Campus in this process. The congregation that now

worships here with you is here because of you and the open-hearted welcome you provided. We want to honor that legacy. Our first order is to rename our Fellowship Hall to "Trinity Hall." We will also work with the Archives Team to consecrate the Trinity Memorial Garden with an appropriate statue or installation. If you are interested in partnering with us in that effort, please contact Leadership Team member Sammy Cely or Pastor Karen.

We Would Love to Hear from You

It was wonderful to hear from the congregation in this naming process, and we want to continue hearing from you. Next Sunday, November 26, members of the Leadership Team will be available during CommUNITY Coffee in Trinity Hall from 9:45 – 10:45am. Drop in or stay awhile and share your thoughts with us.

We will also be creating a new bulletin board for you to share your thoughts with the whole congregation. Next week, look out for cards that will ask the question "What does it mean to you to be a church with open hearts?" and "What does open-hearted ministry look like?"

Living out the Logistics of a New Name

It is going to take some time to make the necessary changes to our website, written materials, emails, and social media information to reflect our new name. Please be patient with staff and volunteers working behind the scenes to make those changes. More information will be forthcoming, but until such time, please continue using Fellowship UMFC information.

[Website](http://fellowshipumcsc.org) : fellowshipumcsc.org



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