

My name is Brian Elwell, you can call me Pastor Brian if you would like. I turn 34 in about a month, and this July I will celebrate 9 years of full-time pastoral ministry within the Western North Carolina Conference.

My wife, Elizabeth, and I celebrated our tenth anniversary last year. We have two beautiful daughters, Eleanor and Grace. Elizabeth is an elementary school teacher with a deep passion for connecting with children, helping them build confidence, and guiding their academic and personal growth. Eleanor is six years old and finishing first grade. She loves outer space; she could spend all night looking through a telescope. She enjoys doing cartwheels in gymnastics. Grace is four years old and entering her final year of Pre-K. She can be shy at first, but once she comes out of her shell, she is a ball of energy. I love my family dearly.



I am a graduate of Duke Divinity School and I obtained my bachelor's degree from Campbell University. I enjoy reading about history, theology from the Cappadocian Fathers, and diving into the contemplatives like Thomas Merton or Henri Nouwen. And yet, I do not read theology all day long. I also love to read a good science fiction book. My hobbies are woodworking and rooting for my Duke Blue Devils.

I was 16 years old when I first sensed a call into ministry, and since that day I have committed myself to this vocation. I love to preach, listen to the needs of the community, and help others understand their God-given gifts. I believe we all have a vocation from God. As Frederick Buechner has said, "Our vocation is where our gifts collide with the world's needs." My goal as a pastor is to help the church understand its gifts and see how they connect in vital ways to the needs of the community.

I am excited for the opportunity to serve at Wilkesboro United Methodist Church. I look forward to dreaming God-size dreams, and learning how our church can share the Gospel message of love to this wonderful town and world.