

una

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

A guide to participating in the life of our community.



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WELCOME



If you are new to UNA... WELCOME!

We are really glad that you are here and hope that you find a place of belonging where you can grow in faith, love and hope. I would like to invite you to be curious, ask questions, and get to know some people here. It is entirely possible that you are exploring our church at just the right time in your life journey.

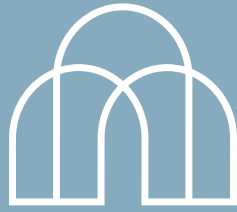
Let me encourage you to find ways to get involved in the life of our community. Sometimes the best way to get to know other people is to help and serve.

As we continue to pursue life together as a Jesus centered church, please join us in praying that Jesus would be actively present among us. Let's also pray that Jesus directs us to new opportunities to serve others.

If you have been a part of the UNA community for a while, let me encourage you to rejoin your efforts, talent and passion to contribute to all that Jesus continues to do among us.

It is my prayer and hope that, over this next year, we will experience a deeper expression of faith, love and hope together as God's Spirit draws us closer to Jesus, one another and our city.

Pastor Evan



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WHO WE ARE

Una is a community of people pursuing a life of faith in Jesus, committed to loving others and being a voice of God's hope in our neighbourhoods, city and world.

OUR HISTORY

Una launched in the fall of 2009 with a group of 14 people who shared a compelling call from God to start a church community. In the scriptures we discover that God, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, is renewing and redeeming all things and is creating a new humanity in the process. This “new humanity” is made up of local groups of people who express a radical unity in Jesus and set aside the divisions that seem so common in our culture and world. This “new humanity” also bears witness to God’s love by sacrificially serving and caring for each other and the people in their neighborhoods and city.

We hosted our Sunday Gathering at Stanley Park Community Centre until the fall of 2014 when we relocated to the Kingsdale Community Centre. The Kingsdale neighbourhood became our place to serve and care for others through strategic partnerships with the Kingsdale Neighbourhood Association, House of Friendship and the City of Kitchener.

In January of 2022 UNA moved to our current location at 54 Benton Street in downtown Kitchener.

Una Church is a society within the Free Methodist Church in Canada. The FMCiC is a part of a worldwide movement with historic ties to the abolishment of slavery, early advocacy of women’s rights, child labour reform and the establishment of hospitals and schools.

OUR VALUES

LOCAL ORTHODOXY

We believe that all scripture points us to Jesus, the living word of God. He is our doorway to knowing, understanding, and experiencing God. Jesus has provided the way for all people to experience reunion with God. He is our model and reveals to us our true humanity. We affirm the central truths of the historic Christian faith. The scriptures are useful and help us live as followers of Jesus in our everyday lives and relationships. We live in the tension of being people who are shaped by our local culture and being reshaped by Jesus. We will continually explore and discover new ways to live out the teachings of Jesus.

WHOLENESS

We believe that God is creating a new humanity and is doing this by redeeming us and transforming us through the work of Jesus Christ. We embrace the salvation of Jesus and submit to Jesus as our lifelong leader. This process of transformation is deeply spiritual and impacts every area of our lives. This new life of God is a fully integrated life where our mind, body, soul and emotions find the peace of God.

COMMUNITY

God's nature is love. The essence of the Source and Sustainer of the universe is self-giving and self-sacrificing love. Jesus has provided the way for us to live in communion with God (Father, Son & Spirit) and with others. God invites us to partner with others and live in deeper, Jesus centered relationships. The way of Jesus can not be lived alone. We also recognize that every person is at a different stage in their spiritual formation. Therefore, with Jesus at the centre of our community, we are a group of people who welcome everyone.

OUR VALUES

MISSION

We believe that we are created to live for something larger than ourselves. The mission of God is to redeem and restore all humanity and creation, bringing reconciliation, justice and peace to the world. We believe that “the church” is a community of people committed to following Jesus and is the active presence of God in our world. Jesus calls his followers to be a compelling force for good, and we believe that we are at our best when we serve and love sacrificially.

CELEBRATION

We believe that God’s presence among us is generating a new way to live in our world. The Spirit of God is at work in our individual lives and our community to form within us a greater expression of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and balance.

CREATIVITY

We embrace creativity and flexibility and believe that living this way causes us to be effective and energetic. We believe that God is always creating and recreating and invites us to participate with Him in this work.



