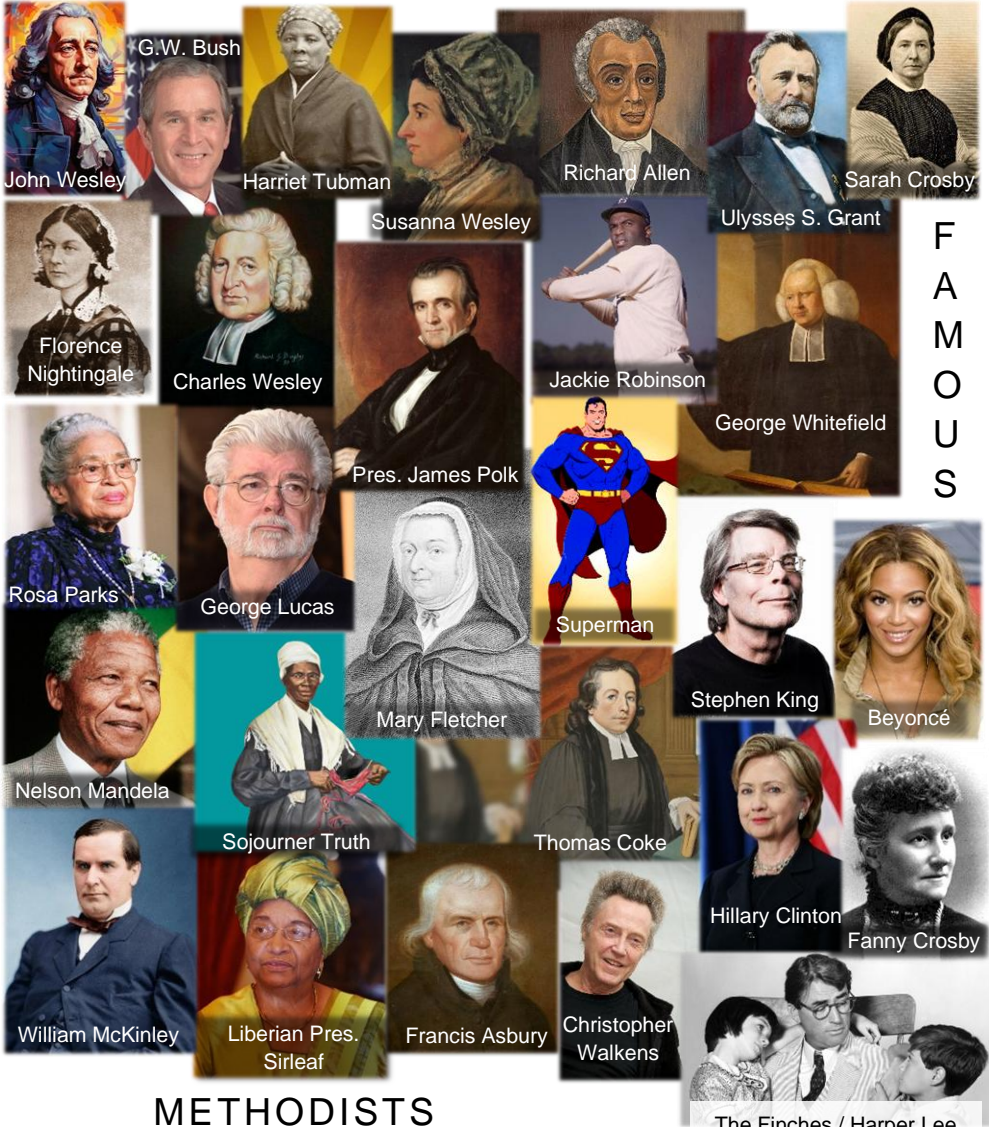


WESLEY'S COVENANT RENEWAL

Sunday, January 26th, 2025 ~ 10:00 AM



The Rev. Caleb McGregor, *Pastor*



Leo T., *Lay Leader*
 Sue M., *Accompanist*
 Colby G., *Media Technician*
 Matt B., *Liturgist*
 Candy P.-T., *Greeter*
 Mike H., *Usher*
 Sue T., *Guest Relations*

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

"My fear is that my Methodists will become content to live without the fire, the power, the excitement, the spirit that makes us great." –*The Rev. John Wesley*
"Religion is not confined to the church or in moments of prayer & meditation, but whenever and wherever I am in God's presence." –*Susanna Wesley*
"Fear has to do with punishment, whoever fears has not been perfected in love." –*1 Jn 4:18*

Please silence your mobile devices. Thank you!

