

Parents -Please escort your children to the restrooms.
Thank you.

§ Denotes when to stand as you are able

WE GATHER to be NURTURED

Prelude "Here We Are to Worship"
Praisin' & Prayin' Puppets

Ringing of the Bell
Please sign registration sheets and pass to others in your pew.

§ Call to Worship ~ Based on Psalm 85

L: People of God, the Lord is merciful!

C: **God forgives our sin and pardons all our debts.**

L: People of God, the Lord is good!

C: **God restores us to the way of salvation.**

L: People of God, the Lord is love!

C: **God revives our spirit so that we may rejoice.**

L: People of God, the Lord is faithful!

C: **God speaks so that we may follow.**

L: People of God, the Lord is righteous!

All: **God's glory fills this place.**

Let us worship the Lord our God!

§ Opening Hymn UMH #158 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

Sharing of Joys and Concerns *Rev. Calvin Culpepper*
Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer, UMH #895

WE ARE NURTURED by GOD'S WORD

Psalter Reading UMH #771 Psalm 36:5-10

Hymn FWS #2129 "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

Children's Message *James L. Crow*
"You Can Be My Friend" *Praisin' & Prayin' Puppets*

Hymn FWS #2026 "Halle, Halle, Halleluja"

§ Scripture Lesson - New Testament p. 93 John 3:1-21

Leader: This is the Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Sermon "Worshiping While We *Walk* in the Wesleyan Way"
New Birth & Assurance *Rev. Calvin Culpepper*

WE RESPOND to GOD'S WORD

Response UMH # 363 "And Can It Be that I Should Gain"

Readers will recite verses 1, 2, and 3.

Then please join in singing verses 4 and 5.

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves

*During the Offertory, everyone is invited to come forward
with your pledge card and/or offering.*

*Please place your pledge card in the miniature church
and your offering in the plate closest to you.*

*If you are unable to come forward, please hold up your hand
and an usher will take it forward for you.*

Offertory "Upon My Living God" ~ *Dietrich Buxtehude*

§ Doxology #94 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

WE ARE SCATTERED to SERVE

§ Hymn of Sending Forth UMH #369 "Blessed Assurance"

§ Benediction

As the Father has loved you, go now and love. As the Son has forgiven and redeemed you, go now, extending grace to all you meet. As the Spirit has transformed you into the likeness of the Son, go now, letting the life of Christ guide you each moment of the day. Go now, in love, with grace and in the light of Jesus.

Amen.

Postlude "God Is Bigger Than the Boogie Man"

Consecration Potluck in the Dining Room

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

Words: Charles Wesley Music: Thomas Campbell
In Charles Wesley's journal entry of May 23, 1738, he wrote, "At nine I began a hymn on my conversion but was persuaded to break off for fear of pride...I prayed Christ to stand by me and finish the hymn."

Five questions are asked at the beginning of the hymn, which establish a feeling of urgency that moves unrelentingly throughout this piece. The text exclaims the mystery of God's grace extended to sinners who turn to Christ in faith. These sinners receive the righteousness of Christ and can approach the Lord's throne in confidence. He sang the hymn with his brother John shortly after John's "Aldersgate experience."

Like so many of Charles Wesley's hymn texts, "And Can It Be" is full of allusions to and quotations from Scripture. One of them, Acts 12:6-8, refers to Peter's experience in prison when an angel appeared to him and told him to get up. Peter's chains fell off and he followed the angel out of prison. Wesley also used several metaphors in this hymn, contrasting light and darkness, life and death, slavery and freedom, and especially Christ's righteousness and our unrighteousness.

 Altar Flowers are given...
...in loving memory of Katherine Frawert by Paul Frawert.

...in honor of our 17th wedding anniversary
by Del & Charlene Monroe.

Flu shots will be available on Sunday, Nov. 1st, immediately after worship, at the east end of the Narthex. Bring your Medicare and/or insurance cards and prepare for a healthy winter. Cash and checks are accepted if you need to pay for the shot.



We welcome you, member or visitor, as we join in worshipping God this morning. We pray you will be blessed and invite you to return!

We are so blessed to stay in the downtown area for another year and reach out to our neighbors.

Because we realize how blessed we are, we are consecrating our gifts back to God today, and celebrating with a potluck lunch after worship. Bring a dish to share and join in the fun! Table service and beverages will be provided. **If you need a pledge card, please let one of the ushers know. They have extras.**

Get your blood pressure checked today in the Narthex before worship or in the Dining Room after worship.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE to learn how and why we started as Methodists and what we believe. Join us either in the parlor today at 11:30 a.m. or this Wednesday, October 28th, at 4:30 p.m., in the Dining Room. If you need a book, please call the church office.

Trunk or Treat is happening today in 2nd Con/1st Pres' parking lot from 4 to 5:30 pm. Any youth who would like to participate can join us in decorating and handing out candy. Parents can pick up from Court Street at 5:30 pm. Costumes are optional.

Holy COW (Church On Wednesday)! on Oct. 28th!

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

- Rev. Rhoads' class in the Library - Adults

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

- Rev. Wang leads "John Wesley: Holiness of Heart & Life" in the Dining Room

5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

- Dinner by Diane in the Dining Room for only \$3.50/person

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

- Men's Fellowship Group in the Parlor

All Saints' Day will be celebrated next Sunday, Nov. 1st, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary. We will be celebrating the lives of those who have gone on to live with our Lord since All Saints Day 2014. If you have a loved one you would like to include, please call the church office with their name and date of rising to new life. They do not have to be a member to be included in this remembrance.

Invite your friends and neighbors to our Hallelujah Harvest on Friday, October 30th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the church dining room. After eating chili and hot dogs, we will play the Spiderweb game, be entertained by John Meyers, the magician, and do lots more, all for only a free-will donation. You can even wear costumes if you want! Come for a great time of food, fun, and fellowship.

Scrip is back! Cards from the 25 "top selling" businesses are now available on a Cash & Carry basis. If what you want is not one of the Cash & Carry cards, you can still order from the more complete order form, and your cards will be available in one-to-three weeks. Payment is requested at the time of ordering. Purchasing cards or ordering can be done before or after the 10:00 service.



