

The Four Agreements

January 12, 2025

^{*}Please stand as you are comfortable

[†]UMH ~ *United Methodist Hymnal* (hard cover hymnal)

[‡]FWS - *The Faith We Sing* (soft cover hymnal)

Announcements and greetings

*The assembly responds or joins in unison when our text is **bold**.*

Centering Words:

We gather our hearts and minds to be in worship. We center you God. God's love transforms my heart, enabling me to respond with grace and mercy.

Prelude

Magnificat primi toni, verse 6

Titouze

Call to worship:

With patience and love, we come as one family.

We are one body of Christ, united in God.

Come! Speak of truth, truth told in love.

We gather to listen, and to share our stories.

We are God's children, parts of Christ's purpose.

We rejoice in our gifts, and we thank God for this grace.

Come! Now is the time to worship.

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth!

*Opening Hymn

The Church's One Foundation

[†]UMH # 545

1.

**The church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.
From heaven, He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.**

2.

**Elect from every nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation, One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, With every grace endued.**

3.

**Though with a scornful wonder we see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.**

4.

**Mid toil and tribulation, And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore;
till, with the vision glorious, Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious Shall be the church at rest.**

5.

**Yet she on earth hath union With God the Three-in-One,
And mystic, sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly, On high may dwell with Thee.**

Opening Prayer: In Unison

God of unity and peace, bind us together as we come now to worship. Strengthen the ties that make us your family. Grant us the grace to recognize our gifts and our place in this body. Guide us to hear your calling as you speak to our lives. Dwell in our very hearts, that we may serve in humility—braided with strength and gentleness, intertwined with passion. Build us up in love, that we may grow in our knowledge and our love of you. Speak your truth to our lives, that we may lead lives worthy of your calling. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: **Genesis 50:15-21**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalter: **Psalm 63** Responsively with Sung Response

² UMH page 788

Musical Response

**My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord,
thirsting for you my God.**

¹ O God, you are my God; I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where no water is.

² **So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.**

³ Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

⁴ **So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

Musical Response

⁵ My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

⁶ when I think of you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

⁷ **for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.**

⁸ **My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.**

Musical Response

⁹ But those who seek to destroy my life
shall go down into the depths of the earth;

¹⁰ **they shall be given over to the power of the sword;
they shall be prey for jackals.**

¹¹ But the king shall rejoice in God;
**all who swear in God's name shall glory;
but for the mouths of liars will be stopped.**

Musical Response

Special Music

May You Go Forth in Love

Albrecht

Soloist: Sheila André de la Porte

New Testament Reading: **Ephesians 4:1-7**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Reading: **John 15:18-25**

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Hymn of Preparation

Standing on the Promises

UMH # 374

1.

**Standing on the promises of Christ, my King, Through eternal ages let his praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, Standing on the promises of God.**

Refrain:

**Standing, standing, Standing on the promises of God, my Savior;
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.**

2.

**Standing on the promises that cannot fail. When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail, Standing on the promises of God.**

Refrain

3.

**Standing on the promises of Christ, the Lord, Bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword, Standing on the promises of God.**

Refrain

4.

**Standing on the promises I cannot fall, Listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all, Standing on the promises of God.**

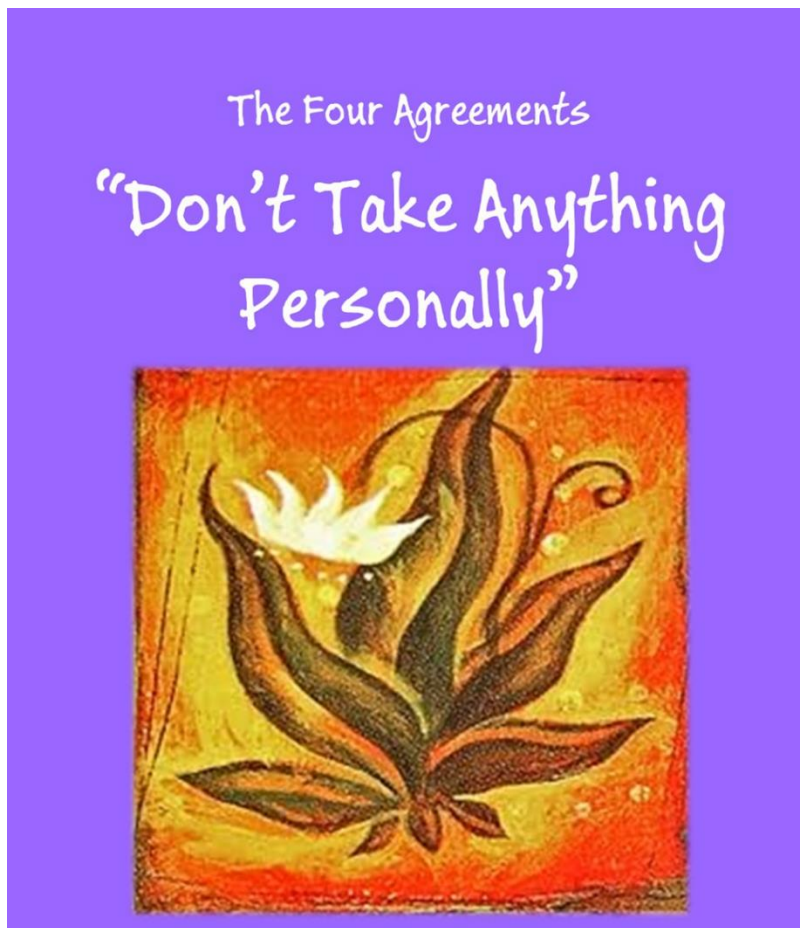
Refrain

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 374

Words: R. Kelso Carter, 1886

Music: R. Kelso Carter, 1886

Message



1.