L – Liturgist / M – Minister / **P – People** / † - words are on the TVs / * – stand in body or spirit
UMH – *The United Methodist Hymnal* TFWS – *The Faith We Sing*

(1) *The Body of Christ gathers to worship God!*

WORDS OF WELCOME
FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

GIVE



†*HYMN OF PRAISE: *Peace Be to This Congregation* screen

(2) *We listen to what God is saying to us!*

OPENING PRAYER (ADORATION & ILLUMINATION)

YOUNG-AT-HEART

SCRIPTURE *Psalm 90 (sung) / *Luke 5:1-11* ("*Jesus the Light*")

SERMON ***Being a Fisher for All (I Mean 'All')***

(3) *We respond to what God is saying to us!*

WESLEY'S COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE see insert

SHARING OF CONCERNS, with Prayers of the People

(4) *We prepare to leave and be doers of God's Word!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS & GOD-SIGHTINGS

†*HYMN OF MISSION: *Wesley's Rule of Life* screen

*CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

*A BLESSING AND GOING FORTH

(You are invited to place any offerings in the **Offering Box** as you leave the sanctuary; you may also give online at **peumc.org/donate** or use the **QR Code** in this bulletin.)

Prayer List:

Pray for these members throughout January:

Sandy & Helmuth Mable

116 4th Street
N., WI 54457

1175 Blue Iris Ct, #307
W.R., WI 54494

Rose

531 Griffith, Lot Z
W.R., WI 54494

Jef & Tom

3121 11th St. S.
W.R., WI 54494

Our Shut-Ins: Mabel J.; Jim H.; Mary & Ed H.; Chris L.; Lynn R.

Our Children: Addisyn, Brynlee, Eliza, Ella, Gabriel, Gabrielle, Gracie, Sawyer, and Symphony.

Our College Students: Michaela W.; Ethan B.; Danial H.; Carson P.;
Melanie & Lilyann S.

From 12/29: Prayers for **Jeff** who underwent emergency surgery yesterday (Dec. 28th) (Nina). JOY: Having our son & youngest daughter home for Christmas week, as well as all 5 of our grandsons! (Thomasgards). My cousin, **Debora Katz**, has completed all 33 of her radiation treatments and is well enough to visit her son and his family in February (Candy).

From 1/5: Prayers for the **family of Barbara Taylor** who passed away yesterday (Becky & Jeff T.); for the **people of New Orleans** after the New Years attack. JOY: Thanks & praise for the life, good works, and personhood of **President Jimmy Carter** (Leo).

From 1/12: Prayers for residents around Los Angeles and the firefighters fighting the **fires in S. California**; pray for **Jerry C.** whose wife, Carolyn, went to heaven yesterday (1/11, Diane).

From 1/19: Prayers for a friend, **Donna**, who fell and broke her shoulder, and a friend, **Ruth**, who is in ICU (Sue T.); for my cousin, **Barbara S.**, who died on Jan. 15th with graveside service held at Pine Grove Cemetery in Wausau in the spring of 2025 (Candy).

Daily Scripture Readings (based on Sunday's Scripture)

Monday (1/27): Isaiah 6:1-8

Tuesday (1/28): Lukw 5:12-16

Wednesday (1/29): Luke 5:17-26

Thursday (1/30): Philippians 2:1-11

Friday (1/31): Luke 5:27-32

Saturday (2/1): Luke 5:33-39

Sunday (2/2): Psalm 92 / Luke 6:1-16

Sermon Notes & Prayers from Today:



January-February Mission Project:

1. Collect money for Reconciling Ministries Network.
2. Collect cans of soup for FOCUS food pantry.



A Call to Discipleship:

(refer to this list throughout the week to keep you accountable!)

