

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE, STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP

ADULT FELLOWSHIP: Meets the third Saturday of each month, Sept. thru May, and invites adults of all ages to join them.

Contact Person: Gail Van Dyke, 856-667-6354

UNITED METHODIST MEN: Meet at 7:45am for breakfast on the third Sunday of each month, September through May.

All men of all generations welcome. Contact person: Bob Murray, 856-366-6137

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: Miriam Circle, Barbara Dapper, Leader, 856-235-1765

MONDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 A.M. in the Heritage Room. Contact Person: Susan Swezey 856-220-1661

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY: 2pm in the Parlor. All welcome! Contact Person: Charlie Rudolph, 856-235-9206

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: 7:30-9 A.M. at Maritsa's in Maple Shade. Contact Person: Carol Talbot, 856-235-9346

SATURDAY MORNING MEN'S SMALL GROUP: 7:30-9:00 A.M. in the Prayer Room. Contact Person: Greg Scott, 609-280-9539

SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: 7:30-9 A.M. in the Parlor. Contact Person: Betsy Heinz, 856-304-4313

SATURDAY MORNING "QUICK PRAYER": 9:30 A.M. in the Prayer Room. Contact Person: Betsy Heinz 856-304-4313

STEPHEN MINISTRY: Contact Persons: Kathy Appleton, 856-234-0089, Suanne Bryan 856-824-0672

Michael Harsche 856-778-3520, Pat Cornell 856-727-9476

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES: See Information Board in Narthex

PRAYER MINISTRY: Prayer Room (varied hours)

Email prayer chain: To add a name to the email prayer chain, contact Church@meetwithGod.com

LIGHT HARBOR MINISTRIES: Second Sunday of each month @ 2:30. Contact person: Linda Wanagas, 856-273-1298

JR. HIGH UMYF (7-8TH GRADE YOUTH MINISTRY) Meets every Sunday evening from 7-8:30, Sept. thru June

Contact Person: Kathy Clawges, 866-0285

SR. HIGH UMYF (9-12TH GRADE YOUTH MINISTRY) Meets every Sunday evening from 7-8:30, Sept. thru June

Contact Person: Kathy Clawges, 866-0285

C.H.U.M. (2-4th Grade) Meets every Thursday at 4:30 for choir & 5:15 for dinner, fellowship & activity, Sept. - May

Contact Person: Karen Murray, 222-1120

CHRISTIAN TRAILBLAZERS (5th-6th Grades) Meets every Thursday, 4:30 for choir & 5:15 for dinner, fellowship & activity

Sept. – May Contact Person: Karen Murray, 222-1120

YOUNG FOLLOWERS (K-1st Grade) Meets every Thursday at 4:30 in Fell. Hall for dinner and proceed to choir at 5:15

Sept. – May Contact Person: Karen Murray, 222-1120

COLLEGE AGE: Contact Person: Kathy Clawges, 866-0285

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK (IHN): Contact Person: Allan Hanlon, 802-1100

THE WORSHIP TEAM - MUSIC AND BAND - Meets Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Contact persons: Jay Appleton, 856-234-0089 and Norm Dorrell 609-410-4862

GOSPEL CHOIR – Meets Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

CHOIRS AND HANDBELLS – Meets September through May

ADULT CHOIR

Thursday 7:30-9:00 p.m.

YOUTH (7th -12th grade)

Thursday 6:30-7:15 p.m.

WESLEY (5th - 6th grade) Victoria McGrath

Thursday 4:30-5:15 p.m.

JUNIOR (2nd - 4th grade)

Thursday 4:30-5:15 p.m.

PRIMARY (5 yrs. - 1st grade) Joyce Scheyhing

Thursday 5:15-5:45 p.m.

ADULT BELLS

Monday 7:00-8:00 p.m.

YOUTH BELLS (7th - 12 grade)

Sunday 6:00-6:50 p.m.

Contact: Donna Banes, 856-222-9369 (Interim Music Ministry Team Coordinator)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:30 P.M. Contemporary Worship in the Chapel

Sunday: 8:30 A.M. Traditional Worship in the Chapel

9:30 A.M. Contemporary Worship in the Sanctuary

11:00 A.M. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A community of faith committed to sharing the love of Jesus Christ with a hurting world through words and actions

DECEMBER 31, 2017

A Wesley Covenant Renewal Service

9:30 A.M. Service

We welcome you to this service of praise and adoration. Let God speak to you through the songs and the message, and enjoy the fellowship of those who are seeking the Lord and the spiritual help that we need for daily living.

PRELUDE

Noel

Lauren Daigle

Tricia Halligan, Soloist

WELCOME

Rick McConnell, Worship Leader

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: You are the one true God who reigns forever.

Leader: We come this day as we approach a new year to renew our covenant with God.

People: Teach us to number our days, that we may get a heart of wisdom.

SONGS OF WORSHIP: HE SHALL REIGN FOREVERMORE (by Chris Tomlin and Matt Maher)

In the bleak mid-winter, all creation groans for a world of darkness, frozen like a stone. Light is breaking in a stable for a throne.