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FIRST STEPS (DISCOVER & CONNECT)

First Steps is a series of 4 sessions where you will have the opportunity to learn about our church and meet some of our leaders.

VISION

Explore our story and why we gather and serve the way we do. Meet leaders and ask questions.

CONNECT

Tell us more about you. Your gifts, interests & passions. Explore how you can best begin to connect into Una community life.

LEADERSHIP

Meet Una's leadership team. Discover why they became a part of our church and how they contribute and serve.

PARTNERSHIP

Explore deeper commitment to Una, our connection with FMCiC, our rhythms of faith practice, theology and ministry in our church.



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OUR COMMON PRACTICES

Informed by ancient practices of the Christian church and the Wesleyan tradition, there are essential practices that contribute to our spiritual formation. With Jesus at the centre we're learning to love others and express a greater hope in all things

COMMON PRACTICES

COMMUNION / EUCHARIST

We participate in the practice of Communion / Eucharist every week in our Sunday Gathering. We believe that all people are welcome to join in this practice that opens us to God's grace. The only requirement to receive the Lord's Supper is a personal desire to trust Jesus Christ. This desire might be first experienced in your desire to receive the bread and wine.

BAPTISM

Baptism is a moment of celebration in our community. Each year we invite people to publicly announce their commitment to being a follower of Jesus. Baptism also serves as a good reminder to others of their own baptism and confession of faith.

If you were baptized as an infant and wish to participate in baptism as a way to publicly declare your faith, then you are welcome to do so.

Children are welcomed as parents / caregivers see fit.

WORSHIP

On Sunday morning we gather together to worship. Worship at UNA is a communal practice that shapes our identity as Jesus followers and reminds us of the good life that we are living in Jesus Christ. In worship we both express what matters to us and God's Spirit shapes in us what matters to God. Our Sunday worship is not meant to be a presentation but an interactive experience in which we all participate.

COMMON PRACTICES

PRAYER

Prayer is a sacred gift because in this practice human beings meet with God. It is in prayer that we acknowledge and experience the very presence of God. Prayer changes us, inspires us, comforts us, strengthens us and it moves the heart of God.

SHARED LIFE

The way of Jesus leads us into relationships with other people who are different from us but find commonality around Jesus. Jesus gifts each of his followers uniquely to care for and serve in the community. We believe that the shared life in our community is a part of our mission as we bear witness to God's desire to renew all things. This shared life finds its best expression in our Home Groups and Bands.

SERVICE

Serving others is the perfect way to show people the love, mercy and reconciling heart of God. The scriptures reveal a God who has particular concern for those that are marginalized, oppressed and poor. Jesus has promised to meet us when we serve others which makes service a transformative means of God's grace in our own lives.



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GETTING TOGETHER

Our community gathers together at different times for different reasons. Each gathering offers unique and important opportunities for those who participate.

GETTING TOGETHER

SUNDAY WORSHIP GATHERING

In this large gathering we join together to sing, pray, share stories, celebrate the Lord's Supper and study the scriptures.

HOME GROUP

This is a gathering of 6-12 people who are committed to developing a shared life together. This is the best space to be known. It's here that we share a meal, talk about the experiences of life and pray together. This is the space where we work out our normal everyday lives under the guidance and direction of Jesus Christ together. For these reasons we strongly encourage every person and family at UNA to participate in a Home Group.

BAND

This is a group of 3-5 people committed to meeting together regularly and experiencing a deeper connection to Jesus and each other. These Bands are typically very helpful during seasons of difficulty and crisis. Bands are formed by the participants and are usually gender specific.



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FAMILIES

Children and teenagers are important members of our church community. We want all the young among us to feel loved, accepted, known and involved.

FAMILIES

VISION

Children and teenagers are important members of our church community. We want all the young among us to feel loved, accepted, known and involved. This is why children and young people are included in our worship each Sunday and why we organize specific programs that provide support, care, teaching, fun and friendship.

ENSURING SAFETY FOR EVERYONE

We have taken steps to ensure that all students are safe and can enjoy their own time of fun and worship.

Fully staffed teams are organized and trained for our children and youth programs.

Vulnerable Persons Checks are required of all our ministry team members in order to ensure the safety of all students. Our Una Kids and Una Youth team members are trained according to Plan to Protect standards.

