

METHODIST UNIVERSITY

CIRCUIT

INSPIRATION ■ EDUCATION ■ COMMUNITY

Learn with curiosity.
Grow in wisdom.
Serve with purpose.
Love with your whole heart.
Live your mission.

Spring 2026 Programs
Wednesdays, 11 a.m.

Are you looking for something more?

Step into **CIRCUIT**.

CIRCUIT isn't just a weekly meetup – it's a vibe of community, a rhythm of worship, a space where meaningful connections happen. It's not only about discovering but about sharing your *vocation* in a deep and life-changing way.

The word vocation comes from the Latin *vocare*, meaning “to call.” In the early Church, vocation wasn't just about landing a job but about tuning in to something bigger. It meant listening for God's call: to **learn** with curiosity, **grow** in wisdom, **serve** with purpose, and **love** with your whole heart. That same ancient calling is still alive – calling *you*.

CIRCUIT is a space to hear that call – a weekly gathering where you can **connect** with people who think like you – and people who don't. A space to **listen** to honest stories, ask hard questions, and **learn** beyond the classroom. It's where your mind expands, your spirit is inspired, and your impact on the world begins to take shape.

The name **CIRCUIT** is a throwback, inspired by the fearless Methodist circuit riders (think Francis Asbury, who is featured on the Methodist University seal), who traveled far and wide to teach, lead, and build radically welcoming communities. **CIRCUIT** keeps that bold, boundary-crossing energy alive today.

Here at MU, we're focused on more than checking boxes. We are about building a life that matters - to **ENGAGE** your mind, **ENRICH** your spirit, and **EMPOWER** you to show up in the world with purpose. **Connect. Grow. Serve. Listen. Love. Learn.** This is our calling. This is **CIRCUIT**.

Introduction to the Spring **CIRCUIT** Series **ROOTED • RISING • READY**

Every thriving community, whether a campus, a city, or an entire society, rests on a set of shared beliefs about what it means to live well together. We often speak of human dignity, mutual responsibility, truth, justice, freedom, opportunity, and hope as if they're obvious, universal ideas. But they didn't just appear out of thin air. Many of the convictions that help a society flourish have deep roots in religious thought, especially in Christianity.

Long before sociologists measured trust, psychologists studied well-being, or physicians connected community life to public health, the Christian tradition proclaimed that every person is created in the image of God. That single belief *you are inherently valuable, loved, and worthy* has shaped whole civilizations. From that root, grew branches still depend on today - *caring for the vulnerable, welcoming the stranger, telling the truth, seeking justice, practicing forgiveness, and investing in the common good*. These practices are prominent in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ – a truth recognized as a guiding principle in Methodist University's mission statement.

The ideas that help communities thrive were first planted in the soil of faith.

Christianity teaches that we belong to one another (“bear one another's burdens”), that truth sets us free, that hope is a real and sustaining force, that mercy and justice are inseparable, and that love is not optional but essential. These aren't just spiritual claims; they're the foundation of healthy neighborhoods, campuses, and nations. And when we look beneath the surface of any thriving community, we find these ancient roots quietly nourishing everything above ground.

This spring, in CIRCUIT, we're going beneath the surface.

We're tracing the roots - spiritual, psychological, and sociological - that help individuals and communities rise into strength, resilience, and purpose. We'll explore how beliefs become behaviors, how values become systems, and how people become communities that thrive.

Because when our roots are deep, we can rise with confidence. And when we rise well, we are ready, not just for success, but for meaningful lives that contribute to the flourishing of the world.

ROOTED in what grounds us.

RISING into who we can become.

READY for the lives we are called to build...together.

This is exactly why **CIRCUIT** exists: *to weave education, inspiration, and community* into the rhythm of our lives.

EDUCATION helps us become *rooted* in knowledge and wisdom.

INSPIRATION helps us *rise* with purpose and imagination.

COMMUNITY helps us live *ready* - supported, connected, and strengthened for the journey ahead.

Together, they shape the kind of people, and the kind of society, that can truly thrive.

Join us for **CIRCUIT**, each Wednesday at 11 a.m. For more information contact Dr. Kelli W. Taylor, University Chaplain and Dean of Religious & Spiritual Life by email (ktaylor@methodist.edu) or phone (910.630.7515).

