

WELCOMING STATEMENT

The Mountain Park United Methodist Church Agape Reconciling Community (ARC) strives to connect with our neighbors through The Holy Spirit to transform lives by embracing and celebrating the diversity of our neighborhood and world.

When we gather together in worship, in study, in mission, and in fellowship, we seek to gather as a complete picture of God's creation so that we may grow in our understanding of our faith and each other through God's grace. As disciples of Jesus, we recognize that though we may not agree on every issue, all people are created in the image of God. All are worthy of the call to ministry and the blessing of marriage. We believe that we must be a place of love, safety, and acceptance for all. We humbly acknowledge that God's mercy and grace are limitless and that no rule or human fear can confine the depth and breadth of God's love.

Consequently, the welcome we offer should be as wide and diverse as God's love for us. We recognize that our human failings have caused Christians to exclude and inflict pain on some individuals and groups. This is not of God. Though we do not have all the answers, we humbly submit to God's call to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. In this spirit we repent and stand in God's grace to resist oppression and exclusion in all its forms towards all of God's children.

We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more.

We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed. Let us show you that God's love is real and alive and that there are no limits set here.

Welcome Home.