

Highlands United Methodist Church
Wesley Covenant Renewal Service
December 31, 2017
9:09am

Welcome

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.**

Music *"I Saw the Light"*
"Give Me That Old Time Religion"

Announcements/Joy Time

A Time to Offer our Gifts to God

A Time to Share our Concerns at the Cross

Music *"Standing on the Promises"*

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 of 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 every 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.

Scripture Lessons

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
1 Peter 1:3-25
John 15:1-8

PROCLAMATION

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 for ever.

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 Lords' 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.

WESLEY'S COVENANT SERVICE

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:

**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.**
Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.

**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.**

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 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

**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.**

God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

**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.**

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

**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.**

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

**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.**

Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

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.

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

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.

The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

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 heart be ratified in heaven.
Amen.

Name _____

Date _____

Music "Victory in Jesus"

Sending Forth

Closing Music "I'll Fly Away"

Ministry Bags

For the month of **December** we're collecting: canned tuna, chicken, & salmon, spaghetti sauce, dry pasta, macaroni & cheese, canned green beans, and canned corn for the **Emergency Council**.

Facebook Live ~ Can't make it to church on a Sunday? You can now watch our worship services each Sunday on Facebook. Any questions just call the church office.

Birthday Wishes to (December 31) Cynthia Berg, Samantha Moore; (January 1) Alli Bolt, Jeannie Edwards; (January 2) Jim Kay, Bill McMillan; (January 4) Joanne Oliver; (January 5) Anna Griffin

2018 Disciple Bible Study ~ HUMC is offering two great opportunities to engage in meaningful Bible Study beginning in January. Disciple Bible Study I (Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study) and Disciple Bible Study II (Into the Word, Into the World). To sign up, or for more information, please email Pastor Randy at randyhumc@icloud.com by January 7th, 2018.

Children's News

3,4,5 Wednesday Gang ~ 3rd, 4th, & 5th Gang meet on Wednesday nights after supper from 6-7pm and are taught by Amanda Wasco. Bring your 3rd-5th graders for dynamic, biblically-based activities and instruction!

A Nursery is provided Sunday mornings for children birth- through 4 years of age starting at 9:00am downstairs. Please see an usher or greeter for help locating the nursery.

Youth News

Youth Sunday School!!!! from 10:00-10:45. Come Join us!!!!

The youth meet each Wednesday night from 6-7. Everyone's invited to come to dinner before youth at 5:15!

Happy Anniversary to (December 31) Dennis & Nancy Ostema; (January 1) Tim & Ginger Moseley, Gene & Gloria Smith

Family Night Supper on Wednesday this week will be a covered dish meal. Please bring a side dish or dessert. The church will provide the meat.

The Altar Flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given in memory of Clark & Doris Picklesimer by Ronnie & Terri Crowe and Greg & Jeanne Picklesimer & family.

HUMC 2018 Church Leadership Retreat

A Church Leadership Retreat has been scheduled for Saturday, February 3rd from 10am - 4pm at the Pinnacle Retreat Center in Clayton, Georgia. This planning retreat is designed for all members of the Church Council, SPRC, Finance, Trustees, Ministries Team, and anyone else interested in joining in this time of strategic planning and visioning together. Since the Retreat Center will be providing our lunch, we need to supply them with an accurate number of attendees. If you plan to attend, please contact Sonja in the church office at (828) 526-3376, or at highlandsumc@icloud.com by Friday, January 26th.

January Office Schedule

The church office will be closed January 1st and 2nd.
January 8th the office will be closed for a Staff Planning Retreat.
January 15th the office will be closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

On Wednesday following supper this week...

Jennifer Forrester and Fred Motz will lead a study on the Lectionary Text.

Church Staff: Rev. Randy Lucas, Senior Pastor; Rev. Jennifer Forrester, Assistant Pastor, Les Scott, Minister of Music; Sonja DeFoor, Office Manager; Keith Crawford, Financial Secretary; Sherry Bruner, Pianist; Marlene & Gary Nix, Sextons; Ann Rose, Food Services Director; Terri Kennedy, Nursery Attendant; Rev. Tommie Jackson, Pastoral Psychotherapist

Parsonage (828) 526-2465 ~ e-mail addresses: Church: highlandsumc@icloud.com, Randy: randyhumc@icloud.com, Jennifer: humcjennifer@gmail.com, Les: les.h.scott@gmail.com, Keith Crawford: finsec13@gmail.com CCLI # 1455665

The 9:09 Service: Sermon: Randy Lucas; Worship Leader: Craig Eister; Greeter: Sandy Carlton

The 9:09 Band: Lee Ladensack - Vocals & guitar; Dakota Waddell - Bass; Charles Wood - Banjo; Jim Yoder - Mandolin

Let your Spirit
impress your
truth on our
inmost being.



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Highlands, North Carolina 28741
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Les Scott, Minister of Music
Randy Harry, District Superintendent
Paul Leeland, Bishop

