

united methodist church lectionary 2023

United Methodist Church Lectionary 2023: A Guide to Worship Planning and Spiritual Growth

The **United Methodist Church lectionary 2023** serves as a vital resource for pastors, worship leaders, and congregations seeking a structured and meaningful approach to scripture reading and sermon preparation throughout the liturgical year. Rooted in a tradition that values the systematic reading of scripture, the lectionary offers a curated selection of passages from the Old Testament, Psalms, Epistles, and Gospels, guiding communities through the narrative of salvation and spiritual growth. As the United Methodist Church continues to emphasize the importance of scripture in worship and discipleship, understanding the lectionary for 2023 becomes essential for fostering intentional worship experiences that resonate with contemporary believers while honoring historic Christian traditions.

This article explores the details of the United Methodist Church lectionary 2023, its structure, key themes, and how it can enhance worship planning and spiritual development during the year. Whether you're a seasoned pastor or a lay leader, understanding the lectionary's design and purpose can enrich your engagement with scripture and deepen your congregation's faith journey.

Understanding the United Methodist Church Lectionary 2023

What is a Lectionary?

A lectionary is a curated collection of scripture passages arranged for use in worship services over a specific period, typically aligned with the liturgical calendar. The goal is to ensure that congregations engage with the breadth of biblical texts, fostering a comprehensive understanding of God's Word across the church year.

The Structure of the 2023 Lectionary

The United Methodist Church's 2023 lectionary adheres to a three-year cycle—Years A, B, and C—each emphasizing different synoptic Gospels:

- **Year A:** Focuses on the Gospel of Matthew
- **Year B:** Emphasizes the Gospel of Mark

- **Year C:** Centers on the Gospel of Luke

In 2023, the church operates within Year A, which highlights Matthew's Gospel, known for its emphasis on Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy and the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount.

The lectionary also includes a systematic rotation through the liturgical seasons:

- Advent
- Christmas
- Lent
- Easter
- Pentecost
- Ordinary Time

Each season features specific themes and scripture passages that guide the worship focus and spiritual reflections.

Lectionary Components and Daily Readings

The 2023 lectionary encompasses:

- **Sunday Readings:** Primary texts for weekly worship services, including the Old Testament, Psalms, Epistles, and Gospels
- **Weekday Devotional Readings:** Daily scripture selections for personal or group devotionals
- **Special Occasion Readings:** Texts for holidays, feast days, and significant church events

This comprehensive approach ensures that believers are immersed in scripture throughout the year, fostering consistent spiritual growth.

Key Themes and Focus Areas in the 2023

Lectionary

Emphasis on Jesus' Teachings and Miracles

Since Year A emphasizes Matthew's Gospel, the 2023 lectionary highlights Jesus' teachings, such as the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sermon on the Mount. These passages serve as foundational principles for Christian living and moral guidance.

Focus on Justice and Compassion

Throughout the year, scripture passages draw attention to themes of justice, mercy, and compassion—core values in United Methodist theology. For example:

- Parables about the Good Samaritan and the Sheep and the Goats
- Prophetic calls for social justice from the Old Testament
- Teachings on loving neighbors and caring for the marginalized

Journey Through Salvation History

The lectionary guides congregations through key moments of salvation history, from creation and covenant to Christ's life, death, and resurrection, culminating in the promise of new creation during the Easter season.

Seasonal Focus and Special Days

Each liturgical season emphasizes specific themes:

- **Advent:** Preparation for Christ's coming, focusing on hope and anticipation
- **Christmas:** Celebrating the Incarnation and God's love made manifest in Jesus
- **Lent:** Reflection, repentance, and renewal
- **Easter:** Resurrection and new life
- **Pentecost:** The Holy Spirit's empowerment for mission
- **Ordinary Time:** Growth in faith and discipleship

Using the 2023 Lectionary for Worship Planning

Creating a Cohesive Worship Experience

The lectionary provides a framework for aligning scripture readings with sermons, prayers, hymns, and liturgical actions. Worship planners can select passages that reflect the season's themes and the church's current focus.

Incorporating Lectionary Texts into Sermons

Preachers can use the assigned readings to:

- Build sermons around the main themes of the season
- Connect Old Testament prophecies with New Testament fulfillment
- Highlight the relevance of biblical teachings for contemporary issues

Engaging Congregations with Scripture

Lectionary-based worship encourages congregational participation through:

- Responsive readings
- Scripture reflection groups
- Incorporating psalms and hymns related to the readings

Benefits of Following the United Methodist Church Lectionary 2023

Ensures Biblical Breadth and Depth

The lectionary's systematic approach guarantees exposure to a diverse range of biblical texts, fostering a well-rounded biblical literacy.

