

# **The Four Agreements**

January 5, 2025

*\*Please stand as you are comfortable*

<sup>♯</sup> UMH ~ *United Methodist Hymnal* (hard cover hymnal)

<sup>♯</sup> 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 at the beginning of a new year full of new blessings and new revelations. May our lips program Your goodness, and may our hearts be guided by integrity and love.

Prelude

Call to worship:

A new year dawns, filled with promise and possibility.

**We step forward in faith, trusting in God's plan for our lives!**

The old has gone, the new has come; God is making all things new!

**We open our hearts to renewal and transformation by God's Holy Spirit.**

Let us enter this year with hope, speaking life and truth into the days ahead.

**We will be steadfast in love, bold in faith and impeccable in our words!**

Come let us worship the God of new beginnings!

God holds every moment of this year in God's hands. Hallelujah!

\*Opening Hymn

***I Sing the Almighty Power of God***

<sup>♯</sup> UMH # 152

1.

**I sing the mighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.**

**I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.**

2.

**I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food;  
who formed the creatures thru the Word, and then pronounced them good.**

**Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,  
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.**

3.

**There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known,  
and clouds arise and tempests blow by order from thy throne;  
while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,  
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 152

Words: Isaac Watts, 1715

Music: FOREST GREEN; Trad. English melody;

arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Opening Prayer: In Unison

**Gracious and Eternal God, as the sun rises on this new year, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude and hope. We thank you for the gift of another year; a fresh start, and the promise of Your presence with us in every moment. Lord guide our steps as we journey through the days ahead. Teach us to seek your will, to trust in Your plans and to walk boldly in faith. May this year be marked by growth in Your Spirit, kindness in our actions, and integrity in our words. As we worship today, fill us with Your peace, inspire us with Your Word, and empower us to live in a way that reflects Your light in the world. We trust that You will do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: **Isaiah 55:6-12**

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

Psalter: **Psalm 19** Responsively with Sung Response # 2

UMH page 750

*Musical Response*

**Hear the commandments of life; give ear, and learn wisdom!**

<sup>1</sup> The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> **Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.**

<sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;

<sup>4</sup> **yet their voice goes out through all the earth  
and their words to the end of the world.**

In them God has set a tent for the sun,

<sup>5</sup> which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
and runs its course with joy like a strong man.

<sup>6</sup> **Its rising is the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them;  
and there is nothing hid from its heat.**

*Musical Response*

<sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect,  
reviving the soul;

**the testimony of the Lord is sure,  
making wise the simple;**

<sup>8</sup> the precepts of the Lord are right,  
rejoicing the heart;

**the commandment of the Lord is pure,  
enlightening the eyes;**

<sup>9</sup> the fear of the Lord is clean,  
enduring forever;

**the ordinances of the Lord are true,  
and righteous altogether.**

<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;

**sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

*Musical Response*

<sup>11</sup> Moreover, by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> **But who can detect one's own errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults.**

<sup>13</sup> Also keep your servant from the insolent;  
let them not have dominion over me!

**Then I shall be blameless  
and innocent of great transgression.**

<sup>14</sup> **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

*Musical Response*

Anthem

***This Little Light of Mine***

adapt. Smith

New Testament Reading: **Ephesians 4:25-32**

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

Gospel Reading: **Matthew 5:33-37**

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

Hymn of Preparation

***How Like a Gentle Spirit***

UMH # 115

1.

**How like a gentle spirit deep within God reins our fervent passions day by day,  
And gives us strength to challenge and to win Despite the perils of our chosen way.**

2.

**Let God be God wherever life may be; Let every tongue bear witness to the call;  
All humankind is one by God's decree; Let God be God, let God be God for all.**

3.

**God like a mother eagle hovers near On mighty wings of power manifest;  
God like a gentle shepherd stills our fear, And comforts us against a peaceful breast.**

4.

**When in our vain pretensions we conspire To shape God's image as we see our own,  
Hark to the voice above our base desire; God is the sculptor, we the broken stone.**

5.

**Through all our fretful claims of sex and race The universal love of God shines through,  
For God is love transcending style and place And all the idle options we pursue.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 115

Words: C. Eric Lincoln, 1987

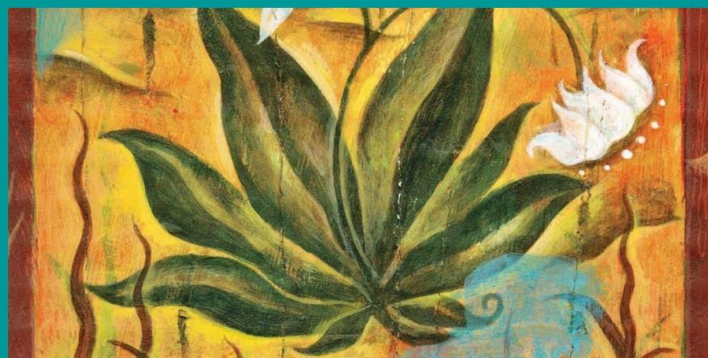
Music: SURSUM CORDA; Alfred Morton Smith, 1941

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Message

The Four Agreements  
"Be Impeccable  
With Your Word"



Happy New Year!

