

WELCOME!

RESTROOMS are located on each floor. An **ELEVATOR** is located inside the door near the playground. **PARKING** is free on Sundays in the town parking garage at 25 W. Market Street. **NURSERY** is offered during all worship services. The Parlor has been equipped as a **CRY ROOM** for parents who need a quiet place to go with young children to listen to the service. **SUNDAY SCHOOL** is at 9:45 with classes for children (1st and 3rd floors), Youth (Aldersgate) and Adult (AG). **WORSHIP BAGS** are available for children to use during the worship services. They are in a box under the pew in the hallway at the rear of the Sanctuary. Please return bag to "Used Worship Bags" box at the end of service so we may refill and reuse the bags. **HOSPITALITY TIME** is held each Sunday between services in Wesley Hall.

HEARING ASSISTANCE devices and **LARGE PRINT** bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.

How to Reach Us:

Leesburg United Methodist Church

107 W. Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176
703-777-2056
703-777-3382 (fax)

Office Hours:
8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Mon-Fri

www.leesburgumc.org

Rev. Jim Wishmyer:

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E-mail Addresses:

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Acolytes

8:15: Troy Puccio
9:45: Sammie Boyer
11:00: Kate Bentley

Ushers:

8:15 Don Dailey, Andy East, Lee Miller
9:45 Tommy Downs, Caroline Reinecke,
Tom Finkenbinder
11:00 Gene Robey, Sue Ritz,
Matthew Buttery, Terry Ritz,
Darius Cunningham (head)

For Last Week: December 24 & 25

Worship Attendance (12/24)	759
Worship Attendance (12/25)	122

Giving

Operations	\$13,146.58
Rent	\$2,489.17
Mortgage Fund	\$1,496.00
Designated & memorials	\$5,504.30
Total	\$22,636.05

Staff:

Ministers-	All
Senior Pastor-	The Rev. Jim Wishmyer
Director of Christian Education-	Angela Becek
Minister of Administration-	Wayne Reynolds
Children's Ministry Coords.	Laura Van Leliveld and Pam Bentley
Admin Assistant -	Linda Stoutenburgh
Custodian -	Linda Flood
Lay Leaders-	DeWayne Leslie, Kim Domin, Carl Collis
Music Director -	Barry Simpson
Organist-	Debbie Buttery
Praise Team-	Chris Shelton
Handbells-	Judy Roberson, Jeff Frazee, Lee & Elaine Gladwin
Treasurer -	Jim Moran
Financial Secretary-	Linda Stoutenburgh
Preschool Director -	Barb McDermott
Nursery Coordinator-	Laura Van Leliveld
Dist. Superintendent	The Rev. Larry Thompson
VA Conf. Bishop	Bishop Charlene Kammerer

Leesburg United Methodist Church

LUMC4Life—downtown and all around!

January 1, 2011 - 8:15, 9:45 & 11:00 am



Leesburg United Methodist Church

107 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia 20176

703-777-2056, office@leesburgumc.org

www.leesburgumc.org

The Rev. Jim Wishmyer
Pastor

Welcome to Worship at Leesburg UMC!

*Making disciples who live transformed lives
and influence their generation, and the next, with God's love!*

First Sunday after Christmas

8:15, 9:45 & 11:00 am

Wesley Covenant Service

January 1, 2012

Wesley Covenant Service

The "Covenant Service" was first celebrated by Methodists under the leadership of the Rev. John Wesley in 1755. Wesley found the service rich and meaningful, and would lead the service whenever he visited the Methodist Societies in England. Methodists worldwide have continued the tradition of celebrating the Covenant Service since that time, usually around New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. The service is a solemn renewal of our commitment to Christ and therefore the vows, prayers and covenant should not be read or taken lightly. The words are meant to express our intention, and point us forward toward a commitment into which God calls us to live. While some may not feel ready for such a commitment, in truth we must all rely on the grace of God to keep us faithful. Ultimately, God is the one who enables us to grow in the direction of all our commitments.

Please remember to silence all cell phones and pagers in preparation for worship

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(adapted from Traditional Byzantine Christmas Prayer)*

Christ is born;

We give him our praise!