Fosters Liturgical Coherence

Aligning scripture with the liturgical calendar creates meaningful worship

experiences that resonate with the spiritual rhythm of the church year.

Supports Discipleship and Spiritual Formation

Consistent scripture engagement helps believers grow in faith, understanding, and application of biblical principles.

Enhances Community Engagement

Shared scripture readings and themes unite congregations in collective worship and reflection, strengthening community bonds.

Accessing the United Methodist Church Lectionary 2023

Official Resources and Publications

The United Methodist Church publishes the lectionary through various resources:

- United Methodist Book of Worship
- Lectionary guides available on the United Methodist Publishing House website
- Online platforms and apps designed for worship planning

Supplementary Materials and Devotionals

Many churches and Christian publishers offer devotional guides and sermon aids based on the 2023 lectionary, providing additional insights and reflections.

Conclusion: Embracing the 2023 Lectionary in Your Worship Life

The **United Methodist Church lectionary 2023** offers a meaningful pathway for churches to engage with scripture systematically throughout the year. By aligning worship, preaching, and discipleship with the lectionary, congregations can deepen their faith, foster biblical literacy, and experience the rich spiritual rhythm of the Christian liturgical calendar.

Whether used as a primary resource or as a supplement to other worship planning tools, the lectionary remains an essential element for vibrant and intentional worship in the United Methodist tradition.

Embrace the lectionary's structure this year to enrich your community's worship life, inspire sermons, and nurture believers in their spiritual journey through 2023 and beyond.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the United Methodist Church Lectionary for 2023?

The United Methodist Church Lectionary for 2023 is a curated schedule of scripture readings used for worship and preaching throughout the liturgical year, designed to guide pastors and congregations in engaging with biblical texts systematically.

How does the 2023 United Methodist Church Lectionary differ from previous years?

The 2023 Lectionary incorporates updated themes, seasonal focuses, and a balanced selection of Old and New Testament readings, reflecting contemporary contexts while maintaining traditional liturgical structures.

Where can I access the official United Methodist Church Lectionary for 2023?

The official 2023 Lectionary can be accessed through the United Methodist Church's official website, the Upper Room's resources, and various denominational publications available online and in print.

Are there any specific themes highlighted in the 2023 United Methodist Church Lectionary?

Yes, the 2023 Lectionary emphasizes themes such as hope, justice, reconciliation, and community, aligning with the church's focus on social justice and spiritual growth throughout the liturgical year.

How can pastors best utilize the 2023 United Methodist Church Lectionary in their sermons?

Pastors can use the Lectionary to develop sermons that connect biblical texts to contemporary issues, ensuring a cohesive worship experience, and fostering deeper engagement with scripture among congregants.

Does the 2023 United Methodist Church Lectionary include readings for special observances and seasons?

Yes, the Lectionary provides specific readings for all major seasons and holy days, including Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost, as well as other observances throughout the year.

How can congregations incorporate the 2023 Lectionary into their weekly worship planning?

Congregations can incorporate the Lectionary by aligning hymn selections, prayers, and sermons with the assigned scriptures for each week, fostering a unified worship theme aligned with the church calendar.

Additional Resources

United Methodist Church Lectionary 2023: A Comprehensive Guide to Worship Planning and Scripture Engagement

The United Methodist Church lectionary 2023 serves as an essential resource for pastors, worship leaders, and congregations seeking a structured and meaningful approach to scripture reading and sermon preparation throughout the liturgical year. Rooted in a tradition that emphasizes the importance of the lectionary as a means of connecting believers with the overarching narrative of Scripture, the 2023 cycle offers a carefully curated sequence of passages designed to foster spiritual growth, theological reflection, and communal worship. This guide aims to unpack the components, themes, and practical applications of the United Methodist Church lectionary for 2023, helping churches navigate the year ahead with confidence and insight.

What Is the United Methodist Church Lectionary?

The United Methodist Church lectionary is a three-year cycle of scripture readings—Year A, Year B, and Year C—that guides weekly worship services. It is primarily based on the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), a widely used ecumenical resource, but tailored to reflect the theological emphases and liturgical practices of the United Methodist tradition.

Key features include:

- Selection of Old Testament, Psalms, Epistles, and Gospel readings.
- Focus on themes aligned with the liturgical seasons: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time.
- Incorporation of special days such as Pentecost, All Saints, and Holy Week.

Using the lectionary encourages churches to engage with a wide spectrum of

biblical texts, promoting a balanced diet of Scripture that covers both the Old and New Testaments.