**Every promise we can make, Every prayer and step of faith,
Every difference we can make Is only by His grace.
Every mountain we will climb, Every ray of hope we shine,
Every blessing left behind Is only by His grace.**

Refrain:

**Grace alone Which God supplies, Strength unknown He will provide.
Christ in us Our cornerstone; We will go forth in grace alone.**

2.

**Every soul we long to reach, Every heart we hope to teach.
Everywhere we share His peace Is only by His grace.
Every loving word we say, Every tear we wipe away,
Every sorrow turned to praise Is only by His grace.**

Refrain

The Faith We Sing Hymnal Number 2162
Words: Scott Wesley Brown and Jeff Nelson
Music: Scott Wesley Brown and Jeff Nelson
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Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession: In unison

Gracious and loving God, we come before You, acknowledging the times we have taken things personally, allowing hurt and offense to weigh us down. We confess that we have held onto anger, resentment, and the need for vindication. We admit that we have allowed the words and actions of others to shape our identity, rather than resting in Your unchanging love. Forgive us, Lord, for letting offense rule our hearts instead of Your peace. Help us to release the burdens of offense, to forgive as You forgive, and to trust that You are our defender. Create in us clean hearts and renew a right spirit within us. Lead us in the way of peace, that we may reflect Your love in our words, actions, and thoughts. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Let us pause for a moment of quiet confession.

Words of assurance:

Hear the good news: In Christ, we are free from the weight of offense and the chains of resentment. God's steadfast love and mercy abound for all who turn to You.

Invitation to the Offering

Please submit your offering as you feel led by placing it in the plates on the altar railing, or text your gift to 833-756-0325, or on our website: www.elyriafirstumc.org.

Offertory

Tiento de falsas primer tono

Cabanilles

Offertory Prayer: In Unison

God of miraculous grace, transform our gifts into the work of ministry. Transform our lives into your presence in the world. Through these gifts, may we grow in the knowledge of Christ and be strengthened in the unity of faith. Transform these gifts into the bread of life so that in our giving others may be fed. Make these gifts the waters that spring up into eternal life, so that in our giving, others may be nurtured and strengthened as children of God. In your loving and nurturing name, we pray. Amen.

1.

**Together we serve, united by love, inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending your love to the last and the least.**

2.

**We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.**

3.

**We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor, the busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.**

4.

**Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.**

The Faith We Sing Hymnal Number 2175
Words: Daniel Charles Damon
Music: Daniel Charles Damon
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Please be seated for closing announcements and the Benediction.

Benediction: Responsively

As we leave this place, let us release every offense and trust in God's justice.

We will walk in peace, knowing our worth is rooted in Christ alone.

When words or actions wound us, may we respond with grace and forgiveness.

We will follow the example of Jesus, who bore offenses with love and humility.

Go now in freedom of Christ, living as people of grace and peace.

We go in love, anchored in God's mercy, to reflect God's light in the world. Amen!

Postlude

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, P.46

Pachelbel

Worship Participants

Preaching: Rev. Tennille Power

Liturgist: Kim Foster

Media: David Wilm

Musicians: Kingsley Wood, Jack Roberts, and the Chancel Choir

Sound room: Neal Hubbard

Ushers and Greeters: Bill Buga, Roger and Wendy Fleming, and Mike Zahnke

Each week, this service is broadcast live on the radio station WEOL 930 AM/100.3 FM. Today's radio broadcast is sponsored with money from the Radio Fund. Thank you to those who donate to the fund which allows us to continue our radio ministry as we share God's love with the radio audience and the community.

The altar flowers are sponsored by Denise Smith in loving memory of her dad's January 11th earthly birthday.

If you are interested in joining our church family, please call the church office at 440.322.6622 or email our pastor at tennillep@elyriafirstumc.org.

If you have any pastoral needs or prayer concerns, please call the church office, 440.322.6622.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035 440.322.6622

www.elyriafirstumc.org

An equal opportunity provider

Magnificat primi toni, verse 6 by Jehan Titouze. ***May You Go Forth in Love*** by Sally K. Albrecht. ***Tiento de falsas primer tono*** by Juan Cabanilles ***Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, P.46*** by Johann Pachelbel. All songs are performed under license # 73591.

