



The First United Methodist Church of Delran

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Church Office hours are Tues & Thu, 9-4

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

January 5, 2025
Epiphany Sunday

Greeting and Announcements

***Opening Prayer**

***Song of Praise**

Goodness of God

Litany of Thanksgiving

Hymn

We Three Kings ~ UMH 254

Scripture Lesson *Matthew 2: 1-12*

Sermon Another Route

Prayer

Wesley's Covenant Service

Invitation

Covenant Prayer

Holy Communion

Offering

***Closing Song**

Great is Thy Faithfulness ~ UMH 140

***Dismissal With Blessing**

*Please stand as you are able.

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 a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for a 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New & Noteworthy

- **Dedicate A Day** Can you help out with our Children and Youth Ministries? If you're able, can you spend one Sunday in Sunday School with our younger children? Or could you spend one Sunday afternoon with the Youth Group? No prep, no pomp, just your presence. Talk to Libby about picking a day.
- **December Diaper Drive** We will be collecting diapers and wipes again this year for The Maker's Place in Trenton. All sizes are needed, especially the larger ones. Thanks..
- **Parents Night Out** On January 12th from 4-6pm, the Delran UMC Youth and adult chaperones will host an evening of pizza, games, and a movie for children in 5th grade and under so that parents can get a night off. The cost is whatever you would typically pay a babysitter, and the proceeds will go toward sending the Youth on their winter retreat. Sign up with [this link](#).
- **Pot Luck Luncheon** Sunday, February 2 from 11:30am-12:30pm
- **Sunday School Meeting** immediately following today's service in the parlor.

Worship God

- **In-Person Services** are in the Sanctuary on Sundays at 10AM. Nursery and Sunday school are available.
- **Online Services** - The service is live streamed from the Sanctuary at 10AM on the church [Facebook page](#).
- **Sunday Service Check-in:** [Complete this form](#) to record your in-person/online attendance for the service.
- **Giving Options:** Please place your offering in the offering box in-person, go to the [church website](#) to [Donate with Tithe.ly](#) or [Donate with PayPal](#), or mail your offering to the church.

Fellowship & Small Groups

- **Kid's Breakfast with Bob and Gus** every Sunday morning at 9:00am.
- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** with Pastor Michael at 9:00am.
- **Coffee Talk** Join with folks for coffee on Sunday mornings at 9:30am in the parlor. Enjoy a new discussion topic every week.
- **Youth Group Meeting** - Our Youth Group meets every Sunday at 1:30pm.
- **Ladies Bible Study** Mondays at 7:30pm on Zoom. Here is the [link](#).
- **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** continues every week in the church parlor at 10:30am.
- **Quilters** - Meet 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7pm in Son Shine Hall.
- **Thursday Evening Bible study** in person at the Blasewitz home, 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7pm.

Spiritual Growth & Prayer

- **Upper Room Devotionals** Paper copies are available in the Narthex.
- **Email Prayer Chain** Chris Verduin coordinates an email Prayer Chain for our church family. If you would like to be a part of this email chain, email the church office or VerduinChris@gmail.com

Reach Out in Love

- **Basin & Towel** are looking for donations of bar soap, shampoo and conditioner.
- **Altar Flowers** If you would like to purchase flowers for the Sunday Altar, sign up by filling out the information on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Regular flowers are \$13 per vase. Specialty arrangements can be ordered for a higher price. Questions? - talk to Katie Winner.
- **Prayer Quilt Requests:** Would you like to join the quilters? Or, if someone is in need of a prayer quilt, please contact Joyce Kelly - sajkelly@comcast.net.
- **Shop Rite Suzy** is alive and well. Our church makes a small income from your groceries when you purchase Shop Rite gift cards to shop with. You can purchase these gift cards at the church office T-Th 9-2 or after church every Sunday.

Prayer Guide

Follow the acronym P.R.A.Y.

P = Praise God / Thank God

Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together. Psalm 34:3

R = Repent / Confess

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

A = Ask / Ask Big, Ask Boldly, Ask Persistently

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Luke 11:9-10

Y = Yield / Surrender to God's good will

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10

Current Prayer Concerns

Those with ongoing health concerns: June John; Meghan Winner, Bill Fink

Cyndi's sister's father in law has cancer. Prayers for end of life issues.

Continued prayers for Constantine, he has a long road to go

Prayers for Lester. Moving back to rehab so he is getting better.

Prayers Mary gets better quickly. This is her 3rd round with covid.

One of our church family is waiting on results from a PET scan. Please pray for comfort and complete healing. They want to remain anonymous.

Please pray for the family of Elaine Travis, she has gone to be with the Lord.

Prayers for Terri as she continues to heal from her surgery.

Travel mercies for Danielle Melvin, flying home tomorrow to be with her mom Marianne. Marianne will be having exploratory surgery to see why her liver is so inflamed.

Current Prayer Concerns Cont'd

Christy Lynch fell out of bed and hurt her back. Prayers for healing.

Sharon asked for prayers for her husband Bill. He has an endoscopy this week so biopsy a spot on his stomach.

Lynn asked for prayers for a friend of theirs named Jack. Dealing with health issues and he just had a stroke. Prayers he gets better.

*Prayer concerns are listed for 3 weeks.

FEEDING 5000

MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE - POSSIBLE



The First United Methodist Church of Delran

loving God, serving others,
touching lives with the love of Jesus by:

Glorifying God through public and private worship.

Making new disciples for Jesus Christ by witnessing to
others about God's amazing grace through word and
action.

Growing in spiritual maturity through training and
equipping opportunities.

Reaching out to others in need; beginning with our
community and moving out across the entire world.

Making a difference in the lives of all for whom Jesus died.

Staff:

Rev. Michael Smith, Pastor
Brian Bacon, Music Director
Destiny Schultz, Nursery Coordinator
Libby Hickok, Education Coordinator
Mandy Cavanaugh, Administrative Assistant

COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE

OPENING 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.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: 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.

ALL: We praise your holy name, O God.

Leader: 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.

ALL: We praise your holy name, O God.

Leader: 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.

ALL: We praise your holy name, O God.

Leader: 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.

ALL: We praise your holy name, O God.

Leader: 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.

ALL: We praise your holy name, O God.

PRAYER

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, so that it might last forever. On the one side, God promises to give us new life in Christ, the Source and Perfecter 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.

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:

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.

Leader: 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

ALL: 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.

Leader: God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

ALL: 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.

Leader: Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again if you would let him.

ALL: 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.

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

ALL: 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.

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: God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

ALL: 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.

Leader: The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

ALL: 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. 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.