

John Fitzgerald was born in Charlotte on January 13, 1962. Growing up in United Methodist parsonages, John considers Western North Carolina his home. More specifically, he spent his formative years at Providence United Methodist Church where he attended Sunday School, graduated from Providence Weekday School, and is an alumni of the Providence Children's Choir.

A 1980 graduate of Asheville High School, John then matriculated to Appalachian State University where he earned a B.S. degree in Industrial Psychology. During his undergraduate years he served as the President of the ASU. Wesley Foundation and was a resident of the United Methodist Student Union. His family moved back to Charlotte in 1982 and during his summer breaks John attended Providence UMC College Group Ministries. After graduating from ASU in 1984, he studied at UNCC and worked in the live show department at Carowinds where he played the fiddle in the country/bluegrass shows. In 1985 John answered his calling to pursue ordained ministry and entered Duke Divinity School.

While a student in seminary, John met Chris Alexander who is a lifelong native of Charlotte. Chris is a 1980 graduate of Myers Park High School and a 1984 graduate of Brenau College in Gainesville, Georgia. John and Chris were married on May 23, 1987 and then moved to Houston, NC (between Waxhaw and Monroe, NC) where John served as the student pastor of Hebron United Methodist Church. John received his Masters of Divinity Degree in 1989.

John and Chris have served several appointments across our Annual Conference including Center UMC in Greensboro, Yadkinville UMC in the North Wilkesboro District, Covenant UMC in the High Point District, and Boone UMC. On July 10, 2011 John and Chris came home to Charlotte to serve as the Sr. Pastor of Providence United Methodist Church.

John enjoys fishing, amateur art, cooking, and reading historical fiction. Chris has worked in economic development, as a school teacher, and in the administration of higher education. They have two sons, Ben and Alex Fitzgerald, both of whom are undergraduate students at Appalachian State University. Ben is majoring in Religion and Alex is majoring in Computer Science. The Fitzgerald's have a Jack Russell Terrier named Biscuit who enjoys pushing a basketball with his nose.

During his ministry, John has served on the Western North Carolina Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. He was in the first class of the Reynolds Academy, a two year leadership program offered by Duke Divinity School and the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro. After completing the Reynolds Academy in 2000, John has been a member of the Reynolds L.E.A.D. (Leadership, Evangelism and Discipleship) Program where he has traveled to South Korea and throughout the United States studying successful churches. John has been accepted for his Doctorate in Ministry at Duke University where he will study church leadership. The achievement for which he is most proud is being appointed as the Senior Pastor of Providence United Methodist Church.