Third Street Review



January 12, 2025

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone: 440.322.6622

Email: church@elyriafirstumc.org

Commitment for 2025

We are blessed to cross the threshold into a new year! 2025 holds all of God's promises and blessings for us! We also must do our part. THANK YOU for all those who prayed and discerned their giving for the 2025 year. For those still praying and discerning, we are with you in prayer. We are called in 2025 to be faithful stewards of all God has entrusted. By pledging your gifts, you help us plan effectively for the year ahead, ensuring we can continue to be a light in the world and meet the needs of those around us. All of our gifts have a profound impact. Every dollar represents an act of faith, a step of trust, and a legacy of love. We encourage you to pray and complete your commitment card. We thank you for being a part of this journey of faith and generosity.

January Mission focus:

Human Relations Day

Human Relations Day is a denominational wide Special Sunday designed to celebrate and raise awareness to further the development of better human relations outreach. Gifts received for the offering build programs such as Community Developers and United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. You may give on-line via our website: elyriafirstumc.org or submit a check to: ***Elyria First United Methodist Church***, indicate *Human Relations* on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

Community Breakfast

Each Sunday, our Community Breakfast outreach serves on average 125 people a week. We are grateful for our faithful volunteers and those who faithfully give to this much needed ministry. We are always in need of plastic bags and cutlery that are used weekly. We are grateful for those who have given donations and those who serve! Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping us serve in this vital ministry. If you want to donate plastic bags and cutlery, please bring them, and drop them in the donation box located on the main level. We are excited about the work we do and THANK GOD for how we all do our part! Let's continue our work in 2025!

Church Financial Update

As part of being good stewards of our church and the gifts and treasures brought in, we will provide monthly updates to our congregation. Our Finance Committee wants to thank each of you for your continued support of our church and its programs. We are in the process of organizing our 2025 budget, so we ask that everyone please pray and return your Commitment Cards as soon as you are able. We want to continue to move forward in our giving so we can continue to do the work God has called us to do. Thank you for your continued generosity and support. Let's be great stewards in 2025!

Happy Tuesdays

Tuesdays are our time for fellowship, fun and lunch! Our traditional **Happy Hour** is on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays at noon in the Fellowship Hall**. Here a meal will be prepared, and we welcome all to come and fellowship! On the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays**, we will gather as **BYOL-Bring Your Own Lunch** with fun and fellowship supplied!

Happy Hour ~ January 14th and 28th

BYOL ~ January 7th and 21st

Free Hygiene Store

Our Free Hygiene Store, which is open to community residents, is a continuing success and our shelves need replenishing! We served an additional 3 families last month! We are grateful to be a helping hand to those in need! We are grateful for your continued support of this much needed ministry. Our needs for January include:

- **Cleaning Supplies** (glass, bathroom, and toilet bowl cleaners)
- **Paper towels & Toilet paper**
- **Kids Toothbrush and toothpaste**
- **Shampoo & Conditioner** (dry shampoo too)
- **Body Lotion**
- **Laundry & Dish Soap**
- **Women's and men's Body wash, Deodorant, and Razors**
- **Baby wash and lotion**

We thank those who generously give to this outreach arm of our church! Please place these items in the box located on the main level. Bless you! Join us on **Saturday, January 25th** from **10 am-12 pm** if you would like to volunteer.

Free Clothing Store

The Free Clothing Store is a labor of love! For our community to shop with dignity we need ***clothing racks and kind spirits*** who are willing to donate time. The store will be open on **Saturday, January 25th** **10 am-12 pm**, please contact the church office at 440.322.6622 with questions or to volunteer.

Open Sponsorship Dates

Altar Flower dates:

January 19 and 26

Cost **\$22**

Radio Broadcast dates:

January 19

Cost **\$300.00 full, \$150.00 half**

Or you can contribute any amount to our Radio Fund!

Please call the church office at 440.322.6622 to reserve your special date!

Winter Study

Our winter study began on **Tuesday, January 7th** at **7 pm** via Zoom. We are studying ***The Four Agreements*** by Don Miguel Ruiz. The study will unpack how, in this new year of life in Christ, we can transform our lives to a new experience of freedom, true happiness and love. Books are available today for \$10.00. Start the New Year on good footing by being in bible study!

Wesleyan Village Town Hall

For all our members and United Methodists who are part of Wesleyan Village, join us for our first Town Hall meeting of the year on **Tuesday, January 28th** at **3:30 pm**. We gather quarterly so we can all be in communication and updated on what is happening in our church and community. We look forward to gathering together in a small worship and informational town hall.

Scripture readings for the week:

Sunday, January 12: **Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

Monday, January 13: **Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 4:1-16; Ephesians 6:10-17**

Tuesday, January 14: **Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 5:12-21; 1 John 5:13-21**

Wednesday, January 15: **Psalm 106:1-12; Numbers 27:1-11; Luke 11:33-36**

Thursday, January 16: **Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 3:1-5; Acts 8:18-24**

Friday, January 17: **Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 3:19-25; 1 Corinthians 7:1-7**

Saturday, January 18: **Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 4:1-4; Luke 11:14-23**

Sunday, January 19: **Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11**