The Structure of the 2023 Lectionary Cycle

Liturgical Seasons and Their Significance

The 2023 lectionary cycle follows the traditional liturgical calendar, with designated readings for each season:

- Advent (Late November - December 24): Preparing for Christ's coming.
- Christmas (December 25 - Epiphany): Celebrating Christ's birth.
- Epiphany (January 6 - early February): Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.
- Lent (February - March/April): Reflection, repentance, and preparation for Easter.
- Holy Week (March/April): Commemorating Jesus' Passion, death, and resurrection.
- Easter (April - May): Celebrating the resurrection.
- Pentecost (May/June): The coming of the Holy Spirit.
- Ordinary Time (June - November): Growth and discipleship.

Each season's readings are selected to reinforce its spiritual themes, fostering a cohesive worship experience.

The Three-Year Cycle: Year A, B, and C

- Year A: Focuses on Matthew's Gospel, emphasizing themes of discipleship and the kingdom of God.
- Year B: Centers on Mark's Gospel, highlighting Jesus' ministry and suffering.
- Year C: Features Luke's Gospel, with an emphasis on mercy, compassion, and social justice.

The 2023 cycle is Year C, meaning the Gospel readings are predominantly from Luke, which offers rich narratives about Jesus' compassion, parables, and social engagement.

Key Components of the 2023 Lectionary Readings

Weekly Scripture Selections

Each week typically includes:

- An Old Testament reading (often from prophets or historical texts)
- A psalm or song of praise or lament
- An epistle or New Testament letter
- A Gospel reading (narrative of Jesus' life, teachings, death, or

resurrection)

This combination allows worship leaders to craft sermons and liturgies that connect themes across Scripture.

Thematic Focus and Reflection

The readings are curated to highlight recurring themes such as:

- Justice and righteousness
- Grace and mercy
- Faith and trust
- Salvation and redemption
- Discipleship and mission

Lectionary cycles also reflect current social issues and encourage congregational reflection on justice, inclusion, and community.

Practical Applications for Worship Planning

Sermon Preparation

- Identify overarching themes: Use the lectionary to find common threads among the readings.
- Contextualize the texts: Consider historical and cultural backgrounds.
- Connect to contemporary issues: Relate biblical themes to current societal challenges.
- Incorporate multiple texts: Use the Old Testament, Psalms, Epistles, and Gospels to craft a balanced message.

Worship Experience

- Liturgical integration: Design prayers, hymns, and responses that align with the lectionary theme.
- Inclusive language: Adapt language to be welcoming and relevant.
- Creative engagement: Use visuals, drama, or multimedia to deepen understanding.

Congregational Engagement

- Bible study groups: Use the weekly texts for discussion and reflection.
- Educational programs: Teach about the significance of the lectionary cycle.
- Community outreach: Connect the themes to service projects and advocacy.

Highlights of the 2023 Lectionary Themes

While the full schedule is extensive, some notable themes and passages in 2023 include:

- Advent/Christmas: Hope, light, and Emmanuel—God with us (Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20)
- Lent: Repentance and renewal (Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; Psalm 51)
- Holy Week/Easter: Salvation through sacrifice and resurrection (John 19-20; 1 Corinthians 15)
- Pentecost: The gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2; Romans 8)
- Ordinary Time: Discipleship and community building (Luke 10:25-37; Colossians 1:11-20)

These themes serve as anchors for worship and community reflection throughout the year.

Tips for Using the 2023 Lectionary Effectively

1. Plan ahead: Review the entire cycle at the start of the year to identify key themes and potential sermon series.
2. Be flexible: Allow room for local context and current events.
3. Engage the congregation: Incorporate responsive readings, hymns, and prayers aligned with the lectionary.
4. Educate the congregation: Offer Bible study sessions that explore the weekly texts in depth.
5. Use supplementary resources: Leverage commentaries, sermon guides, and multimedia to enrich worship.

Conclusion

The United Methodist Church lectionary 2023 offers a rich, structured approach to biblical engagement that nurtures faith, fosters community, and deepens understanding of God's Word. By following this lectionary cycle, churches can ensure that their worship services are rooted in Scripture, aligned with liturgical seasons, and responsive to the spiritual needs of their congregation. Whether you are a seasoned pastor or a lay leader, embracing the lectionary as a guiding tool can transform worship planning into a meaningful journey through the story of salvation—one week at a time.

Embrace the 2023 lectionary cycle to deepen your congregation's worship experience and grow in faith through the rich tapestry of Scripture that guides us through the seasons of life.