LEGEND

Use the corresponding icons to better understand the type of CIRCUIT events offered:



ROOTED (Education)

ROOTED invites us to dig beneath the surface and ground ourselves in learning that strengthens our understanding of the world and one another. Through this semester's panel discussions, we'll explore big questions from multiple perspectives – faith, psychology, sociology, and medicine – so that our thinking is informed, honest, and curious.



RISING (Inspiration)

RISING is the heart-opening, imagination-stirring part of CIRCUIT – the space where we lift our eyes, find meaning, and reconnect with what matters most. Through weekly chapel services in the Christian tradition, we'll explore themes that inspire hope, courage, purpose, and spiritual growth. RISING reminds us that a thriving life isn't only understood; it's experienced, felt, and lived with intention.



READY (Community)

READY is where everything we learn and experience becomes lived community – relationships, belonging, and shared purpose. Through the interfaith gatherings CURRENT Religious & Social Impact Lab and Lunch & Learn programs, we will practice showing up for one another, listening across differences, and building the kind of community where everyone has a place. READY prepares us not just for the next event, but for the lives we're building together – connected, compassionate, and resilient.

All programs are in Matthews Chapel except the Lunch and Learn programs, which are in the Alumni Dining Room.

SPRING 2026 CIRCUIT SCHEDULE

JANUARY

January 7

+ RISING (Chapel Worship) – When Everything Was Called “Good”

Scripture: Genesis 1

Before anything went wrong, God called creation “good,” and called humanity “very good.” This service invites us to see ourselves, our neighbors, and our world through that first word of blessing, and to imagine what changes when goodness, not flaw, gets the first and truest word.

January 14

+ RISING (Chapel Worship) – Made of Dust, Made for Beauty

Scripture: Genesis 2:4–9

We are formed from the dust and animated by the breath of God. This story reminds us that being human is both humble and glorious, earthy and divine, and that our purpose begins with remembering where we come from and what we're made for.

January 21

+ RISING – Church Partner Fair (Upper Berns Student Center)

This week's chapel hour becomes a space of partnership and purpose as we host our Church & Para-Church Partner Fair, inviting ministries from across the region to share how they support students' spiritual life and well-being. In recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, each partner will reflect on how their ministry embodies Dr. King's vision of justice, compassion, community, and the Beloved Community. Grounded in the biblical story of human struggle and God's persistent call to mercy and justice, this gathering invites us to imagine how communities—campus, church, and city—can join together to heal what is broken, strengthen what is good, and live God's good news.

January 28

ROOTED (Panel Discussion) Are We Still Human?

What does our relationship with artificial intelligence reveal about what we value, fear, and hope for?

Artificial intelligence is reshaping how we learn, create, communicate, and make decisions. But beyond algorithms, AI forces us to ask deeper questions about identity, ethics, trust, and what it truly means to be human. This panel brings together voices from theology, psychology, and sociology, to explore what AI exposes about our culture, and how we can engage it responsibly and thoughtfully as a campus community. Join us as we ask what kind of creators, collaborators, and humans we want to become.

FEBRUARY

February 4

+ RISING (Chapel Worship) – When We Appear to Miss the Mark

Scripture: Luke 15:11–32


Jesus tells a story of a family in which everyone misses the mark — the reckless son, the resentful brother, and the father who keeps the door open anyway. Here we explore how grace meets us not at our best but precisely where we have wandered or withheld.


February 11


ROOTED (Panel Discussion) What's Love Got to Do with It? (And Are We Really Broken or Just Bent?)

How can people and communities heal when things go wrong?


Whether your soundtrack leans Tina Turner, “What's Love Got to Do with It” or P!nk's “we're not broken, just bent,” every generation has at least one anthem wrestling with the same question: *How do we repair what's been hurt?* This panel brings together perspectives from faith, psychology, sociology, and public health to explore what aids individuals and communities in healing when relationships fracture or conflict arises. Come discover the practices and mindsets that make restoration possible in real life, not just in the lyrics.

February 11
 **READY (Lunch and Learn) Black History Month**
Join us for a meal and conversation around Black History month sponsored by the Student Connections & Outreach Office in partnership with CIRCUIT.