- Prayer theme:** for the power and conviction to see and change our life-draining, life-denying ways.
- Consider:** What really motivates people to change? Affirmations or criticism? How well can we speak the hard truth in love?
- Action:** Help someone work through their addiction or compulsions.
- I will invite these person(s) to church: _____
- I will visit/call these person(s) this week: _____
- Donate \$ _____ to a mission/charity/cause this week.
- Set aside \$ _____ for my church offering next week.
- Volunteer at Neighborhood Meals; food pantry; Meals on Wheels.
- Sign up as a greeter / usher / liturgist for a future service.
- Pray over the prayer list in this bulletin.
- Read a daily devotional, like the *Upper Room* (take a copy; it's free!)

SUNDAY SERVICES – 10A

TODAY - January 26th

WESLEY'S COVENANT SERVICE

(Scripture: Jesus Fishes for People)

February 2nd

"CANDLEMAS"

Communion

(Scripture: Jesus & Sabbath Rules)

February 9th

'Souperbowl Sunday'

(wear your favorite team colors)

G.R.A.C.E. Pulpit Exchange –

Rev. Margo Peterson of

Woodland Lutheran Church in

Rome will be preaching here.

Pastor Caleb will be preaching at W.R. Moravian Church.

(Scripture: Jesus Heals & Brings Life)

February 16th

BLACK HISTORY SUNDAY

(Scripture: Jesus vs. John)

February 23rd

(Scripture: A Woman Anoints Jesus)

March 2nd

Transfiguration Sunday

(Scripture: Jesus is Transfigured)

Wednesday, March 5th – 7p

Ash Wednesday Service (PEUMC)

March 9th

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

(Scripture: The Good Samaritan)

Wednesday, March 12th – 7p

COMBINED SERVICE W/ N.UCC (PEUMC)

NEW TEMP. OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday – Friday: 8:00a – 1:00p

Tuesdays: Closed

JIM H.'S NEW TEMP. ADDRESS

402 W. Lake Street, Room #504

Friendship, WI 53934 (Gunderson Moundview Hospital)

Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service

2025

Dear Friends, get these two principles fixed in thy hearts:

Firstly, that things **eternal**
art much more important than Things **temporal**.

Secondly, that things **not seen**
art as significant as the Things that **art seen**.

Therefore, choose'th Christ and His ways,
and thou art blessed forever!

Refuse, and thou art undone forever.

I beseech thee, dear friends,

to choose'th Christ, with His yoke, His cross, and His crown;
or else thou shalt have chosen wickedness,
with its wealth, its pleasure, and its curse.

Thou can'st sitteth on the fence forever. There is no in-between.

Make that choice today.

If thou choose'th the Crown, remember that on this day,
thou must be satisfied with the thorns of that Crown;
those being the service and sufferings of Christ.

If thou art so unresolved, thou art, in fact, resolved.

Thou hast made that decision in thine heart already.

If thou art so resolved, then sayeth with me,

“Today, I do so choose Christ!”

This being thy choosing, may it be so,
for thou hast chosen God for thy destiny and happiness.

Embark, now, with Christ. Go explore with the Holy Ghost.
Adventure thyself with God.

See what it is that Christ doth expect of thee,
and then yield'th thyself to His whole will.

Thou can'st compromise or make thine own terms;
that would never be allowed of thee.

Becoming aware of their sin and danger,
a sinner will look for help and deliverance
and will look everywhere else
before looking toward Christ.

Nothing will bring a sinner to Christ but absolute necessity –
when all other options have been exhausted.

They will try to forget and excuse their own sin as far as they can.

What shall you do then?

Thou must let thy sins go. Let thy self-righteousness go.

Christ came not to call the righteous,

but to bring sinners to repentance

and to seek and save those who know they are lost.

May it be so with thee this day!

“The Code of Conduct / The Three Simple Rules

I have provided a code of conduct for all the members

of our United Societies of Methodists

so that we can give an account of our obedience to the Lord.

Every member shall, each week, give their account of the past week

with a reply from the class leader to each in turn.

In our gathering today, we shall examine what I have called ‘th
our **Three Simple Rules for Methodists**.

With each rule are included examination questions I have gathered,

ones I have offered myself devotionally these past many years,

and of which I find to be most beneficial to the soul.

I desire that the leaders of each class use these to help one another

stay accountable.

Today, we affirm the spirit of each one.

