

# **New Life United Methodist Church**

**January 2, 2022**

Sunday School, 9:30 am

Worship, 10:30 am

## **COVENANT**

A formal,  
solemn  
agreement  
between two  
parties

Today's service is being streamed live  
on Facebook and recorded to be  
available on YouTube

Nursery is available for children under 3 years old

Please see an usher if you need assistance

Church: 317-835-2757

Parsonage: 317-835-8463

New Life Web Site: [www.new-lifeumc.org](http://www.new-lifeumc.org)

Email address for newsletter items:

[new\\_lifenews@yahoo.com](mailto:new_lifenews@yahoo.com)

**Welcome and Passing of the Peace**      Pastor Jolita

**Greetings and Opportunities**

**Joys**

**\*Introit** ..... *“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”* ..... UMH #334

In 1775, John Wesley introduced a covenant service as an important part of spiritual life in the Methodist Societies. This renewal service was a time for the Methodists to gather annually in a time of self-examination, reflection, and dedication, wholly giving up themselves and renewing covenant with God. Repentance through confession and commitment was a key focus of the service, demanding humility from those willing to submit themselves to the dynamic words stated within the liturgy.

**\*The Greeting**

**PASTOR:**    Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations

**PEOPLE:**    **You are the one true God who reigns forever.**

**\*Opening Hymn** ..... *“Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine”*  
UMH #606; Tune UMH #696

**\*Opening Prayer**

**PASTOR:**    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.

**\*Apostle’s Creed (Ecumenical Version)**

**PEOPLE:** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Presentation of tithes and offerings^^**

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer**

**\*\*Children's Message**

*Children ages 3 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade will be dismissed to attend Junior Worship*

**Prayer Song** ..... *“Cares Chorus”*

**Prayer**

**Scripture** 2 Kings 23:1-3 (ESV); Psalm 50:14-15; \*John 15:1-8

**Message** ..... Pastor Jolita

*“Covenant Renewal”*

**Song** ..... *“Create in Me a Clean Heart”*

**The Proclamation**

LITURGIST: Dearly loved brothers and sisters, the Christian life is a life found in Christ, redeemed from sin, and consecrated to God. We are those who have entered into this life and have been admitted into the new covenant of Jesus Christ. He is the Mediator of this covenant. He sealed it with His own blood so it would last forever.

On one side of this covenant stands God, who promises to give us new life in Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith. Every day God proves His goodness and grace to us, showing us that His promise still stands firm.

On the other side, we stand as those who promise to no longer live life for ourselves but instead to only live for Jesus Christ because He has loved us and given His life for us.

There are times in our lives when it is important for us to remember and reaffirm our promises and vows. In this same way, we come today to renew our covenant with God. Many generations have done this before us. Today we make the covenant our own, renewing with both joy and sincerity the covenant that binds us all to God.

## **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:

**PEOPLE:** **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...

**PEOPLE:** **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.

**PEOPLE:** **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**

**LITURGIST:** 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. 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. Jesus Christ, we offer You this prayer:

**People:** **Let me be Your servant. Let me follow your commands. I will no longer follow my own desires. I give myself completely to your will.**

**LITURGIST:** The power and strength to live as true servants is given to us in Christ. We accept the place and work that He gives us, acknowledging that He alone will be our reward.

**People:** **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.**

**PASTOR:** Christ is Savior to those who are His true servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. To be His servant is to consent fully to His will. Christ accepts nothing less. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

Now confirm this truth in holy covenant. Make it a reality in your life in these three ways:

First, set apart time in your day, more than once, to be spent alone with the Lord. Seek to perceive God's special care for you and gracious acceptance of you. Carefully think through the words of this covenant and its conditions. Examine your heart, even if you have freely given your life to Christ. Name the sins in your life. Reflect on whether you are willing to choose Christ's holy laws and strict commands. Be sure you are clear in all of these so you do not lie to God!

Second, uphold a serious spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant. Do not trust in your own strength and power but rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength. In this way, He will empower you to keep your promise.

Fourth, be determined to be faithful. You have given your heart and life to God. You have opened your mouth to dedicate yourself to the Lord. With God's power, never go back to your former way of living.

And last, be prepared to renew your covenant with God. Humble yourself. Lift your hands. Open your hearts.

### **The Covenant Prayer**

PASTOR: Let us pray together:

**PEOPLE**: **My righteous God, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, see me now as I fall down before You. Forgive my unfaithfulness when I have not done your will. You promise mercy if I turn to You with my whole heart.**

PASTOR: God requires that you rid yourself of every idol in your life.

**PEOPLE**: **From the bottom of my heart, I here and now renounce every idol in my life, covenanting with You that I will not commit any known sin. By turning against Your will I have turned my love toward the world. In Your power I will watch for any temptation that will lead me away from You.**

PASTOR: Through Jesus Christ, God offers to be your God again, if you allow Him to be.

**PEOPLE**: **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.**

PASTOR: Jesus Christ is the only way and means to God. God has given us Jesus as the way and means to salvation.

