

# ~ Welcome ~

January 7, 2024

10:30am

Prelude "We Three Kings of Orient Are"  
By: John H. Hopkins, Jr.

Welcome & Announcements  
Passing of the Peace

\*Opening Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory" UMH No. 220  
*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: Arise! Shine!  
**Congregation: God's light has come to reveal The Way in this New Year.**

Leader: Arise! Shine!  
**Congregation: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**  
Leader: Arise! Shine!  
**Congregation: God's light penetrates the darkness that covers the world.**

Leader: Arise! Shine!  
**Congregation: Nations shall come to God's light and kings to the brightness of God's dawn.**  
**All: Arise! Shine! For the Glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

\*Opening Prayer  
**Holy God, Eternal Spirit, we thank you for baptizing us into one body in Jesus the Christ. Wash over us with your Spirit, that, like Jesus, we may serve you in serving humanity. Baptize us with the fire of your truth, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Song of Praise "Shine, Jesus Shine" See Screen

Children's Time "Is Christmas Really Over?" Pastor Jane  
*At the conclusion of Children's Time all children age 4 through 5th grades are invited to go with the teachers for Sunday School.*

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.*

\*Gloria Patri  
*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning; is now and ever shall be: World without end! Amen, Amen!*

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 Sue Kelly  
Genesis 1:1-5 p. 3  
Matthew 2:1-12 p. 890  
Mark 1:4-11 p. 922

Message "Certain and Sure" Pastor Jane Piehl

Moment of Reflection  
Wesleyan Covenant Renewal See Screen  
Sharing in the Lord's Supper UMH No. 12

Offering "As with Gladness Men of Old"  
*Arr. By: Carol Tornquist* UMH No. 95

\*Doxology  
*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

\*Closing Hymn "This Is a Day of New Beginnings" vs. 1, 3, 5 UMH No. 383

\*Benediction

Postlude "Shine on Us"  
*By: Michael W. Smith and Debbie Smith*

\*Indicates congregation to stand

The flowers on the altar today are from Pat Shick in honor of the 68th Wedding Anniversary of Art and Pat Shick on January 7, 1956.

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Pastor Jane Piehl  
Millie Frambaugh

Pastor  
Music Director

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**This Week**

Tues      10a      Co-Op Class  
             7p      Way of the Chosen Study

**Upcoming Events**

1/21                      Cookie Sunday – If you can help out let Millie know  
1/27              10a      West Plains Gathering at Ashland First UMC  
2/11                      Sub Sandwich Sale  
2/11                      Valentine Care package items due and college student/  
deployed military care package name submission.  
2/14              6p      Soup & Bread Supper  
2/14              7p      Ash Wednesday Service

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

-East Ohio Conference Redistricting

On January 1, the East Ohio Conference will transition from 10 to 4 districts. Sharon Center United Methodist Church will change from the Canal District to the West Plains District. Clergy and laity are invited to participate in the first gathering in each new district the weekend of January 27-28 for a time of worshipping, connecting, and celebrating together with Bishop Tracy S. Malone, the superintendent teams and leadership in each district, and Conference staff. Our new District Superintendent is Rev. Nestor Nazario and Rev. Donna Van Trees. West Plains District will have their first gathering at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, January 27 @ Ashland First UMC (220 Sandusky Street in Ashland, 44805)

-The Way of the Chosen Study continues on January 9- Feb. 13. Meet in the Conference room on Tuesdays at 7pm.

**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](http://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 7, 2024

Pastor Jane Piehl

JanePiehl@gmail.com

Abbreviated Wesleyan Covenant Liturgy & Prayer:

**All: O God, Searcher of all our hearts, you have formed us as a people and claimed us for your own. As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace, and to enter anew into covenant with you, reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us. Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being, and receive us in mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### INVITATION

Leader: Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him. Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

**All: 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.**

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

**All: 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.**

#### COVENANT PRAYER

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

**All: Jesus, I do here 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.**

Leader: Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

**All: 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.**

Leader: The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

**All: O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today without 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.**