

Membership & Discipleship

at Johns Creek United Methodist Church



JOHNS CREEK
United Methodist Church

THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP

At Johns Creek UMC membership is not a destination or a status; it's a journey of following Jesus. Jesus called his followers "disciples." The disciples didn't just believe in Jesus; they followed his example and sought to become more like him. After the resurrection, Jesus entrusted to them the mission of helping others discover and live out this same life as Jesus followers. In fact, this is why our church exists: our mission is to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

If you're considering membership at Johns Creek UMC, the best way to start your journey is to get connected into the church's ministries of worship, spiritual growth, and service. Formal membership is a way of saying you're committed to growing as a deeply committed disciple in partnership with others at Johns Creek UMC.

We believe that a local congregation of Christians provides the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs. Together, we discover how Jesus is leading us to be a transformative presence in our community, our families, and our workplaces. And, together we encourage and support one another along our journey with Jesus.



About Johns Creek UMC

Johns Creek was officially consecrated on September 7, 1987 at the site of the old Warsaw Church. In 1989, the church received the current property from Johns Creek Technology Park and began a new church building.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO BE A DEEPLY COMMITTED DISCIPLE OF JESUS?

Discipleship involves living one's life as a follower of Jesus Christ by learning and practicing his ways of love toward God and neighbor.

The biblical pattern for such a life involves active participation in five vital practices within the Christian community and the world.

We believe that when we are attentive to these practices, we grow closer to Jesus, we plug in to his power for our lives, and we become the world-transforming people Jesus dreams we can be.



AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST, I WILL...

PRAY for the church and the world

BE PRESENT in the spiritual life of the church

GIVE GENEROUSLY of the resources entrusted to me by God

SERVE in the church and world through the Spirit's gifts

BE A WITNESS to the good news of Jesus.

PRAY

Members of the church are invited to pray daily for the mission and ministry of the church and the world. This includes praying for the local church, the needs of those within the community, and the concerns of the world. Members are also encouraged to ask for prayer when facing difficult situations.

BE PRESENT

Being present for worship, fellowship, and discipleship are important for maintaining the unity of the body of Christ. We encourage all members to attend worship unless they are sick or out of town. We also encourage members to join a small group or bible study in which deeper relationships and learning occur.

GIVE

At Johns Creek UMC, we believe our financial giving is a spiritual act. Members are invited to submit an estimate of giving card each year, which helps us give from the top instead of what is left over. Members are encouraged to tithe, which means to give ten percent of their income, or to work towards a tithe. The church depends on the generosity of its members in order to fulfill God's mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

PLEDGE CARD | Tear this pledge card out, then place it in the offering plate once completed.

Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____

This calendar year, I/We commit to giving a total of: \$ _____

Anticipated Giving Interval:

I/we plant to contribute by cash, check, or debit/credit

(Check on) monthly weekly one time

OR

Consider using one of our online giving options listed on our website:
www.wjohncreekumc.org/giving

SERVE

God has entrusted every person with spiritual gifts. It is important for members to learn what their spiritual gifts are and to employ them for the work of God. Members are encouraged to serve in at least one ongoing ministry opportunity within the church and to join other members in mission projects throughout the year



Johns Creek UMC & Mission Guatemala

Johns Creek UMC

has a strong bond with Mission Guatemala.

We take mission trips to Guatemala

WITNESS

As followers of Christ, we are called to be witnesses. At Johns Creek UMC, we believe this means that we are to share our faith with our friends and family through our words and our actions. We vow to support one another as we grow in our understanding of what it means to share our faith with others in genuine and inviting ways.

STAY CONNECTED
www.johnscreekumc.org

Stay up to date on all of the ways you can plug in to Johns Creek UMC by visiting our website, following us on social media, and signing up for our weekly newsletter through the link located at the bottom of our website.



HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

JCUMC welcomes into membership all who profess Jesus as Lord and Savior and are ready to publicly commit to grow as a deeply committed disciples through their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, and their witness.

Joining the church is an outward and visible sign of this inward and spiritual commitment to grow in discipleship. Because it is a sign of a spiritual relationship, we believe that each person's journey will be unique to them, but the following steps can prepare you for making this commitment:

Attend worship regularly for a few months.

There's no magic number, but being present in worship will help you discover who we are and how God may be leading you.

Participate in our Johns Creek 101 class.

This will help you get to know our church and explore the practices of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness by which you will grow as a disciple.

Get involved in a small group or Sunday school class. Neither Jesus nor his original disciples lived the life of faith alone, so neither can we. We have many groups and classes, and we'd be glad to help you get connected.

Get involved in a regular service opportunity.

There are countless ways you can serve. We can help you find one that fits your gifts and talents for ministry.

When you are ready to make a commitment, let one of our pastors know. They'll talk with you about your faith journey, baptism, and other aspects of becoming a member.

Baptism

Baptism is the sacrament or ritual through which we are initiated into the universal church. It is an outward and visible sign of God's act of incorporating us into his salvation and giving us new birth through water and the Spirit. You must be baptized to become a member of JCUMC. If you were baptized in another church as either an adult or child it is not necessary to be baptized at JCUMC before becoming a member. JCUMC recognizes baptisms from other churches and denominations regardless of the age at which you were baptized.

FAQS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

Does my child become a member at the same time I do?

An older child who can speak for him- or herself (usually at least 6th grade) may join as a "professing member," which means he/she is actively professing faith in Jesus and making the same commitments as you to grow in faith as a disciple of Jesus. A younger child or anyone who cannot answer for him- or herself may become a "baptized member" if he/she is baptized when you join or was previously baptized elsewhere. Baptized members will have an opportunity to become Professing Members when they are ready to accept the faith declared at their baptisms. Often this happens through an experience called Confirmation, in which youth are led through intentional conversations about faith and life as a disciple of Jesus.

Do I have to join to participate in JCUMC's ministry?

No; you should get connected in one of the many grow and serve opportunities at JCUMC before becoming a member. Many formal leadership positions are only open to Professing Members, but there are nearly countless ways to grow and serve in ministry open to all persons.

Do I have to give money to join?

Consistent with biblical teaching, we ask all members to give back to God in proportion to their income, with the tithe (giving 10% of what you receive) being the standard. If you're not yet tithing, giving 10% may seem daunting, but most people grow toward this over a period of a few years. God honors our faithfulness and blesses even the smallest gift. Your acceptance at Johns Creek UMC is not based upon your capacity to give.

What if I'm already a member of another church?

You may join by transferring your membership to JCUMC. We will help coordinate this transfer with your previous congregation. If you have been baptized, but do not know the status of your membership in another church, you can join JCUMC by profession of faith and reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. The pastor will speak with you about the best way to transfer your membership.

Can I be re-baptized when I join?

No. Baptism signifies God's act of salvation, so it is only performed once. You can reaffirm your baptismal vows.



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