**PEOPLE**: **Jesus, I here and now accept You and the only new and living Way. I join myself in covenant with You. I come to You hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of Your servants. With all my power, I accept You as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own unworthiness, 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.**

PASTOR: Christ has told you that you must suffer for His sake.

**PEOPLE**: **Jesus, I here and now make this covenant with You and accept whatever comes in life. Through Your grace I promise that neither life nor death will separate me from You.**

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

**PEOPLE:** I here and now willingly take on Your yoke and burden. All Your laws are holy, just, and good. I accept them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising I will strive to order my whole life around your direction. I will not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.

**PASTOR:** The Almighty God searches and knows you, even the thoughts of your heart.

**PEOPLE:** 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 You, God the Father. From this day forward, I shall look upon You as my God and Father. Glory be to You, God the Son. You have loved me and washed me from my sins in Your own blood. From this day forward, I shall look upon You as my Savior and Redeemer. Glory be to You, O God the Holy Spirit. By Your almighty power, You have turned my heart from sin to God. From this day forward I shall look upon You as my Comforter and Guide. 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.

**\*Closing Hymn ..... “I Am Thine, O Lord” ..... UMH #419**

**\*Dismissal with Blessing**

**PASTOR:** May our God, who establishes covenant relationship with those who seek to enter the Kingdom, be with you always. May Jesus Christ, who seals the new covenant with his blood on the cross, bring you peace. May the Holy Spirit guide your life both now and for ever. Go in peace to serve the Lord!

**People: Amen.**

**\*Postlude**

\*Please stand if you are able

\*\*Today's service is being streamed live on Facebook and recorded to be available on YouTube

**^^Giving Options:** New Life UMC has PayPal available for an easy method to make donations to our church. The email address is [donate@new-lifeumc.org](mailto:donate@new-lifeumc.org). If you prefer to send a check to the church, mail it to New Life UMC, 6145 N 400 W, Fairland, IN 46126. Please don't mail cash to the church. Send your offering by check to the church or use PayPal. To designate part of your offering for a particular fund or purpose, make a note on PayPal or the memo line of your check.

### **This week @ New Life**

Every Day: Spend time with God; Exercise--Walk with God

Today: Sunday School, 9:30 am; Worship 10:30 am (nursery attendant available), streamed live on Facebook (technology permitting); on YouTube later; Bible study for moms of young children, following worship, lunch provided; study book is From Grouchy to Great: Finding Joy in the Journey of Motherhood; Bible discussion, 6 pm

Tuesday: LIFE groups, 6:30 pm

Friday: Hope Seekers LIFE group, 3 pm

Next Sunday: Sunday School, 9:30 am; Worship 10:30 am (nursery attendant available), streamed live on Facebook (technology permitting); on YouTube later; Youth, 6 pm

Looking Ahead: Sunday, January 16, following worship—Review the Journey through Bethlehem; bring your thoughts and ideas; lunch provided

#### **Bible Reading for This Week:**

Today—1 Samuel 12                      Mon., 1/3/22—1 Sam. 13

Tues., 1/4/22—1 Sam. 14                Wed., 1/5/22—1 Sam. 15

Thurs., 1/6/22—John 8                  Fri., 1/7/22—John 9

Sat., 1/8/22—John 10                    Sun., 1/9/22—John 11

There is still time to turn in your Rural King receipts dated December 9-24, 2021. Put them in the envelope on the bulletin board by the water fountain.



## Annual Pizza Fundraiser by New Life UMC Cancer Committee

The Cancer Committee will be making pizzas on Saturday, February 5, 2022, for our annual fundraiser. Grab some tasty pizzas for your Super Bowl parties or for a quick family dinner as they freeze well!

ALL PIZZAS are 14 inches. Italian Subs come with 2 - 12" loaves of bread.

**Orders are due by Sunday, January 30, 2022.**

Orders will be ready for pick-up on Saturday, February 5, 2022, 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM at New Life UMC 6145 N 400 W, Fairland, IN 46126.  
(Pizzas must be picked up at this time due to limited storage space.)

Order forms can be picked up from James Meyer & Stephanie Joest or

**\*\*NEW THIS YEAR\*\* ONLINE ORDERING AND PAYMENT at:**

<https://forms.gle/wbPWvAUMrKwPzqDN7>

Questions? Contact Stephanie Joest [317-402-7557](tel:317-402-7557)

PIZZAS NOT YOUR THING? Donate directly to the New Life UMC Cancer Fund on PayPal [donate@new-lifeumc.org](mailto:donate@new-lifeumc.org) or by mailing a check to New Life UMC 6145 N 400 W, Fairland, IN 46126 (memo: Cancer Committee)

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In accordance with IRS guidelines, New Life Financial Secretary Debbie Pennington has been preparing a receipt when anyone gives \$250 or more in one donation. She will distribute those receipts in January 2022.

If you would like a statement of your total financial giving to New Life in 2021, please complete this form and put it in the offering plate, hand it to Debbie Pennington, or mail it to her (her address is in the most recent New Life directory or send it to New Life with her name at the top of the address).

I would like a statement of my financial donations to New Life United Methodist Church during 2021.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_