Christ has come down from heaven;

We open our hearts to receive him!

Christ is present with us;

We acknowledge and exalt him!

People of God, sing to the Lord!

Let all people, everywhere praise him in joy, for God's light now shines!

OPENING PRAYER *(unison)*

Let us pray:

O God, Searcher of all our hearts, you have formed us as a people and claimed us as your own. We come at the start of this new year to acknowledge your sovereignty over our lives and to affirm your grace at work in our lives.

God has given holy laws as the rule of our lives.

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.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts; and see if there be any unclean way in me and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24)

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, 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.

You are advised to make this covenant not only in your heart, but in word; not only in word, but in writing. Therefore, with all reverence, lay the service before the Lord as your act and deed. And when you have done this, sign it. Then keep it as a reminder of the holy agreement between God and you that you may remember it during doubts and temptations.

COMMUNION

Word and Table III

UMH 15

HYMN

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing"

UMH 671

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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Accompanists: Debbie Buttery (8:15 am and 11:00 am), and Ruth Jacoby (9:45 am)

COVENANT PRAYER

Let us pray:

**O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, see me as I bow 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 we shall put away all our false gods.

**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 offers to be our God if we 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 myself, body, mind, heart 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 and now accept you, the Christ

as the only new and living Way,

and sincerely join myself in a covenant with you.

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 us that we 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.

**We come also to renew our covenant with you. Bring to the surface any reluctance or
falsehood within us. Send your Holy Spirit to shine truth to us, pour forth love
within us, and confirm mercy toward us, for the sake of your Son and our Savior,
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Acts 17:24-30 (NIV)

HYMN

“Maker, in Whom We Live”

UMH 88

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 give thanks and 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 them.

We give thanks and praise your holy name, O God.

You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you, and a yearning for eternity.

You have forgiven our disobedience and past misdeeds; redeeming us from the consequence of
our sin. You have given us a high calling in Christ Jesus: a place in the fellowship of your
Spirit and entrusted us with the message of reconciliation.

We give thanks and praise your holy name, O God.

You have been our light in darkness and our 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 give thanks and 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, for your steadfast love and abundant mercy:

We give thanks and praise your holy name, O God.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

SCRIPTURE

John 15:1-8 (NRSV)

REFLECTION

“Make Yourself at Home”

COVENANT 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.

My dear friends, let us fix these three principles in our hearts:

- (1) that things eternal are more enduring and real than things temporal;
- (2) that things not seen are as certain as the things that are seen;
- (3) that upon your present choice depends your eternal destiny. Choose Christ and His ways, and you are blessed forever; refuse Him, and you are undone forever.

And then, my friends, make your choice.

Turn either to the right hand or to the left; Christ with His yoke, His cross, and His crown; or the devil with the lure of “more” and the yearning for pleasure; and along with them, his curse.

Then ask yourself, “Self, you see what is before you; what will you do? Which will you have, either the crown or the curse? If you choose the crown, remember that the day you take this, you must be content to submit to the cross and yoke, the service and sufferings of Christ, which are linked to it.

What do you say? Would you rather take the gains and pleasures of sin and risk the curse? Or will you yield yourself a servant to Christ and so make sure the crown?”

On the one side, God promises to give us new life in Christ, the Source and Perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:1-2). 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.

Thus 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.

INVITATION

Commit yourself to Christ as his servant.

Give yourself 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, turn to Christ, and 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, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Thou art mine, and I am Thine.**

So be it.

**And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.**

Amen.

Signed: _____

(From the Book of Offices of the British Methodist Church, 1936; and the United Methodist Hymnal, 1989, #607)

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.

CONFIRMING OUR COVENANT

And now, let us confirm our commitment to this solemn covenant:

HYMN

“Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine”

UMH 606

First, set apart some time on a regular basis to be spent alone before the Lord:

To seek God's continual presence, and God's gracious acceptance of you;

To carefully think through all the conditions of the covenant;

To allow God to search your heart and see whether you have freely and fully given your life to Christ;

Consider what your sins are; and

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 heart, you have opened your mouth 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, bow your head, lift your hands toward heaven, open your heart to the Lord, as we pray: