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WARREN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
11 AM SERVICE
JANUARY 5, 2020

“The Wesley Covenant Renewal Service”

In 1663, Richard Alleine, A Puritan, published *Vindiciae Pietatis: or, A vindication of Godliness in the Greater Strictness and Spirituality of it*. In 1753, it was again published in John Wesley's *A Christian Library*. Wesley used one chapter, “The Application of the Whole,” on Monday, August 11, 1755, in what probably was the first real celebration of the Covenant Service in the Methodist movement.

Wesley found the service rich and meaningful, as expressed in his journal: “Many mourned before God, and many were comforted” (April, 1756); “It was, as usual, a time of remarkable blessing” (October, 1765); It was an occasion for a variety of spiritual experiences...I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards many desired to return thanks, either for sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for fresh manifestation of His graces, healing all their backslidings” (January 1, 1775).

In London, these services were usually held on New Year's Day. Around the country, the Covenant Service was conducted whenever John Wesley visited the Methodist Societies. In our service, the liturgy beginning with the “Invitation” is taken directly from Wesley's service of 1780. The heart of the service, focused in the “Covenant Prayer,” requires persons to commit themselves to God.

The United Methodist Book of Worship, Copyright 1992. The United Methodist Publishing House, used with permission.

ORGAN PRELUDE

“Bring a Torch”
“There's a Song in the Air”
“We Three Kings”

arr. Griffin
arr. Harrington
arr. Hopkins

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are glad that you are worshipping at First United Methodist Church this morning. Please SIGN AND PASS the attendance pad at the end of the pew. If you are visiting with us, we would especially appreciate having your name, address, and phone number, because we would like to have a chance to thank you for being with us.

*GREETING

Leader: Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth.

People: We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses.

Leader: Because you are a God of hope,

People: We know that you create all the possibilities of the future.

Leader: Because you are a God of love,

People: We know that you accept all the mistakes of the past.

Leader: Because you are the God of our faith,

People: We enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise.

Leader: As we come to enter anew into covenant with you, remove any reluctance or falsehood in us.

People: May all that we say, all that we sing, all that we think, and all that we do, Bring glory unto you. Amen

ANTHEM

"Carol of the Kings"

Ruth Schram

*PSALTER

"Psalm 1"

Hymnal Page 738

*GLORIA PATRIA No. 71

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Gary Kell

(Children may come forward during "Jesus Loves Me")

PRAYER CARDS will be collected by Acolytes during the Children's Sermon.

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

UNISON PRAYER:

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open and all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using sins)

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power; and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

“We Three Kings”

John Hopkins Jr.

*DOXOLOGY/PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SCRIPTURE

“Isaiah 60:1-6 ”

Pew Bible Pages 676-677

“John 1:6-13”

Pew Bible Page 966

SERMON

“Epiphany”

Rev. Dr. Mark E. Hecht

Covenant Service

The Invitation

The Act of Adoration

L: Let us adore the Father, the God of love who created us;
Who every moment preserves and sustains us;
Who has loved us with an everlasting love, and given us the light
Of the knowledge of his glory in the face of Jesus Christ

P: We Praise you, O God: we acknowledge you to be the Lord.

L: Let us glory in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ;
Who though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor;
Who went about doing good and preaching the gospel of the kingdom;
Who was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin;
Who became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross
Who was dead, and lives for evermore;
Who opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers;
Who sits at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father

P: You are the king of Glory, O Christ

L: Let us rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Sprit, the Lord and Giver of Life, by whom we are born into the family of God, and made members of the body of Christ;
Whose witness confirms us; Whose wisdom teaches us;
Whose power enables us; Who waits to do for us exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think.

P: All praise to thee, O Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Act of Thanksgiving

L: Let us give thanks to God for his manifold mercies. O God our Father, the fountain of all goodness, who has been gracious to us through all the years of our life; we give you our thanks for your loving kindness which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

P: We praise your holy name, O Lord.