Chorus: And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore. And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore. Unto us a child is born, the King of kings and Lord of lords. And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.

If I were a wise man, I would travel far. If I were a shepherd, I would do my part. But, poor as I am, I will give to Him my heart. *Chorus*

Here within a manger lies the One who made the starry skies, This baby born for sacrifice: Christ, the Messiah! Into our hopes, into our fears, The Savior of the world appears, the promise of eternal years: Christ, the Messiah!

He shall reign forevermore, forevermore, He shall reign forevermore, forevermore, He shall reign forevermore, forevermore *Chorus* (©Musicnotes.com)

O PRAISE HIM (David Crowder)

Turn your ear to heaven, and hear the noise inside, the sound of angel's awe, the sound of angel's songs, and all this for a King. We could join and sing all to Christ the King. How constant, how divine, this song of ours will rise. O how constant, how divine, this love of ours will rise, will rise. O praise Him, O praise Him; He is holy, He is holy, yeah. Alleluia, alleluia He is holy He is holy, yeah.

Turn your gaze to heaven, and raise a joyous noise. The sound of salvation come, the sound of rescued ones, and all this for a King. Angels join to sing all for Christ the King. How infinite and sweet this love so rescuing. O how constant, how divine, this love of ours will rise. As one we sing. O praise Him, O praise Him; He is holy, He is holy, yeah. Alleluia, alleluia He is holy He is holy, yeah. (2003 sixsteps music)

OPENING PRAYER – Almighty God, You search our hearts and you see every part of us. All our desires are known to You, and from you no secrets are hidden. By the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, cleanse our hearts so we may perfectly love you and glorify Your holy name. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O LORD, MY ROCK (by John S. Miller)

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight. (Repeat)

Oh Lord, my rock, You are my Redeemer. (1997 John S. Miller Pub.)

A BROKEN SPIRIT (by D. Harris & M. Nystrom) (1993 Integrity's Hosanna! Music)

Chorus: A broken spirit and a contrite heart You will not despise, You will not despise; You desire truth in the inward parts, a broken spirit and a contrite heart. Lord, my heart is prone to wander, prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for your courts above. (repeat chorus)

BRINGING OUR NEEDS TO GOD

PRAYER RESPONSE: GLORIFY THY NAME (Words & Music Donna Adkins)

Father, we love You, We praise You, we adore You. Glorify Thy Name in all the earth. Glorify Thy Name, Glorify Thy Name, Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love You, We praise You, we adore You. Glorify Thy Name in all the earth. Glorify Thy Name, Glorify Thy Name, Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love You, We praise You, we adore You. Glorify Thy Name in all the earth. Glorify Thy Name, Glorify Thy Name, Glorify Thy Name in all the earth. (1976,1981 Maranatha! Music)

WE CELEBRATE OUR LIFE IN CHRIST - We welcome all who are worshiping with us this morning.

Please fill out the Friendship Pad and pass it along to the person next to you and then pass back to the center aisle.

Write any special prayer requests on the sheets provided in the pew racks and place in the offering plate.

WORSHIP IN GIVING - Offering

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring J. S. Bach
Jay Appleton, Rick McConnell, Norm Dorrell

SCRIPTURE READING:

II Kings 23:1-3, John 15:1-8

WESLEY COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE: See insert

CLOSING HYMN 606 COME, LET US USE THE GRACE DIVINE (by Charles Wesley)

Come, let us use the grace divine, and all with one accord, in a perpetual covenant join ourselves to Christ the Lord; give up ourselves, thru Jesus' power, his name to glorify; and promise, in this sacred hour, for God to live and die.

The covenant we this moment make be ever kept in mind; we will no more our God forsake, or cast these words behind. We never will throw off the fear of God who hears our vow; and if thou art well pleased to hear, come down and meet us now.

Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, let all our hearts receive, present with thy celestial host the peaceful answer give; to each covenant the blood apply which takes our sins away, and register our names on high and keep us to that day! (1989 United Methodist Publishing House)

BENEDICTION

PLEASE JOIN YOUR FRIENDS and your 1st UMC family in Fellowship Hall every Sunday morning following this service. Come for coffee, tea, lemonade and continental breakfast from 10:30-11:00. Just follow the path outside the Sanctuary building or wind your way inside the Education Building, up to Fellowship Hall.

A NOTE TO PARENTS: Child care is available in Room E101 for children up to age four.

ACOLYTE: Carson Binegar

USHERS: Robyn Harvey, Bruce Harvey, Stephen Smith, Melissa Smith, Carlos Mocoelo

SCRIPTURE READER: Judi Angelow

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: Worship: 372 Sunday School: 62

PLEASE LET US KNOW...If you or someone you know is ill or in the hospital, let the church office know so that we can help in their healing process through our prayers, visits, food preparation, etc. Thank you!

