

A SERVICE *of* COVENANT RENEWAL

January 5, 2020
8:30 A.M. *and* 11 A.M.

Welcome to All

*All are invited to participate in any of our activities, and to become
a part of this community of faith and love.*

† Please stand as you are comfortable. **Bold** indicates congregational response.

GATHERING

WORDS *of* WELCOME

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

*Guests, friends, members, welcome to worship! We are glad you are here.
Please feel free to participate in ways that you feel led and comfortable or just
observe, if you prefer. We welcome your presence among us.*

INTROIT

CALL *to* WORSHIP

Pastor Lane

This covenant I advise you to make, not only in heart, but in word; not only in word, but in writing; and that you would with all possible reverence spread the writing before the Lord, as if you would present it to him as your act and deed: and when you have done this, set your hand to it: keep it as a memorial of the solemn transactions that have passed between God and you, that you may have recourse to it in doubts and temptations.

OPENING 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 of our hearts. Therefore, by the call of your gospel, we come now, without reluctance, to submit ourselves to your mercy.

† OPENING HYMN

A Charge to Keep I Have

UMH 413

WE CONFIDE IN GOD

COVENANT LITANY

Having a full, life-giving relationship with God means putting away our idols, and being against that which God is against. Therefore, renounce those things from the bottom of your hearts, and in full covenant, use all the means that you know to refuse sin and corruption in your lives.

O God, though we once were of the world, we now resign our hearts to you, humbly bowing before your majesty, with firm resolution in our hearts.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Dear Jesus, In Whose Life I See

**Dear Jesus, in whose life I see
all that I would, but fail to be,
let thy clear light forever shine,
to shame and guide this life of mine.**

UMH 468. vs. 1

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:1-14

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

WE COMPOSE OUR SPIRITS

PRAYER *of* CONFESSION *and* ASSURANCE *of* PARDON

O God, we wholeheartedly desire your grace, so that we might follow your call with resolve, forsake the world, turn away from sin, and turn to you. We will guard against all temptations, in good times and bad, lest they draw us away from you. We acknowledge our own powerlessness against such forces, and rely on your righteousness and strength.

(A time for silent prayer and confession)

God is boundless in mercy and great grace, and offers us again to be our God through Christ. Therefore we solemnly pledge ourselves to God, bowing before God's majesty.

We take you as our Lord Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We yield our whole selves, body and soul, for your service, promising and vowing to serve you in holiness and righteousness every day of our lives.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God. Amen.**

† SHARING *the* PEACE *and* LOVE *of* CHRIST

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Sarah Prevot

Parents may accompany their children to the altar if desired.

Ushers will pass out folders during the Children's Moment. Please register your attendance. If you have any joys or concerns please fill out a prayer card found in the left pocket of the folder and place it in the offering plate.

† HYMN *of* PREPARATION

Come Let Us Use the Grace Divine

UMH 606

WE CLAIM *the* COVENANT

SERMON

“Take It Off”

Pastor Lane

PRAYER *of* COMMITMENT

Since God has given Jesus as the only way to God, solemnly accept Jesus as the only new and living way, by which sinners may come to God. I call you to join in covenant with God.

(The congregation prays the following prayer in silence.)

O blessed Jesus, I come to you hungry, wretched, miserable, blind, and naked. I am tarnished by sin, and my uncleanness makes me unable to be in a relationship with you. But your love for me is unparalleled, so with all my heart I accept you, and take you to be my Lord, for richer and for poorer, for all times and conditions, to love, honor, and obey before all others, until my death. I embrace you in every way, renouncing my sinfulness, my wisdom, and my will, offering myself fully to you and taking your will to govern my life. And since you told me that I will suffer if I try to do this alone, I enter into a covenant with you, come what may. Your grace will assist me when I run into trouble, and I know that nothing in life or death will separate me from you.

THE WESLEY COVENANT PRAYER

UMH 607

Let us pray this covenant prayer in the Wesleyan tradition.

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 art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

**And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

OFFERING OUR TITHES *and* GIFTS *to* GOD

† DOXOLOGY

UMH 94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God,
all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

† THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 15

*(Our communion responses will be sung from
The United Methodist Hymnal, pages 17-18.)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The congregation is seated and the institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

SHARING *the* BREAD *and* CUP

- ♦ *All are welcome to partake in Holy Communion. Ushers will direct you forward.*
- ♦ *Communion will be served using the ancient means of "intinction." When broken bread is placed in your hand you may dip it lightly into the cup.*
- ♦ *Gluten-free communion is offered to anyone who desires it at the station in front of the pulpit.*
- ♦ *You are invited to stay at the chancel for prayer as long as you desire.*

Welcome to St. John's!