L: You have given us life and reason, and set us in a world which is full of your glory. You have comforted us with kindred and friends, and ministered to us through the hands and minds of our neighbors.

P: We praise your holy name, O Lord.

L: You have set in our hearts a hunger for you and 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.

P: We praise your holy name, O Lord.

L: In darkness you have been our light, in adversity and temptation a rock of strength, in our joys the very spirit of joy, in our labors the all-sufficient reward.

P: We praise your holy name, O Lord.

L: You have remembered us when we have forgotten you, followed us even when we fled from you, met us with forgiveness when we turned back to you. For all of your long suffering and the abundance of your grace,

P: We praise your holy name, O Lord.

The Act of Confession

L: O God our Father, who has set forth the way of life for us in your beloved Son; we confess with shame our slowness to learn of him, our reluctance to follow him. You have spoken and called, and we have not given heed; your beauty has shown forth, and we have been blind; you have stretched out your hands to us through our neighbors, and we have passed by. We have taken great benefits with little thanks; we have been unworthy of your changeless love.

P: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

L: Forgive us, we pray, the poverty of our worship, the formality and selfishness of our prayers, our inconstancy and unbelief, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our false pretenses, and our willful ignorance of your ways.

P: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

L: Forgive us when we have wasted our time or misused our gifts. Forgive us when we have excused our own wrongdoing or evaded our responsibilities. Forgive us that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good, that we have drawn back from the cross.

P: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

L: Forgive us that so little of your love has reached others through us, and that we have borne so lightly wrongs and sufferings that were not our own. Forgive us when we have cherished the things that divide us from others, and when we have made it hard for them to live with us, and when we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, grudging in forgiveness.

P: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

L: If we have made no ventures in fellowship, if we have kept in our heart a grievance against another, if we have not sought reconciliation, if we have been eager for the punishment of wrongdoers and slow to seek their redemption,

P: Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.

The Words of Assurance

The Covenant (please stand, if able)

L: O Lord God, holy Father, who has called us through Christ to be partakers in this gracious covenant; we take upon ourselves with joy the yoke of obedience, and engage ourselves, for love of thee, to seek and do thy perfect will. We are no longer our own, but thine.

ALL: I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thou are mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

*HYMN No. 383 “This Is a Day of New Beginnings” (verse 1-4) Beginnings

BENEDICTION

BEARING OF THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE “I Saw Three Ships” arr. Stoddard

MUSIC TODAY is provided by organist Michele Sandberg and our Chancel Choir. The percussionist is Tracy Brieger and the piano duet is played by Michele Sandberg and Ruth Nelson.

LITURGIST TODAY is Heidi Ketzko.

COMMUNION STEWARD TODAY is Rev. Al Hammer

PEDESTAL FLOWERS THIS WEEK are in loving memory of Richard and Mary Lowe given by Roger and Nancy Siggins and Tracey and Brandon Westmoreland.

OUR CONCERN FOR THIS WEEK-is Mrs. Dorothy Sutton, 701 Rouse Ave., Room 401, Youngsville, PA 16371. Why not send her a card?

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS-will be taken down on Sunday, January 12th, immediately after the 11:00 AM worship service. Many hands will make quick work. So please plan to stay and help. Pizza will be ordered for lunch.

HAND-MADE VALENTINES-we will be creating hand-made Valentines to share with residents in local nursing homes during the month of January, please consider making some to help us out. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the church office to also help deliver the valentines on Sunday, February 9th. We will have a light lunch that day following worship and then head out to deliver the valentines.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS-in the Covert Room will be doing a study entitled "***Love Like That: 5 Relationship Secrets from Jesus***" by Dr. Les Parrott and led by Kari Swanson beginning on January 5th. "Have you fallen short of being a good friend, a wise parent, or a selfless spouse? Discover how to truly love those in your life with this revolutionary guide! Blending the latest research in psychology and sociology with biblical insights, Parrott shares five practices---being mindful, approachable, gracious, vulnerable, and empathetic---to help you forge meaningful, fulfilling connections with others." This study will get you started on a journey to loving others in an extraordinary way. Sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board across from the church office and the books will also be available in the church office.

