

JANUARY 1, 2023

FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE

“On December 25, 1747, John Wesley strongly urged the Methodists to renew their Covenant with God. His first Covenant Service was held in the French Church at Spitalfields on August 11, 1755, which he published that year in the ‘Christian Library.’ Wesley issued this as a pamphlet in 1780, and the form was used without alteration for nearly a century. Various modifications were then made, till a form was prepared which gave the people a larger share in the devotions. That form has now been revived with deep sense of the importance of a service which has been a fruitful source of blessing to Methodism ever since 1755.” ~ The Book of Offices, The Methodist Church of Great Britain and Ireland



FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE

January 1, 2023

11:00 A.M.

*Please rise as you are able or in your hearts.

PRELUDE

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

Sussex carol, arranged by Anna Laura Page

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

Leader: Come let us worship the Lord who established a new covenant through his Son Jesus Christ.

People: We come in spirit and in truth.

***GATHERING HYMN** “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” UMH # 57, stanzas 1-4

PRAYER OF ADORATION

After each petition, we enter into the prayer together with these words:

Response I:

Pastor: We have been given complete knowledge of God's glory.

People: You are God; we praise you, we acknowledge you to be Lord.

Response II:

Pastor: He will come again to be our judge.

People: You, Christ, are the King of Glory.

Response III:

Pastor: The Spirit will do far more than we ask or think.

People: All praise to you, Holy Spirit.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC

“He is Born”

French carol, arranged by Anna Laura Page, organ solo

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

PSALTER READING

Psalm 50: 1-8, 20-23

HYMN

“What Child Is This”

UMH # 219

EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 1:3-25

GOSPEL LESSON

John 15: 1-8

HYMN

"Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine"

UMH # 606

CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: Beloved, as we prepare our hearts to renew our Covenant with God, let us first humbly confess our sins to God. O God, you have shown us the way of life through your Son Jesus Christ. We confess, with shame, our slowness to learn of him, our failure to follow him and our reluctance to bear the cross.

All: Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

Leader: We confess the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibilities in our service, our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

All: Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

(Silence.)

All: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; In your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my sin.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Leader: Now the message that we have heard from God's Son and announce is this: God is light, and there is no darkness at all in him. If we live in the light-- just as he is in the light-- then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from every sin. If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and there is no truth in us, but if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right; he will forgive us all our wrongdoing,

All: Amen. Thanks be to God.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COVENANT

***A COVENANT PRAYER IN THE WESLEYAN TRADITION**

UMH # 607

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Musical Setting C, UMH # 20

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Everyone is invited to receive communion. You do not need to be a member of this or any church.

***SENDING HYMN**

“A Charge to Keep I Have”

UMH #413

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

Leader: May the God who established a covenant with those who seek to enter the kingdom be always present with you.

People: Amen.

Leader: May Jesus Christ who sealed the covenant with his sacrifice on the cross bring you peace.

People: Amen.

Leader: May the Holy Spirit of God guide your life, now and forever

People: Amen.

Leader: Go in peace to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE “Christmas Postlude on ‘In Dulci Jubilo’” arranged by Gilbert Martin

ACTIVITIES - JANUARY 2 - JANUARY 8

Monday, January 2

Pantry Closed

Wednesday, January 4

Renewal Hour 3:30 P.M.

Thursday, January 5

Chancel Choir 7:15 P.M.

Friday, January 6

Pantry 9:00 A.M.

Sunday, January 8

Trustee Meeting 8:30 A.M.

Sunday School 9:45 A.M.

Worship Service 11:00 A.M.

MASK POLICY

Masking Recommended by the Trustees

Pastor

Rev. E.. Neil Gaiser, OSL

Administrative Assistant

Carol McDougle

Director of Music

Carol Chatfield

Church Musician

Michele Delduca

Treasurer

Fred Poland

Audio Visual Technician

Roger Christian

Toddler Room Attendant

Brooklyn Messer

Building Maintenance

Nelson Clair

TODAY'S SERVANT LEADERS

Worship Leader

Judy Gebhart

Greeter

Jane Puderbaugh

Trustee

Jan Mains

Toddler Room Assistant

Bertha Messer

VAN DRIVER FOR JANUARY 8

Van Request:

Jerry -- 937-689-3176 To ride the van you must make your request the day before or you will not be picked up!

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29 or (UMH 761)

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17



DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS FOR GOD? (WE DO TOO!)

Join us beginning Jan. 8th - Feb. 5th for our winter sermon series

"Hello, God?! We've Got Questions!"

For the next five Sundays, inspired by some tough questions UMC children asked about God, we will go on a journey into a life of asking questions in the name of our faith. As we travel together, let us take some time to reflect on who we are, where we have been, and where God is calling us to go, as individuals and as faith communities.