

COMBINED SERVICE

OF WORSHIP

First Sunday after Christmas

Covenant Renewal Service in the Wesleyan Tradition

December 31, 2023

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING MUSIC

All Glory Be To Christ - Set to Auld Lang Syne

\*OPENING SONG/HYMN

No. 251

Go, Tell It On The Mountain

\*WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

(please respond by reading the bold text)

For everything there is a season:

And a time for every matter under heaven

God has made everything suitable for its time.

God has put a sense of past and future into our minds.

God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.

Whatever God does endures forever.

SONG/HYMN

In Christ Alone - Lauren Daigle

KIDS MESSAGE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worshippers are asked to sign the Connect Cards located in the pews.

SCRIPTURE READING: A LITANY OF NEWNESS

Psalm 96, Isaiah 42:9, 43:18-19, 2 Corinth. 5:17, Revelation 21:5, Psalm 98

LEADER: The Word of God for the people of God.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR AN UNKNOWN FUTURE (by Thomas Merton)

PRESENTATION OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS:

As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Oceans (Where Feet May Fail) - Hillsong United

\*DOXOLOGY:

No. 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

LEADER: The Word of God for the people of God.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!

TIME OF COVENANT WITH GOD:

based on John Wesley’s directions from 1781

I. Introduction & Invitation: “Call to Adventure with Christ”

II. Prayer

Covenant God who searches hearts,

I am no longer my own, but yours.

I put myself fully into your hands:

put me to doing, put me to suffering,

let me to 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.

III. Advice on living into God’s covenant:

Set apart some time (more than once) to be alone with God.

Be in a spirit of Holy awe and reverence.

Claim God’s covenant and promises.

Resolve to be faithful.

Be prepared to renew it again in the future.

IV. The Covenant:

Let us bring our lives before God.

Righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, see me

as I bring myself before you. Forgive my unfaithfulness (in

what I have done and left undone), for you have promised

mercy if I turn to you with my whole heart.

God requires that we shall put away all our idols.

Here and now, from the bottom of my heart, I renounce all my

idols. I covenant 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 acknowledge you as my Lord and

God. I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion,

and vow to give my life and heart and hands to serve you in

holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.

God has given us the Lord Jesus Christ as the way and means of

coming to God.

Jesus Christ, I accept you as the new and living Way. I join

myself in a covenant with you—even though I come to you hungry,

sinful, vulnerable and unworthy to even wash the feet of your

servants. I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord

and Savior. I renounce my own worthiness, and vow that you are

the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom, and

take you for my 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.

All your laws are holy, just, and good. I 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.

CLOSING PRAYER:

O God, you know and see the promises made today. If any

falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it right.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy

Spirit, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant

which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN/SONG OF DEDICATION:

No. 117

O God, Our Help In Ages Past

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATION PLEASE STAND

### *Worship Attendance* - December 24, 2023

Contemporary Sunday Worship Service	74
Traditional Sunday Worship Service	111
Contemporary Christmas Eve Service	114
Traditional Christmas Eve Service	215

### *Serving in Worship Today*

Tech Team: Melissa Matthews, Britt Scott  
Greeter: Lara Manalo

### *What's Happening This Week?*

#### **TODAY:**

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

The church office will be closed tomorrow, January 1st and reopen Tuesday at 9 a.m.

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Yoga: Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Wednesday Night Ministry: Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

First Friday Friends: Friday at 11:00 a.m.

Family Ministry Picnic: Saturday

### *Altar Flowers*

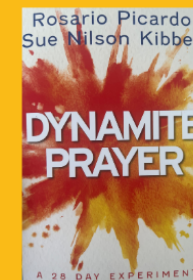
The flowers on the altar are given in memory of Mary Rector, Emily's mother by Emily and Gordon Rehberg.

*Meals Served Last Week:* 150

Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know you were here today. You can find one in the pew pocket or scan here for an online card.




