



*"I am the
true vine,
and my Father
is the
vinegrower."*

John 15:1, NRSV

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GREENE
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WORSHIP TIME: 10:30AM

Sunday School during worship/ Coffee Hour follows worship
Celebrating over 190 years of serving Christ and the community
Incorporated: September 1828

Our Mission Statement:

*To be a church alive with Christ by living, growing and declaring
the Good News of Jesus.*

Rev. Michele Clark, Pastor
Email: revmicheleclark@gmail.com
Cell: 910-260-0660

Music Director: Winnie Sortman

First UMC Greene
Sunday, January 9, 2022; 10:30am
Baptism of the Lord/Covenant Renewal Sunday

PRELUDE – At this time, please settle into a spirit of silent meditation so to prepare for your encounter with God.
CHIMING OF THE HOUR Westminster Chimes

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Please stand for the entrance of the Christ Candle**

***INTROIT:** *Sanctuary* **FWS 2164**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

Lector: Beth Specht

O God, Searcher of all our hearts, you have formed us as a people and through Baptism have 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.

***OPENING HYMN**

You are Mine

FWS 2218

Lector: Beth Specht

EPISTLE LESSON:

1 Peter 1:13-25

Lector: Beth Specht

CHILDREN'S TIME

This, This is Where Children Belong

TFWS 2233

(Children leave for Sunday School after the lesson)

ANTHEM

Come to the Water

PASTORAL PRAYER with *The Lord's Prayer*

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.

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 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.

PROCLAMATION

*Gospel Lesson *Jesus is the True Vine* John 15:1-8
Proclamation

WESLEY'S COVENANT SERVICE

Invitation—Pastor opens with word of Invitation

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.

Pastor closes with words of preparation

Turn to the next page of your bulletin – 2022 Covenant Prayer

2022 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 earth be ratified in Heaven. AMEN.

Signature:_____

CLOSING HYMN*When Jesus Came to Jordan***UMH 252*****BENEDICTION...**

L: May the Peace of Christ be with you

P: And also with you.***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Let There Be Peace on Earth***UMH 431****POSTLUDE*****Please stand as you are able in body or in spirit****Announcements:**

- 1) Pastor Michele will be away beginning today through Jan. 17. Please contact Merelyn Rogers at 607-725-3621 should you feel you need emergency counsel with a Pastor during this time.
- 2) Applefest meeting will be held on January 16 after church.
- 3) Prayer Chain list and instructions is on the bulletin board in the kitchen. If you want a printed list, please see Deb Barnes.
- 4) Confirmation Class for those youth in 6th grade through 12th is being planned to begin on Jan. 30 following worship, so around 12:00pm each Sunday. Confirmation service will be June 5 (Pentecost). If you would like your child enrolled, please inform Pastor Michele. Deadline to sign up is January 20.
- 5) The Church contact list is on the kitchen counter. PLEASE confirm your information with a checkmark to the side by your name or make updates as are needed. Thank you. Once the update process is completed, this will be emailed to everyone. A few copies will be made for those who do not have email.
- 6) Due to the Governor's mandate, through Jan. 15 masks will be required to be worn by everyone while indoors unless you are eating or drinking.
- 7) Don't forget to record your prayer requests on the form which is in the kitchen. Pastor will lift these names during each week's Pastoral Prayer. You can also email or call her, whichever way is easier for you. The Webpage is also a very easy and convenient way to ask for prayer. Just click on the Prayer tab near the top of the page.

Prayers of the People:

May God hear our prayers for... Teddy & Clifford Crampton, Emily Dunckle, John Yetter, Riley (Morgan's friend), Asa & Kennedy, Stephen TaylorRoth, Earl Howell, Tom Abrahansom, Marti Edmonds

And also our New Prayer Requests for... the McMullen grandchildren, Jackie & Jerry Elias, Rachel & Brady, Family and friends of Beverly Sternberg, Scott & Brandi, Jazmyne, Jordan

NOTE: Names who are added to our prayer list will automatically stay on for two weeks. You will see these names in regular font the first week, *italics* the second week and the third week their name will rotate off our list. When a name in *italics* should remain on our prayer list for an additional two-week rotation, please let Pastor know in writing via email or text. If you know of someone who can come OFF our prayer list also advise Pastor. Thank you.