

## **God's Covenant**

January 2 – 23, 2022

*“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” – Isaiah 43:1*

In the birth of Jesus, we receive the promise of God with us. This is one of many promises, covenants, that God shares with us. Promises are at the heart of our faith and our relationships. They guide and shape us as we seek to live faithful lives together.

### **January 2 – Covenant Sunday**

*“See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare” – Isaiah 42:9*

Ephesians 3:1-12; Isaiah 42:9

Our denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is built on promises. We understand ourselves to be in covenant with one another, all parts of the church in relationship through God. We will hear a word from our Regional Minister, Teresa Dulyea-Parker, sharing the story of how our region, Christian Church of Illinois and Wisconsin, and the Michigan Region have come together in promise, sharing ministry.

### **January 9 – Flowing Grace**

*“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” – Isaiah 43:1*

Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

God's grace is upon us. How do we respond? By coming to the waters of baptism. As we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the claim that is made upon him and his life, we remember our own calls. We've been redeemed and called by name. We are beloved children of God.

## **January 16 – Transforming Words**

*“you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give” – Isaiah 62:2*

Isaiah 62:1-5; John 2:1-11

Who are we? We have been called; are we ready to live our call in the world? God's abundance is there for us to share. As we live out our call we will find a new name, a truer, fuller identity in God's promises.

## **January 23 – Living together**

*“Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing” – Luke 4:21*

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Luke 4:14-21

God speaks to us through the ages. In the most ancient of stories and in the voice of the one next to us. To hear God's promise we must be willing to be open to hear and to see. Let us not get bogged down in what we expect to find. God is doing a new thing among us. God's promises are ever growing.