

Wesley United Methodist Church – Bloomington, Illinois
Ready for Anything
January 3, 2021
John Wesley Covenant Renewal Service

Greeting

Hymn UMH #606 *Come Let Us Use the Grace Divine*

Children's Time

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.**

(David Tripp, England, 20th Cent.)

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.
We praise your holy name, O God.

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.
We praise your holy name, O 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.
We praise your holy name, O God.

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.
We praise your holy name, O God.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.

Invitation to and Blessing of the Offering

New Testament Reading

Philippians 4:10-13

¹⁰ I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. ¹² I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Sermon

Ready for Anything
Rev. Vaughn Hoffman

Service of Covenant Renewal

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 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,
On the first Sunday of the new year,
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 easy, others are difficult.
Some bring honor, others bring reproach.
Some are suitable to our natural inclinations and desires,
others are contrary to both.
In some decisions we may please Christ and please ourselves.
In others, we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.
It is altogether fitting then, that we pause on this first Sunday of the new year, and offer
anew our commitment to be servants of Christ. Let us pray:

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, Thou are mine and I am Thine. So be it, and may the covenant I make this day be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Special Music

Be Thou My Vision & Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Vaughn Hoffman, guitar

Announcements

Benediction

Worship Participants
Reverend Vaughn Hoffman
Reverend Sara L. Isbell, Liturgist
Kathi Pritts, Children's Time
Ellen Hagen, Pianist
Ron Jones, Hymn Singer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to retired Pastor Vaughn Hoffman for his worship leadership this morning.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 – BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Join us as we renew our baptism vows and celebrate the baptisms of others. Be sure to have a bowl of water ready to symbolize and remember your own baptism.

PAINT THE TOWN WESLEY: ALL - CHURCH WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM

Wesley UMC is finding new ways to do ministry during Phase 4 of COVID-19. Please plan to join us every Wednesday evening this fall for "Paint the Town WESLEY."

Wednesday, January 6 – CHALK YOUR DOOR

January 6 is Epiphany –the day we remember the visit of the Wise Men to the Christ Child. But this year we can do more than just “remember”; we can welcome the wisemen ourselves and ask God’s blessing upon our own homes for 2021! Find a piece of chalk and plan to join us in an European tradition: marking our doorways in the new year! This event will be the Wednesday daily devotion – a link can be found on our website, www.wesleyumc.com .

LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS – LOVING OUR CHURCH STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Thank you, Wesley Church, for your faithfulness and generosity in our 2021 Stewardship Appeal! We are humbly grateful for your generosity at such a time as this.

Financial faith commitments for 2021 are still needed, and we encourage every Wesley member to be a part of assuring the love of Wesley Church in the coming year. If you need a card mailed to you, let us know; we'll be happy to send it. Every gift, no matter how large or small, is a sign of our gratitude for God's generosity, and a promise to Love God – Love Neighbor – Love You through Wesley Church.

Commitment cards may be submitted in any of the following ways:

1. Mail your commitment card to 502 E. Front St., Bloomington IL 61701
2. Use the electronic commitment card found at here (<https://www.wesley-umc.com/2020/10/2021-commitment-card/>)
3. E-mail our Business Manager, Myrna Simpson at msimpson@wesley-umc.com
4. Drop off the commitment card in a sealed envelope at the church Monday – Friday, 9am-3 pm

WESLEY DISTRIBUTION MINISTRY NEEDS

The following items are needed for the monthly paper goods distribution:

- Diapers – sizes: newborn, 4, 5, 6
- Diaper wipes
- Facial tissues
- Depends
- Feminine hygiene items
- Toilet paper
- Paper Towels
- Scarves
- Ear warmers

You may drop off the items in the collection box located at the entrance door of Wesley West at any time, Monday - Friday. Monetary donations are welcome! CLICK HERE

(<https://www.wesley-umc.com/give/>) to give online (be sure to note WDM in the memo) OR mail to the church at: 502 E. Front Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

SHARING OUR LOVE WITH AREA HEALTHCARE WORKERS

As a member of the Carle BroMenn Delegate Church Association, we have a great opportunity to participate in a *card shower* to show our appreciation, support, and encouragement to the entire Carle BroMenn staff. Please write a card or two (or more) to express appreciation to those who have gone above and beyond during this difficult time. **The completed cards should be delivered to the Unitarian Universalist Church at 1613 E Emerson, Bloomington. A collection container can be found at the front of the Church.**

Items to consider:

1. Cards do not need to be holiday related or individually addressed.
2. Please sign the card and include Wesley UMC.
3. Individually wrapped treats or gift cards are always appreciated.

JANUARY JUST ONE COLLECTION FOR CARLE BROMENN COMPASSION CLOSET

Church & Society Committee has selected the Compassion Closet at Carle BroMenn Hospital as the January *Just One* Project.

When accident victims are ready to be released, they frequently do not have anything to wear. The Compassion Closet collects and provides sweat clothes to meet this need.

Current needs: New Adult sweatpants & sweatshirts – sizes small, medium, large
Monetary gifts are also accepted – please be sure to mark your donation with the notation: *Just One Project*.

Donations can be dropped off during the month of January in the collection box that can be found outside the East entry of the church on Tuesdays, 10 am – 2 pm and Thursdays, 2 pm – 6 pm.

IS GRIEF GETTING TO YOU? GRIEF SHARE CONTINUES THROUGH MARCH

The year 2020 has been tough so far. Most of us feel we have lost much of what we took for granted and counted on: family get-togethers, social events, communal worship – not to mention school, jobs, income – and, of course, the lives and health of people we love. Most of us are carrying grief. **GriefShare** is a grief support group hosted by church groups of all denominations. It is led by a trained facilitator, and includes video and small-group discussion.

Cornell UMC in Cornell IL will be offering weekly GriefShare sessions starting Tuesday, Dec. 1, continuing through March 2. United Methodists of any congregation are welcome to participate. For more information, contact Darcy Woodburn at cornellumc@gmail.com, or click [Cornell United Methodist Church group - GriefShare](#) to register. All sessions are free.