PRAYER CONCERNS: Carolyn Emme, Rick Loring (son of Dick Loring), Doug Nemeth (son of Dot & Zollie Nemeth), Jane Mertz, Barbara Lobe, Norman Adams (husband of Betty Adams), Ron Griffith, Sam Wang (cousin of Elite Law), Lynda Rodriguez (daughter of Bob Rodriguez), Mary Schick (friend of Linda Wanagas), Robb Murray, Joe DeCesare (friend of Joyce Scheyhing), Gary Graham (father of Brad Graham), Mary Kate Canal (sister of Brian O'Donnell), Joanne Doto (friend of Gail Van Dyke), Carol LaFon, Carolyn Kinnard, Deanne Czeiner, Marie Newman (friend of Doug Hamilton), Ken Kunzman (friend of Dick Loring), Jane Emely-Roach, Linda Albert, Steve Murray (brother of Bob Murray), Matt Fasbinder (friend of Mary Raroha), Mary Raroha, Tyler Wilson and parents Mark & Karleen (relatives of Linda Wanagas), Raelee and Janet Shaw (relatives of Pattie Gritzan), Carol Murphy (friend of Dick Loring and Greg Bryan), Stephen Moyer (grandson of Ragnhild Banes), Tom Bintliff (friend of Doug Hamilton), Steve Heller, Allan Estrin, Janet Brown (friend of Carol Taylor), MaryJane Harris (Niece of Bob Rodriguez), Marlene Bell Taylor (daughter of Zorada).

The Staff of First United Methodist Church

Richard Nichols, Senior Pastor Joan Flamini, Administrative Assistant
HeyYoung Horton, Associate Pastor Karen Halligan, Membership Secretary
Donna Banes, Interim Music Team Coordinator Devika Gill, Pre-School Director
Karen Murray, Director of Christian Ed. Doug Hamilton, Maintenance Coordinator
Kathy Clawges, Youth Director (CCLI License No. 782839)

Church Office Contacts

Phone: 856-235-0450 Fax: 856-235-2722
E-mail: church@meetwithGod.com Website: www.meetwithGod.com



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A WESLEY COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE

The Proclamation

The Confession

Pastor: We are those who seek to live as true disciples of Jesus Christ, but sometimes we fall short. Let us now examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins and submitting our hearts so that we do not deceive ourselves and cut ourselves away from God. Let us pray:

Congregation: Father God, You have set forth the way of life through Your Son Jesus Christ, whom You love dearly. We shamefully confess that we have been slow to learn of Him and have been reluctant to follow Him. You have spoken and called to us but we have not listened. You have revealed Your beauty to us, but we have been blind. You have stretched out Your hands to us through our friends, but we have passed by them. We have accepted Your gifts and offered little thanks. We are unworthy of Your unchanging love.

Pastor: We now confess to you our sins.
Please forgive us for the poverty of our worship...
for the selfishness of our prayers...
for our inconsistency and unbelief...
for the ways we neglect fellowship and Your grace...
for our hesitation to tell others about Christ....
for the ways we deceive others...

Congregation: Forgive us for when we waste time and when we misuse the gifts you have given us. Forgive us for when we have made excuses for the wrong things we have done and when we have purposefully avoided responsibility.

Pastor: Forgive us that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good and that we have not been ready to carry our cross. Forgive us that we have not allowed Your love to work through us to help others and that we have not made their suffering our own. Forgive us for those times when instead of working for unity we made it hard for others to live with us because of our lack of forgiveness, inconsiderate judgment, and quick criticism.

Congregation: Forgive us for when we have not tried to reconcile with others and when we have been slow to seek redemption.

Pastor: Forgive us also for these sins that we silently confess to you now...

Words of Assurance and Pardon

Pastor: God, the Father of all mercies, is faithful to cleanse us from our sins and restore us to Christ's image. Praise and glory be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.

The Invitation

Pastor: Let us gathered here before the Lord now in covenant commit ourselves to Christ as his servants. Let us give ourselves to Him so that we may fully belong to Him. Jesus Christ has left us with many services to be done. Some of these services are easy and honorable, but some are difficult and disgraceful. Some line up with our desires and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we please both Christ and ourselves, but then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.

The Covenant Prayer

Congregation: I am not my own. I am Yours alone. Make me into what You will. Rank me with those You will. Put me to use for You. Put me to suffering for You. Let me be employed for You. Let me be laid aside for You. Let me be lifted high for You. Let me be brought low for You. Let me be full or let me be empty. Let me have all things or let me have nothing. With a willing heart, I freely give everything to Your pleasure and disposal. Before all heaven and earth, I here and now acknowledge You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as my Lord and God. I vow to give all of myself, body and soul, to be Your servant and to serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.

Words to Guide us in our Covenant with God

Congregation: O God, You know that we have made this covenant today in sincerity, without deceit or reluctance. If You find anything false in us, guide us and help us to set it right. And now, glory be to your name. O mighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through Your infinite grace, have become Your covenant servant. You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. May this covenant that I have made here on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.