OFFERING ENVELOPES-For 2020 are now available to pick up in the hallway by the church office. Please make sure you pick yours up by the end of year.

2020 PRAYER/BIRTHDAY CALENDAR-is now available. Pick up your families copy outside the church office door and PLEASE sign your name when you do. This will help cut down on mailing cost. Thank you.

COLLEGE STUDENTS-Please remember to submit your first semester grades to the church office so you can receive the second disbursement of your scholarship.

REMEMBER RUTH HIGGINBOTHAM-she is looking for a few good people to join her on a Mission trip to Honduras!

It will be April 18-25, 2020 with the objective to help children with their English at a Methodist School.

No knowledge of Spanish is needed. Please contact her at: druthhigg@gmail.com or 814-598-8011.

DIVORCECARE-will begin a new 13 week session on January 9, 2020.

FOLLOWING JESUS STUDY/NEW MEMBERS CLASS-Beginning January 26th, "Following Jesus: Steps to a Passionate Faith" will be offered as a class for new members, youth of confirmation age (10th grade and above) and anyone who has not yet participated in the study. The class will be taught by Tawni Betts, with Reverend Hecht covering some topics (communion, United Methodist beliefs, etc.). This is an excellent beginner Bible study, as well as a great renewal class for church members.

The classes have had a variety of ages involved. There have been participants new to our church, new to the Christian faith, and long-time members of our church. The youngest participants were able to see that adult members still had questions about their beliefs and that faith in Jesus Christ is something that we work out in the course of our lifetime, not all at once.

The topics in the study include Rediscovering Jesus, Growing in the Spirit, and Living in Faith and service. The class will be held Sunday evenings from 5:30 PM-6:45 PM for 10 weeks, beginning January 26th through March 29th. Confirmation and Reception of New Members will be held on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020. Questions about the class can be directed to Tawni Betts or Reverend Hecht. Please call the church office at 723-4930 to sign up for the class.

BOOK SALE-this past year our Pastor Mark Hecht published his first book **Family, Friends and Faith: Lessons I Have Learned**. The book **Family, Friends and Faith** offers a series of messages reminding the reader of the numerous ways our lives are influenced and transformed as we walk with others. In the 187 page book, there are messages that include stories of Mark's childhood and those who nurtured him, as well as the stories of his wife and their four children whose faith they have attempted to nurture. Life for all of us is filled with memories of those from our past as well as hopes and dreams for those who follow. If you are looking for a meaningful gift to share with someone this holiday season, consider getting them a copy of **Family, Friends and Faith**. Copies are still available in the church office. The cost is \$15.



First United Methodist Church-Warren

Prayer for the Week of January 5, 2019

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.” [John 6:44]

Gracious Father,

You are the One who existed from the beginning, the One we have seen & heard. You are the One who the disciples saw with their own eyes & touched with their own hands, You are Jesus Christ, the Word of Life. You are from God, & you have been seen. You are the One who is eternal life. You were with the Father & then shown to those here on earth. This testimony is given so that others may have fellowship with us & with the Father & with His Son, Jesus Christ. [1 John 1:1-3]

We lift up specific prayers today for:

The UMC- May we live in your presence.

FUMC Warren, Millport UMC, Jesus is Coming Soon Methodist Church (Jinotega, Nicaragua), & Rene Cisneros Church (Managua, Nicaragua)-May we spread the testimony that has been given to us.

For worship services & activities within these walls & in the community-May you alone be praised.

The people of Nicaragua, especially our Christian brothers & sisters-May they find peace in your presence with them.

For our country's leaders & leaders around the world-May they find Life in You.

For Robert Confer, Custodian & Graham Carr, Youth Representative to Council -May they sense your call on their lives.

