

# October 8, 2023

Sunday School 9:00 am  
Worship: 10:00 am



## ***[Shadowed Beneath Thy Hand] The Decalogue: Every Day Habits***

**Focus:** “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.” Exodus 20:17

### **October 8, 2023 Bulletin Announcements**

#### **October Mission Project**

We will be collecting donations to help supply laundry soap for the **Senior Santa Project**. Our goal is \$250 so that we can provide over 200 small bottles of laundry soap. Please place donations in the red decorated box outside of Gibbs Parlor.

**\*\*\* Please return your membership audit papers. If you did not receive them, please contact the office.**

Your offerings can be:

- Dropped off at the church - When the office is open, during worship, or After hours - use the mail slot by the side glass door
- mailed to the church
- sent to the church through your bank - sent to the church using PayPal or Tithely (see the church website for links). <https://www.westfieldnyumc.org/donate/>

**We appreciate your faithful giving**

|                               |            |  |
|-------------------------------|------------|--|
| <b>September income</b> ..... | \$8,161.96 |  |
| <b>Expenses</b> .....         | \$7,939.93 | (Payroll \$6,583.49)                             |
| <b>Difference</b> .....       | \$ 222.03  | (Insurance & Conference bill for Sept paid 10/2) |

Shared Ministries (\$1,411 per month) –

amount due thru 9/30: \$12,699    Amount paid (9/30): \$345.00 (from donations)

If you have any questions, please contact Pauline Emilson - Treasurer

***Oops – we printed the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter giving statements a little early (only going through August 2023). Please pick up your statement. Any not picked up by October 15<sup>th</sup> will be mailed. If you would like to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter statement (and not wait for your full year statement, please contact the office or Pauline Emilson.***

There is a sign-up sheet outside the office for those willing to help with the pancake breakfast on **Saturday, November 5.**

**Many thanks to everyone that has dropped off stamps.  
We will no longer be collecting them.**

**Looking for individuals to help sand and spray paint our metal railings.  
Contact the office for more information.**

**Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) for October 8, 2023**

Exodus 20:1-4    Psalm 19  
Philippians 3:4b-14    Matthew 21:33-46

***Did you know? We made almost \$50 on our ink recycling program!***

**Reader's Schedule (Contact Gail for more information)**

Oct 8 - Pauline; Oct 15 – Carmen; Oct 22 – Jessica, Oct 29 – Kathy A  
Nov 5-Pauline, Nov 12 – Andi, Nov 19 – Steve C, Nov 26 – Doug  
Dec 3 – Kathy A, Dec 10 – Jessica, Dec 17 – Andi, Dec 24 – Steve C, Dec 31 -  
Pauline

**Coffee Hours Schedule (Contact Gail for more information)**

Nov 5 – Larry & Sandy; Dec 3 – Jessica & Nancy.

**Communion Stewards.** Please see Gail for more information  
November 5 – Ann C & Lisa, December 3 – Jessica & Pauline

**Mission Statement:** *To know Christ and to make Christ known*

**Vision Statement:** *We are the voice and the hand that encourages people to change their lives with hope, comfort and peace*

**WAYS TO REACH US**

**Phone:** (716) 326-3243

**Facebook:** westfieldumc  
#WestfieldNYUMC

101 E. Main St; Westfield, NY 14787

**Church Office Hours:** Mon. - Fri. 9 – 3

**Rev. Dr. Nicholas Perry office hours:** M – Wed 10:30 - 3 - or by appointment

CCLI: 1318496

**Email:** [fumcwestfield@fairpoint.net](mailto:fumcwestfield@fairpoint.net)

**Website:** <http://www.westfieldnyumc.org/>

**Instagram:** WestfieldUMC

## Weekly

Food Pantry – Tuesday 1 – 2:30

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – 9 – 11:20 AppleSeed

Wednesday: 11:30 -12:30 – Ann Cochran's group

Sunday – Worship 10 AM

Sundays - Sept 10 – October 15: Book Study – Moses 7pm

## Looking ahead:

October 11 – Respite

October 17 – UMW 10 am

November 4 – Pancake Breakfast (Blue Bag Fund)

November 5 – Heritage Sunday

November 8 – Respite

Saturday, November 11, 2023 – Charge Conference 1-3pm at Westfield

November 17 – 19 – Christmas in the Village



Beginning in October 2023, United Methodists of Upper New York are launching Together in Prayer, a call to reconnect with the essence of who we are as people of faith, disciples of Christ, and United Methodists. This is an invitation to unite our hearts and seek a stronger connection with God and one another, deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ, and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives and ministries.

John Wesley said prayer is one of the most powerful ways to develop a personal connection with God. His brother, Charles, believed that corporate prayer fosters a sense of unity among believers and reinforces our shared faith.

Watch the video below as Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez invites you to join this prayer pilgrimage. Look for new resources at the beginning of each month during this year long initiative. (available on-line)

Are you ready and willing to experience the healing love of Christ? [Click here](#) to show your support and commitment and join God's mission as we pray our way forward.

## **October Resources**

**Theme: Reclaim. Revive. Renew.**

**Scripture Passage: Psalm 51:10-12**

**Short Meditation**

Prayers have always been of great importance for us United Methodists. John Wesley, the founder of our movement, described prayer as one of the most powerful ways to develop a personal connection with God. John's brother, Charles Wesley, believed that corporate prayer fosters a sense of unity among believers and reinforces our shared faith.

Together in Prayer is a call to reconnect with the essence of who we are as disciples of Christ and United Methodists. It is an invitation to unite our hearts and seek a stronger connection with God and one another. To go deeper in our relationship with Jesus Christ and to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives and ministries.