Welcome to worship! We are glad you've joined us and hope you feel at home here. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome.

Children of all ages are welcome in worship. However, if you or your child would prefer, nursery care is available in the Administration Building next door; an usher can escort you. Children's bulletins and sermon sacks are available from an usher.

Our ushers are happy to assist you in any way. Restrooms are in the Narthex.

Thank you for being here.

WE CHOOSE FAITHFULNESS

PRAYER of COMMITMENT

O God, Because you have been pleased to give your holy law as the rule of my life and the way I should walk in your kingdom, I willingly submit myself to you, set my shoulder to your burden, and subscribe in all your laws as holy, just, and good. I solemnly take them, as the rule of my words, thoughts, and actions, promising that though my flesh might contradict and rebel, I will try to order and govern my whole life according to your direction, and will not allow myself to neglect any of my duties to you. Now, Almighty God, searcher of hearts, you know that I make this covenant with you today without deceit or reservation, asking you, that if you see any flaw or falsehood in me, that you would reveal it to me and help to get right with you.

INVITATION to CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

We joyfully welcome all those who wish to become members of St. John's and invite you to come forward during the singing of the closing hymn.

✠ CLOSING HYMN

Jesus, United by Thy Grace

UMH 561

*During the singing of the hymn, we invite you to bring forward
The Shepherd's Market grocery bags*

✠ Litany of SENDING FORTH

And now, glory be to you, O God the Father.

From this day forward I look upon you as my God and Father, knowing that you are always looking for ways to recover sinners like me.

Glory be to you, O God the Son.

You have loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood, and you are my Savior and Redeemer.

Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit. By the power of your hand, you have turned my heart away from sin and back to you.

O holy and powerful God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are now my Covenant-Friend, and through your infinite grace, I am your Covenant-Servant. Amen. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

✠ POSTLUDE

*After the 8:30 service, all are invited to
the Family Life Center for refreshments.*

Announcements

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS CLEANUP

Renee Rodi is going to lead the Christmas cleanup in the sanctuary on **Monday, January 6** at 9:30. She is in need of willing hands and hearts to get it all put away. If you are available, please join us!

UMW RUTH CIRCLE

The UMW Ruth Circle will meet **Tuesday, January 7** at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. Pat Lively will present a program "Raise Your Light : Taking the Unexpected Path." All Women are invited to attend.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, January 5

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Group, FLC
- 6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Sanctuary

Monday, January 6

- 9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor
- 3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 3:00 p.m. Lectionary Ladies, Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, January 7

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, FLC
- 9:30 a.m. UMW Ruth Circle, Parlor
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Pastor's Office
- 2:00 p.m. Reading Connection, Library
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, Library
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, January 8

- 10:00 a.m. Spanish Class, Library
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies Covenant Group, FLC-A
- 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room
- 6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, Sanctuary

Thursday, January 9

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 10:00 a.m. Companions in Christ, Library
- 6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Opening Doors, Library
- 7:00 a.m. Boy Scouts, FLC

Friday, January 10

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Parlor
- 8:30 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, FLC
- 8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, Library

Saturday, January 11

- 8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, Piccadilly
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C

CONNECT WITH ST. JOHN'S

TEXTING: St. John's sends out timely reminders about church events via text message. Email the office (office@stjohnsbr.org) requesting that you be signed up for the texting service.

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER: Our Friday Newsletter keeps you up to date about all the happenings around St. John's, including worship information, special events, and service opportunities.

INSIDE ST. JOHN'S EMAIL: This new email is **in addition to** our Friday e-newsletter, and geared towards our active members and friends. It includes prayer requests, birthdays, anniversaries, celebrations, memorial and funeral announcements, and other St. John's family news.

*This email will **not** be sent to you unless you request it.* If you would like to receive this new weekly email, fill out the form that can be found in the Narthex or the hallway of the Admin Building; you may also contact Lynn in the church office at 225-766-4594 or office@stjohnsbr.org.

 Like us and check-in on Facebook: facebook.com/stjohnsbr

Give online: <http://bit.ly/stjohnsgive>

STEWARDS SERVING TODAY

- 8:30 a.m. Ushers: *Phil and Jill Slicker, Sandra Kuykendall, Paul Ivey*
- 11 a.m. Ushers: *Fran Anderson, Carrie de la Fuente, Will Halliburton, Jane Rassi*
- 8:30 a.m. Host: *Kathy King*; 11 a.m. Host: *Barbara Lively*

CHURCH STAFF

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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.

The Wesleyan Covenant Renewal

*January 5, 2020
8:30 and 11 a.m. Worship Services*

*We are a Christian community called
to share our gifts through worship, witness and service
so that others will know God and become disciples of Jesus Christ.*