

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 6

Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 7

Choir Practice 6:30 pm

Sunday, February 11

Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service 10:30 am

Tuesday, February 13

Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Supper

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Wade Center needs volunteers to help approximately 40 at-risk elementary students in their after-school program. Mrs. Brainard will give a tour of the Wade Center on Thursday, February 8 at 10:00 am for anyone from our church who is interested. Since parking is limited at the Center, we will carpool from the church parking lot at 9:40 am.

The church is planning to have a Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please call Jacob Stowers at 276-245-3347.

If you would be interested in helping with audio visual on Sunday mornings, please let Rev. Billy know.

Martha Circle continues to collect peanut butter for the Union Mission. The collection boxes are located at the Tazewell Avenue and front entrances.

First United Methodist Church
Sunday, February 4, 2024

**WESLEY
COVENANT
SERVICE**

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 4, 2024

Covenant Renewal

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Mary Jeffries
Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

PRELUDE
BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*CALL TO WORSHIP "In the Name of the Lord" Choir

*OPENING HYMN "Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine" UMH 606

OPENING PRAYER

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.

ANTHEM "Go Ye Into All the World" Choir (WS 3115)

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING
Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies.
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.

We praise your holy name, O God.

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. R

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. R

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.

*HYMN "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" UMH 117

PRAYER CONCERNS AND PRAISES
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RECEIVING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS
*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

THANKSGIVING

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE
CONFESSION AND PARDON
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER
BREAKING THE BREAD AND GIVING OF THE CUP
PRAYER

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN "Jesus, United by Thy Grace" UMH 561

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING
*SENDING FORTH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
*CHORAL BENEDICTION "God Is So Good" Choir

*POSTLUDE
*Please stand as you are able.

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.

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. **R**

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, **R**

PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Deuteronomy 31: 9–13

2 Kings 23: 1–3

2 Chronicles 34: 29–33

Jeremiah 31: 31–34

Psalms 50 (UMH 783)

1 Peter 1

Matthew 25: 14–30

Matthew 25: 31–46

John 15: 1–8

A Covenant renewal

Renewal of Covenant

Renewal of Covenant

A New Covenant

Gathering of the Faithful

Call of Holy Living

Parable of Talents

Judgment of the Nations

Jesus is the True Vine

PROCLAMATION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Christian life is redeemed from sin and consecrated to God. Through baptism, we have entered this life and have been admitted into the new covenant of which Jesus Christ is the Mediator. He sealed it with his own blood, that it might last for ever.

On the one side, God promises to give us new life in Christ, the Source and Perfector of our faith.

On the other side, we are pledged to live no more for ourselves but only for Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us.

From time to time we renew our covenant with God, especially when we reaffirm the Baptismal Covenant and gather at the Lord's table. Today, however, we meet, as the generations before us have met, to renew the covenant that binds us to God. Let us make this covenant of God our own.

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

**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.**