FOR: _____

LORD, forgive me when I think more highly of myself than I ought. Through faith in you, help me to think of myself with sober judgment. Help me to offer my body as a living sacrifice that is holy & pleasing to you-this is true & proper worship. Help me not be conformed to this world's patterns, but to be transformed beginning with my thoughts. In this way, I will be able to test & approve what is your good, pleasing & perfect will. [Romans 12: 1-3]

You took our pain & bore our suffering, but we considered You punished by God, stricken & afflicted. But You were pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was on You & by your wounds we are healed. [Isaiah 53:4-5] Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. AMEN.

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Mark E. Hecht
Pastor of Visitation	Rev. Michael Rutenber
Director of Music	Ruth Nelson
Assistant Director of Music	Michele Sandberg
Organist	David Powell
Director of Music/Organist Emeritus	John F. Slaney Jr.
Director of Student Ministries	Jason Wood
Director of Christian Education and Nurture	Heidi Ketzko
Office Manager	Debbie Giambrone
Office Assistant	Deb Rutenber
Custodian	Robert Confer
Preschool Teachers	Brenda Bertch Jane Crouch Cynthia Klenowski Lindsey Mealy

Acolytes

Chris Gardiner
Tage Wyman

Greeters

FD: Mary Jo Zubrod
PLD: Marcia Ziki

Usher Captain: Gary Kell

Russell Blodgett

Tom Lobdell

Ted Morrison

Amy Morrison

Bill Tucker

PRAYER CONCERNS: David Armstrong, Sheryl Asamow, Dayetta Austin, Cathy Bertch, Brandon and Stacey Campbell, Marty Campbell, Zack Cassidy, Carol Davis, Catherine Donaldson, Keith Dunham, Jim Fitch, Lucy Gallo, Jenn Harris, Betty Hill, Ernie Hoag, Laurel Hoch, Jim McCollough, Amanda Ohl, Larry Persing, Sandy Raymond, Katie Rodgers, Patti Rublee, Ronda Rublee, Ernest Seber, John Slaney, Alice Stiles, Butch Stiles, David Swanson, Marge Trubic, Marilyn Whitcomb, Gretchen Winans, Karen Yourchisin, Connie Zagurski, Nancy Zirngibl, Maria Zurcher.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

January 5, 2020—January 11, 2020

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Service of Word and Sacrament
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Together Evolving as Men Support Group
11:00 AM Discipleship Building Service
6:00 PM-7:30 PM Jr. High UMYF
7:00 PM-8:30 PM Sr. High UMYF

MONDAY

6:00 PM-7:30 PM Incarcerated Support Group– FH
(for family members of Incarcerated Individuals)

TUESDAY

8:30 AM-11:15 AM Creative Preschool
1:00 PM Study Group– Covert Room
1:00 PM Staff Meeting
2:15 PM Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary
5:30 PM Covenant Discipleship Group, Covert Room
6:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders Meeting, FH
6:30 PM Epworth Handbell

WEDNESDAY

6:45 AM Men's Breakfast
Leader: Paul Yourchisin Cook: Brent Casey
8:30 AM-11:15 AM Creative Preschool
8:45 AM Covenant Group
3:00 PM Cherub Choir
3:10 PM LOGOS, with FLC @ FLC. Wear your favorite Hat
3:30 PM Aldersgate Choir
NO Wesleyan Handbells
NO Asbury Handbells
6:20 PM Madrigals
6:30 PM LOGOS Pickup @ FUMC
7:00 PM Chancel Choir

THURSDAY

8:30 AM—11:15 AM Creative Preschool
1:00 PM Discipleship Covenant Group, Covert Room
6:00 PM-8:00 PM Divorce Care, 2nd Fl., Side Room

FRIDAY

Noon Senior Citizen Lunch in the Covert Room
6:00 PM Girl Scout Lock In, Founders Hall & GYM

SATURDAY

10:00 AM Girl Scout Pick up
12:00 PM Birthday Party, Covert Room
2:00 PM Betts Memorial Service, Sanctuary
3:00 PM Luncheon, Founders Hall