#1: Do No Harm

- Have you been or seemed angry this week?
- Have you enjoyed the company of drunkards or busybodies this week?
- Have you taken the name of God in vain this week?
- Have you, this week, bought or sold hard liquors,
or drank them, unless prescribed by a physician?
- Have you bought or sold a slave in this past week?
- Have you fought, quarreled, brawled, gone to the law with a brother?
- Have you returned evil for evil, railing for railing?
- Have you had uncharitable or unprofitable conversation,
speaking evil of anyone or anything?
- Did you refrain from mentioning the fault of any behind their back?
- Did you stop those short that do?
- Have you done to another as you would not want them to do unto you?

- Did you do anything that you know is not for the glory of God?
- Did you put on gold and other costly apparel,
as to draw unnecessary and vain attention to yourself?
- Have you sung songs or read books which do not tend
to the increase of knowledge or love of God?
- Have you borrowed without a probability of repaying?
- Do you refrain from using needless self-indulgences
that affect your inward & outward body, unless prescribed by a physician?
- Are you working diligently to abolish all the sin in your life?

M: Please affirm this First Rule in each of your own voices:

**ALL: This is my vow: To do no harm and avoid evil of all kinds,
especially that which is most commonly practiced.**

#2: Do Good

*(of every possible sort and to all people,
as far as you have opportunity)*

- Did you begin and end every day this week with God?
- Were you attentive to your calling as a disciple?
- Did you employ all spare hours to religion, as able?
- Did you observe all the holy days since we last met?
- Did you examine yourself and your day every night before resting your head?
- Did you ever pass a day without setting aside at least an hour for devotion?
- Did you begin every action in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost?
- Did you begin every important work with prayer?
- Whenever you did an action,
did you consider how God did or would do the like, and do you imitate that?
- Were you honest in both your buying and selling?
- Did you contribute or donate things from your possession,
and that to the uttermost of your power?
- Have you fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited or help them that are sick
or in prison since we last met?
- Have you instructed the souls of others on the good doctrines of the Church
and the divine laws of God?
- Have you shared the Good News of the gospel of Jesus Christ to any poor soul
whom you have greeted?
- Do you have patterns of diligence & frugality, of self-denial, and taking up the
cross daily?

M: Please affirm this Second Rule from your own mouth:

**ALL: This is my vow: To do good of every possible sort
to all people, as far as I have opportunity.**

#3: Stay in Love with God

- Do you continue your vow to be at church and at the Lord's Table every week and at every gathering of the Society, and meetings of your class & band group?
- Is your worship heartfelt and genuine?
- Do you use private prayer every day, and family prayer, as able?
- Do you stretch yourself through your prayers as to leave no stone unturned?
- Do you read the Scriptures, and meditate therein, at every vacant hour?
- Do you observe, as days of fasting or abstinence, all Fridays in the year?

M: Please affirm this Third Rule with the sounds of your own lips:

ALL: This is my vow: To stay in love with God

by committing myself to God's People and their holy habits.

THE COMMITMENT & COVENANT

(PLEASE KNEEL OR LEAN FORWARD IN YOUR PEW)

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

**P: From the bottom of my heart, I renounce all my idols,
praying that no known sin shall be allowed in my life.**

M: God wants to guide your life; but will you allow it?

**P: Today, before all Heaven and Earth,
I acknowledge God as my Merciful Maker.**

**I take You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my destiny,
to serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.**

*M: God has given the Lord Jesus Christ
as the primary means of returning to God.*

**P: Jesus, my Savior, on bended knees,
I do renew my acceptance of You
as the Way that leads to Life.**

**I come to You, here, to accept You as Master to my soul.
I renounce my own merit, my own wisdom, my own will.**

M: Christ has told you that you must suffer with Him.

**P: I shall take my fate from You as it may fall,
for nothing, neither life nor death, shall part me from You.**

*M: Christ has offered you His teachings and duties
as the Rule for your life.*

**P: I take them now as the Rule for my words and actions,
promising to strive to order my whole life
according to Your direction.**

M: The Holy Spirit already searches and knows your heart.

**P: If any falsehood should be in my heart,
guide me and help me to set it right.**

In so giving yourselves to the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
you are affirming that you will be content
with the work to which God has appointed you.

Christ has many services to be done for the Kingdom;
some more easy and honorable, others more difficult and humble.

Some duties are more pleasing than others.

But in all, God ordains that the work to be unescapably crucial
for the transformation of our world.