Sign up now  
for a January  
prayer experiment



## FIRST FRIDAY FRIENDS

Friday, January 5th at 11:00 a.m.  
followed by lunch in the Fellowship Hall



## Save the date: Family Ministry Mini-Retreat Saturday: Jan 6, 2024



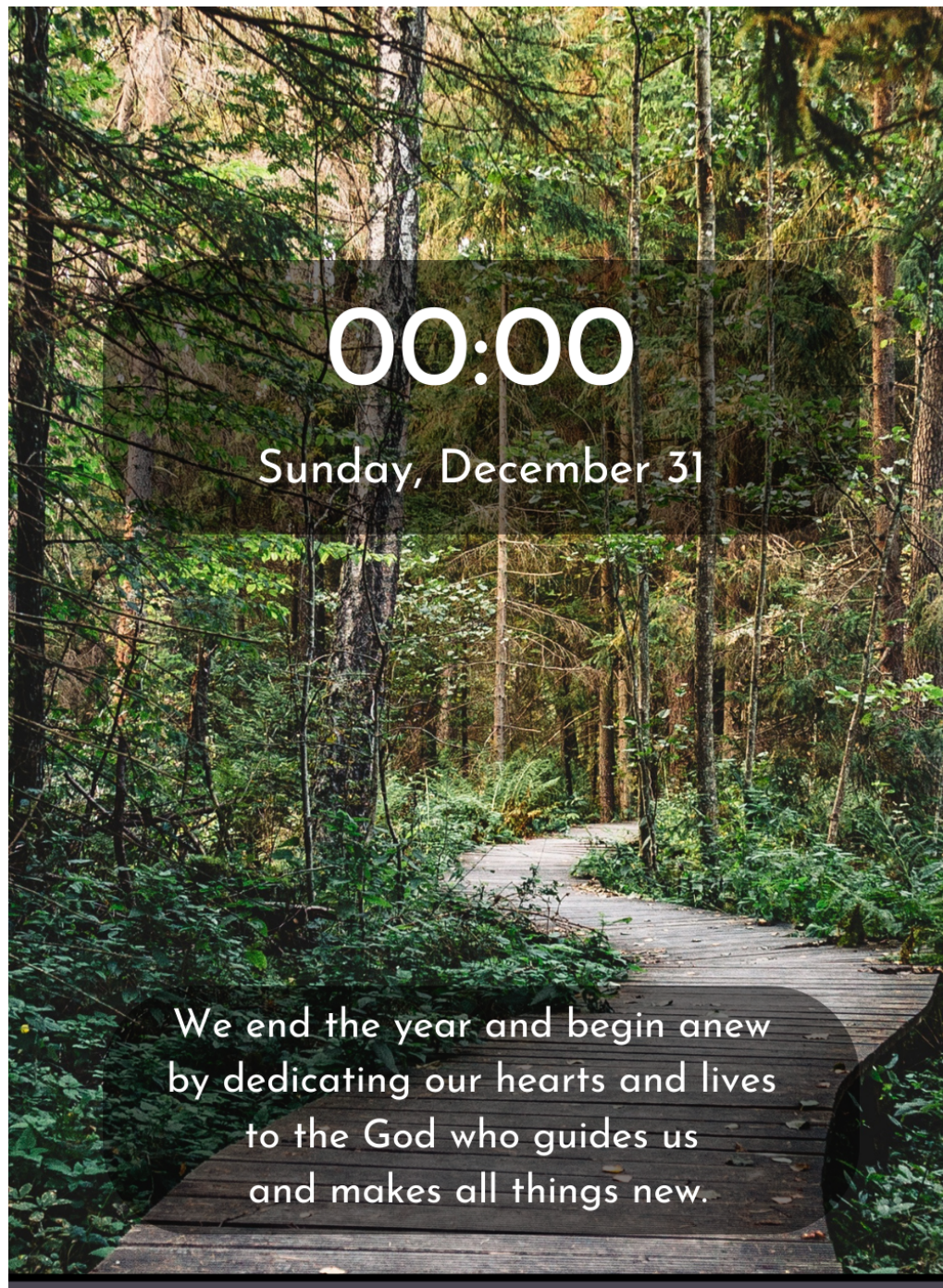

January Series

## KEEPING IT REAL

## RPUMC Ministry Fair

Sunday, January 28th  
9:30-11:00 a.m.  
Rhames Fellowship Hall


Offerings can be placed in the sanctuary offering plates, mailed to the church (819 Park St. Jacksonville, FL 32204) or given online using "MyWell" (code to the right): [www.mywell.org/give/rpumc](http://www.mywell.org/give/rpumc)



# 00:00

## Sunday, December 31

We end the year and begin anew  
by dedicating our hearts and lives  
to the God who guides us  
and makes all things new.



## RIVERSIDE PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"Empowering others to live life abundantly in Christ."*

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