

~ Welcome ~

January 1, 2023

10:30am

Wesleyan Covenant Service

Prelude

“Child in the Manger”

Arr. By: Cindy Berry

Welcome & Announcements

*Greeting

*Opening Hymn

“Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine”

UMH No. 606

If you wish, on the first Sunday of every month, anyone who has a birthday or anniversary during the month, can place a donation during the hymn to the “little church” to help fund the Flower and Landscaping Fund

*Call to Worship

Leader: Today we give ourselves to God through the Wesleyan Covenant Service. This covenant I advise you to make, not only in your heart, but in word; not only in word, but in writing.

People: With God’s help we will do so. Amen.

*Morning Prayer

O Most Holy God, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves to you as prodigals at your doorstep. We have fallen short because of our sins and are prone to the wickedness and evil in the world. But you have promised mercy to us in Christ, and you call us to turn to you with all our hearts. We now resign our hearts to you, humbly bowing before your majesty, with firm resolution in our hearts. Amen

*Litany of Thanksgiving

See Screen

Hymn of Praise

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

UMH No. 431

Children’s Time

“Follow God’s Direction”

Pastor Jane

Prayers of the People

Sharing our Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

*Doxology

UMH No. 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all Creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Prayer for Illumination

All: Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 63:7-9 p. 690

Hebrews 2:10-18 p. 1108

Matthew 2: 13-23 p. 890

Dave Piehl

Wesley’s Covenant Service

See Screen

Covenant Prayer

See Screen

Sharing in the Lord’s Supper

UMH No. 12

*Closing Hymn

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

UMH No. 396

*Benediction

*Postlude

“What Child Is This?”

Arr By: Tom Fettke

*Indicates congregation to stand

Pastor Jane Piehl
Millie Frambaugh

Pastor
Music Director

Upcoming Events

Tues	7p	Amos Study begins	
Sat	1/14	10a	Take down decorations
Sun	2/5		Valentine Care Package donation deadline
			Sub Sandwich Fundraiser Sale
Sun	2/12		Scout Sunday
Weds	2/22	6p	Ash Wednesday Soup Supper
		7p	Ash Wednesday Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Amos, An Invitation to the Good Life** by: Jennifer Rothschild will start to be discussed on Tuesday, January 3, at 7pm in the Conference Room. This 8-week study invites participants to live an assured, faithful, chosen, humble, just, prayerful, and hopeful life. Even though Amos is called the prophet of doom, he promotes the God life and the God life is the good life! This will be coordinated by Pastor Jane.

-Feb. 5 we will have our annual Sub Sandwich Sale Fundraiser. Order forms are available at back of sanctuary.

-We will begin collecting items for Valentine Care Packages for college students and active duty military. Items can be placed in box at back of sanctuary. Please let the office know of names and addresses. Deadline for donations and names/ addresses will be Feb. 5

Welcome to Sharon Center United Methodist Church!

If you are visiting with us for the first time, we are glad you are here! We welcome all to our Worship Service and our Communion Table is open to everyone. Please join us in our activities and gatherings and if you have a question, just ask, and come back again soon! At Sharon Center UMC we are committed to building relationships with Jesus Christ. For families of all ages, this is a great community to join as you grow in your relationship with God and with others.

www.sharoncenterumc.org

SHARON CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Service: 10:30am

Church Office: (330) 239-1616

SharonCenterUMCSecretary@gmail.com

Church hours: Mon, Weds 11a-1p, Fri 11a-3p

January 1, 2023

Pastor Jane Piehl

JanePiehl@gmail.com

Litany of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies.

Leader: O God, our Covenant Friend, you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives. We thank you for your loving care, which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

People: We praise your holy name, O God.

Leader: You have given us life and reason, and set us in a world filled with your glory. You have comforted us with family and friends, and ministered to us through the hands of our sisters and brothers.

People: We praise your holy name, O God.

Leader: You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you, and have given us your peace. You have redeemed us, and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus. You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Spirit and the witness of your Church.

People: We praise your holy name, O God.

Leader: You have been our light in darkness and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation. You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors.

People: We praise your holy name, O God.

Leader: You remembered us when we forgot you. You followed us even when we tried to flee from you. You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you. For all your patience and overflowing grace.

People: We praise your holy name, O God.

Wesley's Covenant Service

Invitation

Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him. Christ has many services to be done. Some are more easy and honorable, others are more difficult and disgraceful. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves. But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ.

Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

Let me be your servant, under your command.

I will no longer be my own.

I will give up myself to your will in all things.

Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.

Lord, make me what you will.

I put myself fully into your hands:

put me to doing, put me to suffering,

let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,

let me be full, let me be empty,

let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and with a willing heart

give it all to your pleasure and disposal.

Christ will be the Savior of none but his servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. Christ will have no servants except by consent; Christ will not accept anything except full consent to all that he requires. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

Confirm this by a holy covenant.

To make this covenant a reality in your life, listen to these admonitions:

First, set apart some time, more than once, to be spent alone before the Lord; in seeking earnestly God's special assistance and gracious acceptance of you; in carefully thinking through all the conditions of the covenant; in searching your hearts whether you have already freely given your life to Christ. Consider what your sins are. Consider the laws of Christ, how holy, strict, and spiritual they are, and whether you, after having carefully considered them, are willing to choose them all. Be sure you are clear in these matters, see that you do not lie to God.

Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant, rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength, so you can keep your promise. Trust not your own strength and power.

Fourth, resolve to be faithful. You have given to the Lord your hearts, you have opened your mouths to the Lord, and you have dedicated yourself to God. With God's power, never go back.

And last, be then prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord. Fall down on your knees, lift your hands toward heaven, open your hearts to the Lord, as we pray:

Covenant Prayer

The people bow.

O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, see me as I fall down before you.

Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will, for you have promised mercy to me if I turn to you with my whole heart.

God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all, covenanting with you that no known sin shall be allowed in my life. Against your will, I have turned

my love toward the world. In your power I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you. For my own righteousness is riddled with sin, unable to stand before you.

Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again if you would let him.

Before all heaven and earth, I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God. I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion, and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant, to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.

God has given the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way and means of coming to God.

Jesus, I do here on bended knees accept Christ as the only new and living Way, and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him. O blessed Jesus, I come to you, hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants. I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own worthiness, and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my only guide. I renounce my own will, and take your will as my law.

Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

I do here covenant with you, O Christ, to take my lot with you as it may fall. Through your grace I promise that neither life nor death shall part me from you.

God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

I do here willingly put my neck under your yoke, to carry your burden. All your laws are holy, just, and good. I therefore take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising that I will strive to order my whole life according to your direction, and not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.

The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today without guile or reservation. If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright. And now, glory be to you, O God the Father, whom I from this day forward shall look upon as my God and Father. Glory be to you, O God the Son, who have loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood, and now is my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit, who by your almighty power have turned my heart from sin to God.

O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So be it. And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.

You are advised to make this covenant not only in your heart, but in word; not only in word, but in writing. Therefore, with all reverence, lay the service before the Lord as your act and deed. And when you have done this, sign it. Then keep it as a reminder of the holy agreement between God and you that you may remember it during doubts and temptations.