

Meet Kena Newkirk



Kena Hawkins Newkirk was born and raised in Raleigh, North Carolina. She was baptized into community of New Hope Presbyterian as an infant, where her mother was the youth director. She made a profession of faith March 20, 2002, and officially joined the church after confirmation. During her youth, she began to lead Bible studies and experienced a call to ministry.

In 2010, Kena attended Campbell University where she studied religion and communication. She was involved with the Baptist Fellowship and served as the president of the Campus Activities Board coordinating concerts, festivals, and formals for the whole university. She spent her summers interning at First Baptist Church of Asheville, NC, and an ecumenical service-based organization. She has also interned with Action Ministries and The Wesley Foundation at Georgia Tech.

In July 2014, Kena moved to Atlanta to attend seminary at Candler School of Theology and began working on the youth staff of Northside UMC. On her first day, she met William Newkirk who was the youth missions' coordinator. They started dating six months later and were married June 10, 2017. William now works as a junior project manager. Kena has two brothers: Kelsey, a PhD student at Georgia Tech, and Kenan, a Master's student at NC State.

Kena graduated from Candler in May of 2017 with her Master of Divinity degree. Kena and William love to hike and travel and together they have visited Russia, Jamaica, and Greece. She is thrilled to be serving God and the youth of Fayetteville FUMC.