



First United Methodist Church

15 East 2nd Street, Greensburg PA 15601

A Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

Sunday, January 4, 2026 ♦ 10:00am

Our Mission: TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIM KNOWN

† Indicates a time to stand, if you are able.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Carol for the New Year ~Alfred Fedak

†OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

O God, You search every heart. You have made us Your people and claimed us as Your own. As we come to recognize Your authority and Your grace, and as we enter this covenant with You again, show us anything within us that is hesitant or untrue. Let Your Spirit write Your truth deep within us, and receive us with mercy through Jesus Christ, our Mediator, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

†HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

UMH 117

READING of the WORD

Psalms 50:1-6 ^{NRSV}

The Word Of God For The People Of God.

Thanks Be To God!

MINISTRY in MUSIC

The Gate of the Year ~John Butler

Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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!

MINISTRY in MUSIC

Psalms 147 ~James Narés

Chancel Chanters

SHARING of HIS TITHES and OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY

Create in Me a Clean Heart ~arr. David Cherwien

†THE DOXOLOGY *(Sung in unison)*

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the Source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

†PRAYER of DEDICATION

†LITANY of THANKSGIVING *(Responsively)*

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.

†HYMN

God of the Ages

UMH 698

THE MESSAGE

Starting Over
Ezekiel 36:24–36^{NRSV}

Pastor Clint Phillips

THE 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 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.

WESLEY'S COVENANT SERVICE INVITATION (Responsively)

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 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 (Responsively)

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 earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.

†SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION (Responsively)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth, or You had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, You alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in Your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, Your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through Your prophets.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ, in whom You have revealed Yourself, our light and our salvation.

You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and in Your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, You have led Your people from far places to His light.

By the baptism of His suffering, death, and resurrection You gave birth to Your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which He gave Himself up for us, He took bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

When the supper was over He took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to His disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood. By Your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at His heavenly banquet. Through Your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in Your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

GIVING the BREAD and CUP

Communion will be served to you where you are seated.

Please take a piece of bread from its tray, then wait until directed to eat together.

(The bread is a piece of a rice cracker that is gluten-free)

Please do the same with the juice: take one, wait until directed to drink...

PRAYER after COMMUNION

†HYMN

What Can Wash Away My Sin

UMH 362

†DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

†THE POSTLUDE

Another Year Is Dawning ~Mary McDonald

†GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Liturgist: Jim Caffrey

Acolyte: Conner Grant

A/V Tech: __?__?__?

Welcome to First United Methodist Church!

Sunday morning Worship Service at 10:00 in the Sanctuary

(Livestream worship continues on YouTube at 10:00)

We're so glad you're here!

Whether it's your first visit or you've been with us for years, know that you are loved. If you don't have a church home, we invite you to consider joining our family as we learn, grow, and share Christ's love together. Please take a moment to fill out the Welcome Card in your bulletin—we'd love to connect with you.

Let's be safe... Please consult the three local news networks for **Greensburg FUMC**, or check our church Facebook page at **First United Methodist Church-Greensburg** to check for cancellations of any of our services due to weather.

Weekday office hours & activity cancellations...

If Greensburg Salem school district has a 2-hour delay or cancels school because of snow or ice, the church office hours and all activities would also be delayed or cancelled.

Regular Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-4pm

(may change without notice... thank you for your understanding & patience)

Find us on

FACEBOOK:

First United Methodist
Church—Greensburg

Wi-Fi Network:

Name: Greensburg First
Password: Jeremiah2911

Church Website:
greensburgfirst.org



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

15 E. 2nd Street, Greensburg PA 15601

Phone: 724-834-3111

Rev. Clint Phillips 724-594-2029 pastor@greensburgfirst.org

Peaches Clark Secretary churchsecretary@greensburgfirst.org

Fred Pershing Director of Music tumusic@comcast.net

Jim Caffrey, Jr. OSL Assoc. Director of Music pupppycat1955@gmail.com

Terry Lasut Dir. of Youth youth180.greensburgfirst@gmail.com

Ruth K. Hughes Organist ruthkhughes@gmail.com