February 18
 **RISING (Chapel Worship) Marked for Grace – Ash Wednesday**
Scripture: Psalm 51; Matthew 6:1–6
Ash Wednesday reminds us we are mortal and beloved at the same time. It is the moment we confess honestly, without fear, because God meets us not with rejection but with mercy, renewal, and a call to begin again.


February 25
 **READY (CURRENT: A Religion & Social Impact Lab)**
Connection, Identity, Care, and the Human Desire to Belong
As we move toward Valentine’s Day, through Black History Month, and acknowledge the United Nations’ Week of Interfaith Harmony, our campus pauses to honor connection, identity, care, and the human desire to belong.


MARCH

 **March 4**
RISING (Chapel Worship) – Can this Relationship Be Restored?
Scripture: John 21:1–19
After Peter’s failures, Jesus doesn’t discard him; He restores him. This story shows that salvation is not about escape but reconnection, a mending of relationship that makes new life possible.


March 11
Spring Break (No CIRCUIT programs)

 **March 18**
ROOTED (Panel Discussion) Why Can’t We Stop? What Wagering Reveals About Risk, Reward, and the Human Heart
What does our culture’s obsession with risk and reward reveal about our deeper longings, and how do we build healthier communities around it?
With opportunities for wagering (gambling/betting) now accessible in seconds, the conversation goes far beyond wins and losses. This panel explores the psychological, social, and physical dynamics that make risk so compelling, and sometimes so destructive. Join us for this panel discussion as we explore what gambling in various forms reveal about human desire, community pressure, addiction, and the search for meaning. Together we’ll consider how communities can foster wiser decisions and support healthier patterns of risk and reward.


 **READY (Lunch and Learn) Women in Sports**
Join us for a meal and conversation celebrating women in sports during Women’s History Month sponsored by the Student Connections & Outreach Office in partnership with CIRCUIT.

March 25
 **READY (CURRENT: A Religion & Social Impact Lab)**
Focus: Renewal, Healing, and Returning to What Matters
In a month filled with traditions of renewal — Ramadan, Lent, Holi, Naw-Rúz — we explore how different communities imagine healing and restoration for themselves and the world.

APRIL

 **April 1**
RISING (Chapel Worship) Palm Wednesday: In the Meantime, We Keep Showing Up
Scripture: Luke 19:28–44
As Jesus entered Jerusalem on what the Church now calls “Palm Sunday,” the crowds celebrated with palm branches. As Passover approached, this was a sacred moment of remembrance, waiting, and trust in God’s deliverance. The story reminds us what it means to live “in the meantime” — to keep showing up, to stay faithful in uncertainty, and to hold onto hope even when the road ahead is unclear. In the story of the disciples preparing for Passover, we learn that our ordinary rhythms — gathering, praying, trusting, and choosing courage — become the practices that shape us for the world God is bringing to life. (This service of worship is part of the Holy Week observance.)

April 8 - The 15th Annual Methodist University CRC Symposium

 **April 15**
RISING (Chapel Worship) – The Hope of All Things Made New
Scripture: Revelation 21:1–5
The Christian story ends not with escape from the world but with its renewal: “Behold, I am making all things new.” This service invites us to imagine a restored creation, and our role, even now, in participating in God’s future of justice, peace, and flourishing.

METHODIST UNIVERSITY

MISSION STATEMENT

Methodist University, historically supported by the North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, owes its origin and values to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. The University is committed to an ecumenical spirit, respects diversity, and recognizes the dignity and worth of all human beings. The University's programs are based on the conviction that a liberally-educated person is sensitive to the needs and rights of others. Methodist University affirms the importance of intellectual values and ethical principles such as truth, virtue, justice, and love. The University community seeks to develop whole persons who will contribute substantially and creatively to the professions and to civic life. Therefore, Methodist University provides opportunities for spiritual, academic, and social growth, to the end that students may acquire enlightened minds and responsible spirits, as well as a continuing thirst for knowledge.

The purpose of Methodist University is to provide an undergraduate and graduate education firmly grounded in the liberal arts tradition that nurtures moral values and ethical decision making; to provide distinctive professional and graduate programs that complement the undergraduate programs; to provide educational and cultural services and resources to the community; and to prepare students for a variety of careers and educational pursuits.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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