



Transformed Lives Transform Communities

Our vision is to be a hub
for Wesleyan discipleship and mission
in the greater Fuquay-Varina area,
where 100% of our church family
is in discipling relationships
so that our lives and community
are transformed to look more like Jesus.



FuquayVarina
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**Transformed Lives
Transform Communities**



Fuquay-Varina
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our vision is to be a hub

We want to be a CATALYST for connection within our community. We are not using the word “hub” because we see ourselves as the center of all things – instead, we envision helping create a broader network by establishing or re-invigorating relationships with other organizations in our community to form an outreach coalition and better meet more of the real needs of our neighbors.

for Wesleyan discipleship and mission in the greater Fuquay-Varina area,

As a Wesleyan faith community, we are compelled to answer God’s call to a life of discipleship and mission. They are two parts of the same call, and both must be part of our everyday lives. Learning and growing in our faith always includes a call to serve others.

We are purposely not defining boundaries in this vision - who we serve is not confined by lines on a map. FVUMC is a well that offers life-giving water to all; we do not ascribe to fences setting boundaries. We envision FVUMC being a place where we come together and are refreshed and renewed so that we might go out into the surrounding areas to serve.

where 100% of our church family is in discipling relationships

Relationships are at the core of the expression of Methodist faith and they’re at the core of how we get through life together. Specifying “discipling relationships” helps keep us focused on growing our relationship with God while also serving as accountability partners with others in our church family as we all move through our own faith journeys. Throughout the Vision Team’s conversations, we kept coming back to the idea that relationships are really at the heart of what we want to be about and what we think our congregation wants to be about. Being a community of disciples living and serving together is our call.

so that our lives and community are transformed to look more like Jesus.

The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. That’s what we’re all about. And there’s a phrase we feel summarizes this aspect: “Transformed lives, transform communities.” Getting our people together, being a family together, engaging in relationship together, and worshipping together, discipling together – all of this is done with the hope and expectation that through those relationships, God will transform us. As a result, our whole community will be transformed to look more like Jesus.

FOCUS AREAS

The word “transformational” is shared by the four Focus Areas because we consider each one to be inherently transformational. The ultimate goal for each of these strategies is for our lives and the lives of those around us to look more like Jesus.

Transformational Discipleship Pathway

With God’s help, we will define and deploy an intentional discipleship pathway so that we are equipped to live as everyday disciples, continuously growing in deeper personal and collective relationship with Christ.

We are all progressing in our faith journey along what may be called a discipleship pathway. Clarifying a “FVUMC” version of the discipleship pathway allows our entire congregation – all ages and stages – to use shared common language and create alignment as we each grow in our relationship with God and one another.

Transformational Discipleship Environments

With God’s help, we will design immersive Discipleship Environments that are purposeful and hospitable.

Transformational discipleship environments, whether physical or online, exist to support life-giving ministry. Intentionality is the essential element. How can the environments we offer make it possible to know and be known by God, foster deeper relationships and a sense of community, and help each of us move along the Discipleship Pathway? Consider The Venue worship – since it is fully online, many of the typical in-person worship elements must be intentionally adapted to support a true worship experience for the online congregation.

Transformational Community Partnerships

With God’s help, we will establish a network of collaborative partnerships to relationally serve with our local community, demonstrating God’s goodness and generosity to everyone.

We believe our church is in a unique place of opportunity to connect with other organizations and form collaborative partnerships to serve local unmet needs. Our Vision Survey last fall reaffirmed that caring for our neighbor a top priority. Our Wesleyan heritage calls us to serve together with other faith communities, local resources, and other organizations. Rather than create redundant ministries, we seek collaborative partners to help multiply the positive impact in our region.

Transformational Servant Leadership

With God’s help, we will cultivate a culture of servant leadership so that every person is equipped and empowered to use their God-given gifts.

We want to expand our collective understanding of the word “leader” to include every individual – acknowledging that each of us is leading in some aspect of our lives, whether in our family, our work, or simply in how we respond to a long checkout line at the store. Our example, our attitude, and our humility in sharing our gifts can all offer leadership to those around us. While expanding our understanding of leadership we also seek to expand the number of people equipped to lead small groups and teams.

2024 ANNUAL FOCUS

We invite every person to **know and be known** within our church family, developing deeper relationships with God and each other.



The God who created the universe knows you and wants to be known by you. Embracing this will transform lives. We are going to challenge you to press into a vital faith, actively pursuing a relationship with God who is busy pursuing a relationship with you. This is the personal aspect of our goal. In addition, as a church, we can't be a hub of Wesleyan discipleship and mission unless people in the greater Fuquay area are aware of us as an active, engaged resource partner that is 100% committed to making our community a better place.

In 2024: You are challenged to commit to cultivate six new meaningful relationships over the course of the next year.

With this goal, we hope to both invite and challenge our people to really be intentional about investing in their own relationship with God and their connections and reconnections with each other. The underlying idea is that we are all part of God's family and are meant to share our lives and experiences. We were made by God to be in relationship with one another. The intent for this goal is the impact, not the quantity. Six people fit well at most tables, and gathering together around a table is a powerful place to connect. ANY investment each of us makes in demonstrating love to the people around us glorifies God.

VISION QUICK REFERENCE

VISION STATEMENT *(Destination)*

Our vision is to be a hub for Wesleyan discipleship and mission in the greater Fuquay-Varina area, where 100% of our church family is in discipling relationships so that our lives and community are transformed to look more like Jesus.

VISION TAGLINE



Transformed Lives
Transform Communities



Fuquay-Varina
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FOCUS AREAS *(Waypoints)*

- Transformational Discipleship Pathway
- Transformational Discipleship Environments
- Transformational Community Partnerships
- Transformational Servant Leadership


ANNUAL FOCUS *(Windshield)*

- 2024: Know & Be Known - Develop Six Meaningful Relationships
- 2025 + : TBD

INITIATIVES *(Dashboard)*

- Usually set for 90-day periods
- Selected to move toward one or more Focus Areas or Annual Focus

VISION FRAMEWORK

Destination	 Transformed Lives Transform Communities			
Waypoints	T R A N S F O R M A T I O N A L			
	Discipleship Pathway	Discipleship Environments	Community Partnerships	Servant Leadership
Windshield	2024 ANNUAL FOCUS		BE  KNOWN GOD + NEIGHBOR	
Dashboard	9 0 - D A Y G O A L S			

STEERING TEAM

- Defines and updates Initiatives for the upcoming 12 months on a continuous, rolling basis
- Reports to Church Council
- Includes Focus Area “champions”, at-large members, Lay Leaders, pastors, some staff

FOCUS AREAS

Discipleship Pathway

Deb Murphy - Champion
Shelby Meehan - Staff

Discipleship Environments

Tyler Highfill - Champion
Gabby McHarg - Staff

Community Partnerships

Justin Nelson - Champion
Hope Ledbetter-Bock - Pastor

Servant Leadership

Elaine Lilliston - Champion
Jennifer Harrenstein - Staff

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

Lay Leaders

Jenna Ramsey
Richie Hines

At-Large

Matt Harrenstein
Ricky Tharrington

Coordinators

Brandon Schreiner
Owen Barrow

Contact:
steeringteam@fvumc.org