Reclaim. Revive. Renew. During my first meeting with the council of bishops of the United Methodist Church, the president of the council, Bishop Tom Bickerton, shared this focus as a vision of hope for our journey forward as United Methodists as we move past an extended season of disagreements, divisions, and disaffiliations. This focus is a solid foundation for the transformation God is inviting us into. This vision is one that I support and will engage fully in the years to come.

And, as we engage in it, there are a few things I feel we need to be clear about.

First, let's be clear that this project of reclaiming, reviving, and renewing us is not ours but God's.

It is not us but God who is reclaiming us and reclaiming those that we, the church, have forsaken in our communities. Also, as we embrace this as a season of reclaiming, we must resist the temptation to reclaim backward when God calls us to move forward.

Second, given the ongoing turmoil in the world, disorientation, more than a season, is our new normal that we must embrace as our missional field, not try to run away from it. We cannot pray for revival hoping that disorientation ends; we need to ask God for revival amid the disorientation so that we can overcome our fears and move forward courageously, claiming our distinctive identity as disciples and United Methodists, trusting God is with us, and boldly engage a hurting world with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Lastly, there is the prayer for renewal.

When meditating on God's promise of renewal, I was drawn to Psalm 51, verses 10 through 12. This is not your traditional Psalm of renewal. This Psalm relates to a story that confronts our fragility and human brokenness. David's prayer, more than a prayer of renewal, is one of confession, repentance, and surrender. Through this prayer, David cried to God for mercy when confronted with his wrongdoings. David humbly acknowledged his sins to God and implored God for forgiveness and restoration.

I believe that Confession. Repentance and Surrender is the most faithful response to God's desire to reclaim, revive, and renew the church.

Renewal will come to our lives, ministries, and the United Methodist Church as the fruit of our individual and collective confession for the ways we have fallen short of our calling to be light and salt in the world. Renewal will come when and only if our mindset, strategies, and plans embody clear and concrete acts of repentance that seek to close the gap between our previous intentions and our actions and that lead to more faithful ways of being the church in the world.

Renewal will come, and it is only a viable and sustainable proposition if we are willing and ready to surrender our agendas so that a renewed vision FROM GOD unfolds for the witness and ministry of United Methodists worldwide.

Our challenges are not new. Church decline in the US is not new. COVID-19 did not cause our decline; it just put it on display, accelerated, and amplified it. The declining spiritual effervesce in some parts of our connection is not new. The pervasive manifestation of systemic racism, sexism, privilege, and exclusion is not new in the United Methodist Church.

So, as we begin this journey. As God is reclaiming. As God is reviving. As God seeks to renew us – what is it for us to do? Psalm 51 suggests that we must confess, repent, and surrender as a church, leaders, and followers of Jesus.

We must confess how we have allowed the world, the circumstances around us, and our desperate attempts at survival to weaken our identity as United Methodists – people called to love God and our neighbors as Christ loves. We must confess that for decades, here in the US, we have been relationally disconnected from our communities. Most of our local congregations do not reflect the people in their



communities as we have turned inward. And, we must confess that while the world is hurting and plagued with the re-emergence of racial hate, white supremacy, gun violence, toxic politics, war, and climate change, and when there is an entire generation seeking hope and purpose, we have been, for the most part, silent, nowhere to be seen, distracted by our internal debates and inability to hold our differences and disagreements in Christian love, which has left us fractured, weakened, and divided. United Methodists, we are on a journey of renewal. As the prophet Isaiah proclaimed – it is already happening. God is doing something new.

During your times of prayer this month, I invite you to open the eyes of your heart and ask the Holy Spirit to help you imagine what your life, your church, and our communities will look like if we embrace God's invitation to surrender to the Holy Spirit so that we can once more be claimed, revived, and renewed by the healing grace of Jesus Christ.

Write down what you see. Share it with others in your church, your pastor, and me.

God is doing something new. God is reclaiming us for God's purposes. God is reviving and deepening our faith. God is renewing us to be who God needs us to be TODAY for the world. May our response to God's invitation be to confess, repent, and surrender, and like David, in humility, lift our broken hearts to God and pray.

*Create a clean heart for us, God. Put a New, faithful spirit deep inside us! Please don't throw us out of your presence or take your holy spirit from us. Return the joy of your salvation to us and sustain us with a willing heart – Amen.*

### **Prayer for the Month**

*Create a clean heart for us, God. Put a new, faithful spirit deep inside us! Please don't throw us out of your presence or take your holy spirit from us. Return the joy of your salvation to us and sustain us with a willing heart – Amen.*

### **Prayer Queues or Breath Prayers for the Month**

*Oct 1 – God of grace, create a clean heart for me (us).*

*Oct 8 – God of mercy, put a new, faithful spirit inside me (us).*

*Oct 15 – God, in your mercy, don't give up on me (us).*

*Oct 22 – God, in your faithfulness, return the joy of your salvation to my (our) soul(s).*

*Oct 29 – God, through the Holy Spirit, sustain me(us) with a willing heart.*

## **Pancake Breakfast**

# **7:30-10:30 am**

**Fellowship Hall—First United  
Methodist Church of Westfield**

**101 E Main St.**

Pancakes, Sausage, Sausage gravy & Biscuits,  
Coffee, Juice

**Cost: Donations are gratefully accepted**

## **Saturday**

**October 7**

(Stacy Holland Family—basket drawing)

**November 4** (Blue Bag Fund to provide  
personal hygiene items to Food Pantry clients)

**December 2**

(Apple Seed)

**\*Program benefitting from your donations**

**Questions? See Larry Porter**