WESLEY'S COVENANT PRAYER:

Lord, make me what You will, on Your terms, not mine.

Let me be Your servant, under Your command.

I will no longer be my own.

I will give myself over to Your will in all things.

I put myself fully into Your hands.

**Make me what You will; send me where You will;
and set me with whom You will.**

Put me to doing, put me to *suffering, **waiting*

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.

**Let me be a vessel made of silver or gold, or of wood or stone,
just so that I'm a vessel of Your honor.**

Whether higher or lower, refined or raw, I am content.

Wherever You choose me to go or stay, may I be of service.

I freely and heartily

give it all to Your pleasure and disposal.

**O Mighty God, Lord Omnipotent, Eternal Jehovah,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:**

You have now become my Covenant-Friend.

And I, through Your infinite grace,

have become Your Covenant-Disciple.

So be it today!

**And let this covenant I have made here on earth
be ratified in heaven.**

In the name of Christ Jesus: AMEN!

*Make this covenant not only in your hearts & minds, but in word;
not only in word, but in writing.*

*Sign below. Do so reverently, spreading out your name
before the Lord, presenting it as a sign of your vow.*

*Keep this as a reminder of the holy agreement between God &
you,
a baptismal transaction that has passed between God & you,
that you may remember it during times of doubts & temptations.*

*With reverence,
I present my name below
as a sign of my covenant renewal to You,
God Almighty:*

SIGNED ON THIS THE TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF THE MONTH OF JANUARY
IN THE TWO-THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR OF OUR LORD.

A Reflection and Critique of Wesley's Covenant Prayer

by Rev. Jeremy Smith, published December 29th, 2016

It is clearly commendable to begin the year with renewed commitment and dedication regardless of what the future may have in store. But taken at face value, Wesley's Covenant Prayer strongly implies that our misfortunes may arise at the divine behest of God. (*'Put me to what thou wilt; put me to suffering.'*) What would we suggest to a friend in distress or to someone entrusted to us for counselling? That our troubles are ordained by God? I hope not. Rather, our conviction is that God is our Comforter in time of trouble rather than the Author of life's woes. In my opinion, this whole prayer smacks a bit of "everything that happens is God's will and we should give ourselves over to it." In other words, "everything happens for a reason."

As a colleague wrote to me on this topic: *"I don't think God gives people cancer or puts people in car accidents or makes them not get on the plane that eventually crashes."*

I wonder if the ancient language could be revised, and the theology tweaked to better bring Wesleyanism again to a generation and context that needs a robust counter to Purpose-Driven Best-Life-Now Lifeway theology.

WESLEY'S COVENANT PRAYER, *REVISED BY JEREMY SMITH*

**I am not my own self-made, self-reliant human being.
In truth, O God, I am Yours and You are mine.
Make me into what You will. Place me where You want.
Make me a neighbor with those whom You will.
Guide me on the easy path for You.
Guide me on the rocky road for You.
Whether I am to step up for You or step aside for You;
whether I am to be lifted high for You or brought low for You;
whether I become full or empty, with all things or with nothing;
I give all that I have and all that I am for You.
So be it.
And may I always remember that You, O Glorious God, and I,
belong to each other: AMEN!**

In response to Rev. Smith's post, Rev. Jeni Markham Clewell, on December 29th, 2016, wrote this prayer:

**I am beautifully and wonderfully made,
and I am grateful to my Creator.**

You, Holy One, know my name, because You gifted me life.

In thanksgiving and praise,

I will claim the gift of life and grace,

**living in word and action to make the world a better place,
a more peaceful community.**

I believe there will be times

when this path is wondrous and easy;

I believe there will be times when this path is crazy hard.

**Give me courage, no matter which it is, to be faithful,
even when I am afraid.**

Give me strength,

even when I feel like running away or giving up.

With all that I have and all that I am,

I believe that I am Yours,

Source of Life and Light.

And I believe You are mine: AMEN!

On December 29th, 2016, Glen Connoley, commented, placing Wesley's original Prayer into perspective:

"To me, the whole tone of Wesley's Prayer was always from the point of view of one who was a mature disciple in Christ, having turned over their very life and self so that God's glory can be revealed [through all our various circumstances, and] in whatever way God needed it to be."