




THE  
 DWELLING  
 where God and God's people meet



# WHAT IS THE DWELLING?

After years of building relationships with unhoused neighbors, we formed a faith community where everyone, regardless of housing status, mental health, past trauma, or substance use, could lead. Our community is rooted in five core theological values: housing doesn't equal worthiness, trauma doesn't equal shame, hunger doesn't equal emptiness, sobriety doesn't equal salvation, and wealth doesn't equal belovedness. By affirming and celebrating the inherent dignity of all people, we create a space where everyone is welcomed as they are.

## SHOWERS COMMUNITY FEASTING

The Dwelling's shower ministry operates a mobile shower trailer, providing over 60 showers each week to neighbors in need. Along with access to hot water, guests receive essentials like new underwear, T-shirts, socks, and toiletries, offering dignity and care to those experiencing homelessness.

At The Dwelling, community is at the heart of everything we do—it's messy, it's authentic, and it's real. We embrace the complexities of life, creating a space where people can show up just as they are, without judgment or fear. Together, we lean into healing, sharing in each other's joys and struggles as we grow into community.

Our feasting ministry is rooted in the belief that food is medicine—not only healing the body but also nourishing the soul. In the past year, we've shared over 21,000 meals together. When we gather around the table, we're not just eating; we're healing, building a community where no one goes hungry in body or spirit.

## RESTORATIVE WRITING

Voices from The Dwelling is an 8-week restorative writing program, offered twice a year in collaboration with Authoring Action. This project gives neighbors a platform to share their stories and experiences in their own words, fostering healing, self-expression, and empowerment. Each session culminates in a staged engagement, where participants' voices are celebrated and shared, building connection, challenging stigma, and showcasing the resilience of our community.

## SHELTER ED & ADVOCACY

The Dwelling's shelter ministry provides life-saving support through our emergency winter shelters, ensuring hundreds of people stay warm and safe during the coldest months. This includes a women's shelter in partnership with St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, a moms and kids shelter with Calvary Moravian, and a men's warming shelter in our building.

As a member of our local IAF, we organize to address systemic challenges through collective action. We empower neighbors to shape their communities and foster justice. Spark'Dwell equips participants for advocacy through relationship-centered service that inspires action on issues like homelessness and housing insecurity, reflecting The Dwelling's commitment to lasting, systemic change.





# Pastor Emily Harkins

Rev. Emily Harkins is a nationally recognized speaker, pastor, and leader with a passion for Jesus, justice, and radical love. As the founding developer and pastor of The Dwelling, a vibrant and growing community of faith in downtown Winston-Salem, N.C., she works daily to reclaim the identity of brokenness and recast it as beautiful, beloved, and holy.

A sought-after speaker, Emily has shared her powerful message with audiences across the country. As a mainstage speaker for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering, a keynote for the ELCA Becoming Conference, the opening speaker for Wartburg College's 2024 Opening Academic Year, and a keynote for the Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference, among others, her storytelling, humor, and deep theological insights create space for hearts to be stirred, imaginations to be sparked, and God's presence to feel real.

Originally from Colorado, Emily is a proud graduate of Wartburg College (2008) with degrees in history education and history, as well as a certificate in leadership. In 2020, she earned her Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, with a concentration in mission development. Now a Southern transplant, she has fully embraced southern charm, the word "y'all," and the rhythm of life in her Winston-Salem community.

Rev. Harkins is passionate about relationship-building, education, advocacy, speaking truth to power, and creating spaces where love, justice, and grace intersect. She thrives on creative problem-solving, effective communication, and bringing people together in transformative ways. When she's not serving her community, she adores spending time with her husband, their beloved dogs, and their slightly less beloved cat.

Whether through keynotes, workshops, or preaching, Rev. Emily brings a unique blend of energy, authenticity, and compassion that inspires others to walk boldly in faith. All speaking fees or offerings directly support The Dwelling's ongoing ministry, helping to create spaces of belonging, healing, and hope for those often unseen by the church and the world.

*I can't wait to learn and dream together in holy and expansive curiosity!*  
Rev. Emily Harkins