1.

Thou hidden source of calm repose, Thou all-sufficient love divine,  
my help and refuge from my foes, secure I am, if Thou art mine;  
and lo! from sin and grief and shame I hide me, Jesus, in Thy name.

2.

Thy mighty name salvation is, and keeps my happy soul above;  
comfort it brings, and power and peace, and joy and everlasting love;  
to me, with Thy dear name, are given pardon and holiness and heaven.

3.

Jesus, my all in all Thou art; my rest in toil, my ease in pain,  
the healing of my broken heart, in war my peace, in loss my gain,  
my smile beneath the tyrant's frown, in shame my glory and my crown.

4.

In want my plentiful supply, in weakness my almighty power,  
in bonds my perfect liberty, my light in Satan's darkest hour,  
in grief my joy unspeakable, my life in death, my heaven in hell.

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 153

Words: Charles Wesley, 1749

Music: ST. PETERSBURG; attr. to Dimitri S. Bortniansky, 1825

## Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession: In unison

**Merciful God, You have called us to speak truth and live with integrity, yet we confess that we often fall short. Our words have not always brought life; instead they have caused harm, spread doubt, or sown division. Forgive us for the times we have spoken carelessly, out of anger, or with selfish intent. Forgive us for the silence we have kept when we should have spoken up for justice, kindness and truth. Transform our hearts, O Lord, so that what flows from our lips reflects Your love and grace. Teach us to be impeccable with our words, to use them for encouragement, healing and hope. By Your Spirit, renew us and guide us to walk in Your truth. May our words and our lives be a testimony to Your goodness. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

Let us pause for a moment of quiet confession.

Words of assurance:

Hear the good news: God's Word is truth, and God's promises are unfailing. Though we have stumbled in our words and actions, God is faithful to forgive.

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](http://www.elyriafirstumc.org).*

## Offertory

Offertory Prayer: In Unison

**Faithful God, You have spoken words of life, love and truth over us, and Your promises never fail. Today, as we bring our tithes and offerings, we commit not only our resources but also our words and actions to reflect Your goodness and grace. Teach us to be impeccable with our words, using them to build up, encourage and bring hope to others. May these gifts we offer be a reflection of our commitment to speak truth to integrity. Bless what we give today, O Lord. Multiply it for Your purposes, so that our words and deeds may align with Your mission to bring healing, justice and love to the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, who is the Word made flesh. Amen.**

Holy Communion

1.

**O for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and king, The triumphs of His grace!**

2.

**My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad, The honors of Thy name.**

3.

**Jesus! the name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.**

4.

**He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.**

5.

**He speaks, and, listening to His voice, New life the dead receive,  
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice, The humble poor believe.**

6.

**Hear him, ye deaf; you then shall know, your loosened tongues employ;  
ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.**

7.

**In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall feel your sins forgiven;  
anticipate your heaven below, and own that love is heaven.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 57

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739

Music: AZMON; Carl G. Gläser; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

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*Please be seated for closing announcements and the Benediction.*

Benediction: Responsively

As we go from this place, may our words reflect the love and truth of Christ.

**We will speak with integrity, bringing encouragement and hope to others.**

Let your words build up and never tear down, reflecting the heart of God.

**We will choose words of life, healing and peace, guided by the Holy Spirit**

Go forth, sharing God's love in all you say and do.

**Let it be so. Amen!**

Postlude

## 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, Mike Gebhardt, Garry Gibbs, Bruce Schneider,  
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 Heather Tucker in loving memory of her mom, Linda Trakas, in celebration of Linda's January 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.elyriafirstumc.org)

An equal opportunity provider

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# Third Street Review



January 5, 2025

**First United Methodist Church**  
312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035  
Phone: 440.322.6622  
Email: church@elyriafirstumc.org

## ***Happy New Year!***

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](http://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!

## ***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 25<sup>th</sup> 10 am-12 pm**, please contact the church office at 440.322.6622 with questions or to volunteer.

## ***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. To date, with your legacy of generosity, we are closing our \$33,000.00 gap. 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!

## ***Open Sponsorship Dates***

Altar Flower dates: **January 19 and 26**; Cost **\$22**

Radio Broadcast dates:

**January 12 and 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!

## ***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 **Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>** from **10 am-12 pm** if you would like to volunteer.

## ***Winter Study***

Our winter study begins **Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>** via Zoom. We will study ***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!

## ***Happy Tuesdays***

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

**Happy Hour ~ January 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>**

**BYOL ~ January 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**

## ***Scripture readings for the week:***

Sunday, January 5: **Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18**

Monday, January 6: **Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12**

Tuesday, January 7: **Psalm 72; Daniel 2:1-19; Ephesians 4:17-5:1**

Wednesday, January 8: **Psalm 72; Daniel 2:24-49; Ephesians 5:15-20**

Thursday, January 9: **Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

Friday, January 10: **Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 2:1-10**

Saturday, January 11: **Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 3:1-15; 1 Corinthians 2:11-16**

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