Check-in is required every Sunday and Thursday evening. Each student and care provider register.

MINISTRY & LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Providing meaningful care and support for to our children and youth requires a large group of committed people. We believe that our students will feel more seen and loved when many in their church take time to be with them. We encourage everyone at UNA to offer some time and energy to be with our children and young people by serving on one of our student ministry teams.

UNA KIDS

SUNDAY MORNING

Each Sunday after we sing and worship together children are invited to participate in creative experiences, games, music, art and story-telling. The kids are encouraged to love God, love other people and enjoy the friends they have at UNA.

ENSURING SAFETY FOR EVERYONE

We have taken steps to ensure that all children are safe and can enjoy their own time of fun and worship.

Fully staffed classrooms are prepared each Sunday for children Nursery age to Grade 5.

Space for little ones & nursing moms is provided. This is a great space to meet and connect with other parents each Sunday.

Check-in Table is provided. Each child and Care Provider register each Sunday.

MORE INFORMATION

Please visit www.unachurch.org/our-kids for more information.

UNA YOUTH

THURSDAY EVENINGS

Every week our teenagers connect to build friendships, have fun, and discover a sense of meaning and purpose in their everyday lives as followers of Jesus. Students get together on Thursday evenings at 54 Benton. Everything gets started at 6:30 PM and ends at 8:30 PM.

IGNITE

Junior High students are welcome. Careful attention is given to creating engaging experiences for these students.

ILLUMIN8

High students are invited into deeper friendships, engaging experiences and fun with their peers.

CHILD DEDICATION & BAPTISM

At UNA we invite parents to participate in a ceremony of commitment and dedication to nurture in their children a desire to follow Jesus. This is a commitment that is shared by our larger church community. Our church community stands with and supports every parent in their privilege of raising their children to be faithful followers of Jesus.

We honour the traditions of the faith and baptize infants as a part of this dedication service at the parents request.



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SERVICE & MISSION

Jesus said to his followers, "Go, make disciples, baptize, and teach. Remember, I am always with you. When you clothe the naked, you clothe me. When you visit the prisoner, you visit me. When you feed the hungry, you feed me."

SERVICE & MISSION

VISION

We recognize the desire of God to see the needs of those who suffer met. We are faithful witnesses of Jesus when we serve others and meet needs. We do all we can to care for one another and those in need in our city and world.

LOCAL BREAD DELIVERY

Each week a group of Unites pickup bread donated by Cobs Bread Bakery and deliver it to The House of Friendship and a local community centre

STREET LEVEL FOOD & PROVISION

Each week we have a team of people who walk the downtown core of our city giving away simple meals, hygiene products and clothing to those living on the streets.

UNA COMMUNITY FUND

We collectively give to and oversee a fund that provides financial assistance to people in our church community and beyond. This fund has been used to provide assistance for such things as purchasing food, helping to pay bills and supporting those who can't pay for counseling services.

INTERNATIONAL

UNA has partnered with a variety of international organizations over the years. These include Christmas Shoe Box, One4Another, and TearFund (international relief).



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GIVING FINANCIALLY

"make all we can, save all we can, give all we can"
~ John Wesley ~

GIVING FINANCIALLY

God is generous toward all creation and loves it when we reflect His generosity in response.

As followers of Jesus we take seriously the invitation in scripture to be generous with our resources. We encourage our partners to practice the spiritual discipline of tithing as a first step toward living generously. We provide several options to participate in financial generosity.

- There is a donation box on the Welcome Table each Sunday.
- You can also go to unachurch.org/give to make a one time donation or to set up and manage your own recurring giving profile.
- You can also set up monthly automatic giving.

The leadership at UNA takes our responsibility for sound financial stewardship very seriously and a lot of work goes on behind the scenes to accurately track and receipt tithes and donations, and to budget and review expenses diligently.

Our budget and quarterly financial reports are published publicly to everyone who is a part of our church community and audited financials are made available at our Annual General Meeting.

Thanks for your ongoing support of UNA.



The difference between the church & the world is not spatial. There is no here and out there when it comes to the church.

Instead, the church in essence experiences God's presence visibly now, ahead of the time when God shall visibly reign among the whole world. It's only a matter of timing.

The church experiences the kingdom ahead of time. The rest of the world is heading there; they just don't know it yet.

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David Fitch

Faithful Presence: 7 Disciplines that shape the church for mission