

01-23-22 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“As he prepares to begin his public ministry, Jesus reminds his listeners and us that the start of anything new is always a great opportunity to pause, revisit our mission, and reclaim ‘who we are’ and ‘whose we are.’”

- Marilyn Pagán-Banks

“At Wesley we foster a sanctuary culture by creating a safe environment where all feel welcomed, loved, accepted, valued, and affirmed for who they are, through intentional practices such as empathy, compassion, generosity, hospitality, and inclusion.”

Wesley UMC Sanctuary Statement



Luke 4:14-21

Questions for Reflection —

- When have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your life? What difference did it make in your priorities and actions? For what specific undertakings or tasks do you presently feel yourself anointed by the Holy Spirit? Where have you seen the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the life of our congregation, in our ministries and programs? As we continue to define our “new normal” what would it mean for us to be reminded of and reclaim who and whose we are?

- What persons or groups of persons would you identify as being marginalized and oppressed? What would it look like to bring good news to those people? What issues or situations in our society presently need focused attention and compassion? What would release, healing, and justice look like for those issues/situations? How do you see yourself playing a role? What do you think the call to our congregation is?

- What does it look like to build community across differences? How have you grown or what have you learned through interactions with people who think or live differently than you do? What is needed in order to build more inclusive community? What does it mean to be welcoming of all people, to value and affirm each person for who they are? How can we as a congregation better embody God’s love in the world?

Daily Household Prayer

Almighty God, you sent Jesus to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with your Spirit, that we too may bring good news to the poor, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through Jesus Christ. Amen.