

GREETERS AND LITURGISTS

If you would like to volunteer on the days that are empty or your name is listed and you cannot be here, please contact Marilyn Overstreet or the office. Thanks so much for volunteering!

Date	Greeters	Liturgist
January 8th		
January 15th		
January 22nd		
January 29th		

Pastor	Dr. Richard O. Randolph
Lay Leader	John Corum
Accompanist	Marybeth Bramlett
Office Secretary/Volunteer Coordinator	Carrie Bramlett
Today's Liturgist	
Today's Greeters & Ushers	

MISSION STATEMENT

"We share God's love through: committed worship and open fellowship; nurturing all to be ever better disciples of Jesus Christ; serving others from what God has given us."

MERIDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Main at Dawson Streets
P.O. Box 520
Meriden, KS 66512
(785) 484-2224



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

FIND US AT:

mumchurch@embarqmail.com
www.meridenumc.org
www.facebook.com

VISION STATEMENT

"Sharing God's love within our community and into the world community."

Sunday Morning Classes

Children's classes: Pre-K – 8th grades meet downstairs in the church.
MS and HS meet in the pastor's office.

Adult classes: "First Place 4 Health" meets in the parsonage. "Growing in Faith" meets in the gym.

Nursery available during worship for ages 0 – 5 years of age.

Meriden United Methodist Church

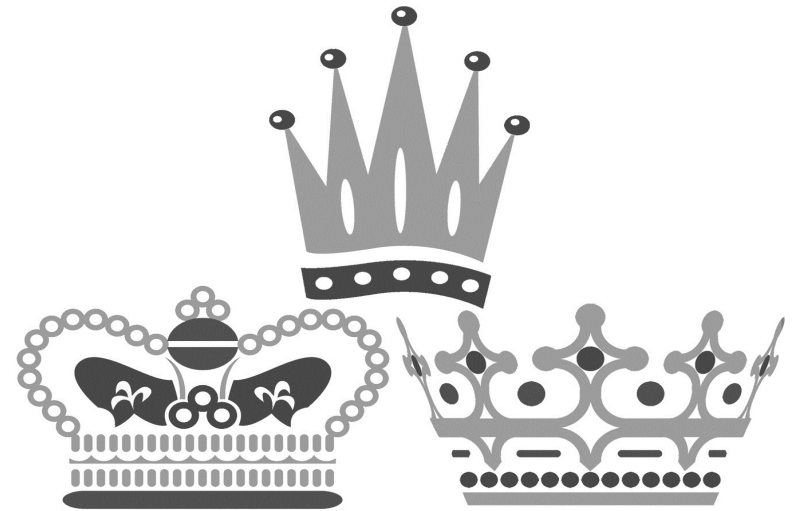
A Day of New Beginnings



Worship Theme

**... opening their
treasure chests,
they offered him
gifts of gold,
frankincense,
and myrrh.**

MATTHEW 2:11, NRSV



Scandalous from the Beginning

January 1, 2012

Meriden United Methodist Church

Epiphany and New Year's Day

January 1, 2012

**Indicates those who are able, please stand. Please read aloud the bold face print. If you are a first time guest, we welcome you!*

Bringing in the Light of Christ - Prelude

*Opening Prayer¹

L: Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth.

P: We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears,

L: New decisions and old controversies,

P: New dreams and old weaknesses.

L: Because you are a God of hope,

P: We know that you create all the possibilities of the future.

L: because you are a God of love,

P: We know that you accept all the mistakes of the past.

L: Because you are the God of our faith,

P: We serve and bless you. Amen.

*Hymn of Gathering

"This Is a Day of New Beginnings"

 UMH Pg. 383

Announcements, Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Children's Time

"A Day of New Beginnings"

Dr. Randolph

Observance of a Covenant Renewal Service for New Year's Day

See Insert

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

 UMH Pg. 70

Today's Message

"Scandalous from the Beginning"

Dr. Randolph

A Time for Prayerful Reflection

Hymn of Reflection

"We Three Kings"

 UMH Pg. 254


Offering

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

 UMH Pg. 95

Celebration of Holy Communion²

 UMH Pg. 15-16

Passing of the Peace


(At this time the congregation is welcome to stand and greet each other in the love of Christ.)

*Carol of Mission

"Go Tell It On a Mountain"

 UMH Pg. 251

*Benediction

 UMH = UM Hymnal

 FWS = Faith We Sing

¹Adapted from a New Year's Day prayer by Maren. C. Tirbassi, included in *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 295.

²The "Great Thanksgiving" used this morning is from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, for "New Year and Epiphany Sunday."

CURRENT PRAYER REQUESTS



Prayers of Concern

- Men and women in the military
- Daniel Chase's sister, Beth, is diagnosed with brain tumors.
- Charisse Powell's grandfather, Don Smith, fell for the second time and has to re-do the knee surgery that he had done in October. Please pray for the surgery and his spirits.
- Theron Anderson is recovering from knee surgery.
- Please pray for the family of Marilyn Johnson, who passed away December 26th.
- Jerry McClurg has a serious medical condition.
- Hank Smatla is transitioning from the VA Hospital to Deer Creek Park Nursing Facility
- Janice, the sister of Rosemary Wickersham, is facing a serious medical diagnosis.

Prayers of Joy and Thanksgiving

- The Topeka Area district church we are praying for this week: Valley Falls-Coal Creek UMC and their Pastor Rob Clark

If you have a prayer request, please call (785) 484-2224 or e-mail mumchurch@embarqmail.com.

LOOK WHO'S CELEBRATING THIS WEEK!

Birthdays

1/01 Taylor Hamon
 1/03 Crystal Welborn
 1/03 Jerry McClurg
 1/05 Kaitlenn Chase

Anniversaries

1/05 Lonnie & Raelene Schnacker

If your birthday or anniversary or someone you know isn't here, please notify the office so it can be added!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



DIRECTORY PICTURES EXTENDED! - Were you unable to have your family portrait taken? Did you forget to have your staff picture taken? There is still time! We have an extra day on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2:00pm to 8:30pm to get those pictures taken! We have to have a minimum of 14 families signed up for them to come out! So please sign up on the landing today or sign up online tomorrow. We really want to include you in the directory and this will be the absolute last chance!

UMW MEETING - The UMW will meet Wednesday, January 4th at 9:30am. Karolyn Conaway is in charge of the program and is the hostess. All women of the church are invited!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CHURCH THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 1st	Thursday, January 5th
Happy New Year! / Communion 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Welcoming time 10:00am Worship 11:15am Staff/Parish Committee	9:00am Women's Exercise 5:45pm Body & Soul Fitness 7:00pm Volleyball Practice
Monday, January 2nd	Friday, January 6th
5:30am Body & Soul Fitness	5:30am Body & Soul Fitness
Tuesday, January 3rd	Saturday, January 7th
Directory Pictures 9:00am Women's Exercise 5:45pm Body & Soul Fitness	All Day Quilt Group 10:00am Basketball Clinic 4:00pm Korber Birthday
Wednesday, January 4th	Sunday, January 8th
5:30am Body & Soul Fitness 7:00pm Choir Practice	9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Welcoming time 10:00am Worship 11:15am Finance Committee 11:15am Trustee Committee 1:00pm Volleyball Practice

Matthew 2:1-12

²In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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 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, left your hands toward heaven, open your hearts to the Lord, as we pray:

COVENANT PRAYER

The people kneel or bow.

**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.**

Signed by _____ on _____