[United Methodist Church Lectionary 2023](#)

2022-2023 CEB Edition Mary Scifres, David L. Bone, 2022-04-19 Call or chat to have this delivered each year. An all-in-one resource that helps both the music director and pastor plan the worship services for each Sunday and holy day of the year, The United Methodist Music and Worship Planner 2022-2023, CEB Edition is lectionary-based and places at your fingertips: - Weekly pages in spiral-bound format that help you plan the entire worship year, from September through August. - Eight or more suggested hymns for each service keyed to United Methodist worship resources: The United Methodist Hymnal, The Faith We Sing, Worship & Song, The United Methodist Book of Worship, and The Africana Hymnal. - Complete lectionary text of the Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel readings using the Common English Bible translation. - Reproducible worship planning forms. - Resources for holidays and special days. - Suggestions for prayers, solos, anthems, visuals, and much more.

united methodist church lectionary 2023: The United Methodist Music & Worship Planner 2022-2023 NRSV Edition - eBook [ePub] David L. Bone, Mary Scifres, 2022-04-19 An all-in-one resource that helps both the music director and pastor plan the worship services for each Sunday and holy day of the year, The United Methodist Music and Worship Planner 2022-2023 is lectionary-based and places at your fingertips: Weekly pages in spiral-bound format that help you plan the entire worship year, from September through August. Eight or more suggested hymns for each service keyed to United Methodist worship resources: The United Methodist Hymnal, The Faith We Sing, Worship & Song, The United Methodist Book of Worship, and The Africana Hymnal. Complete lectionary text of the Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel readings using the NRSV translation. Reproducible worship planning forms. Resources for holidays and special days. Suggestions for prayers, solos, anthems, visuals, and much more. Also available with Common English Bible texts

united methodist church lectionary 2023: New Common Lectionary for the United Methodist Church United Methodist Church (U.S.), 1988*

united methodist church lectionary 2023: *The United Methodist Music & Worship Planner 2023-2024 CEB Edition* Mary Scifres, David L. Bone, 2023-04-18 A weekly worship planning book for United Methodist pastors and musicians. An all-in-one resource that helps both the music director and pastor plan the worship services for each Sunday and holy day of the year, The United Methodist Music and Worship Planner 2023-2024 is lectionary-based and places at your fingertips: Weekly pages in spiral-bound format that help you plan the entire worship year, from September through August. Eight or more suggested hymns for each service keyed to United Methodist worship resources: The United Methodist Hymnal, The Faith We Sing, Worship & Song, The United Methodist Book of Worship, and The Africana Hymnal. Complete lectionary text of the Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel readings using the Common English Bible translation. Reproducible worship planning forms. Resources for holidays and special days. Suggestions for prayers, solos, anthems, visuals, and much more. Also available with NRSV texts

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united methodist church lectionary 2023: *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church Year* B Wilda C. Gafney, 2023-07-18 In this project I propose at least two new lectionaries, a year W, a women's readings year that can be added to the current Episcopal or Revised Common (RCL) Lectionaries, and a new three-year cycle. How would a lectionary centering women's stories, chosen with womanist and feminist commitments in mind frame the presentation of the scriptures for proclamation and teaching? More simply, what would it look like if women built a lectionary focusing on women's stories? How is the story of God told when stories of women's brutalization and marginalization are moved from the margins of canon and lectionary, and held in the center in tension with stories of savvy and strong women, women whose contribution is not limited to or does not even include childbearing? There are more than two billion Christians in the world according to the Pew Research Center demographic projections (Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion and Public Life, Global Religious Landscape, December 2012), 2.3 billion in 2015. With Roman Catholics making up an estimated 1.2 billion, and accounting for Orthodox Christians, Anglicans, Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and other Reformed traditions along with some Baptist and congregational churches that use a lectionary, the overwhelming majority of Christians receive their scripture mediated through a lectionary. Based on the numbers in the Pew Research Center's 12 May 2015 report, America's Changing Religious Landscape, as much as sixty percent of American Christians attend services in churches that use lectionaries. Those lectionaries are not simply as androcentric as are the scriptures, but in my experience as a congregant and priest, women are even less well represented than they are in the biblical text. For example, there are one hundred and eleven named women in the Hebrew Scriptures-which is itself under-represented in preaching lectionaries-not accounting for the numbers of unnamed women and girls. The lectionary is a catechetical tool. All many congregants know of the bible is the texts they hear read from their respective lectionary. As a biblical scholar it is my hope to see congregants exposed to the bible more broadly and deeply, and see them equipped to engage the sacred texts of their tradition critically, with nuance. This book will be for use in liturgical contexts in parishes and the institutions of the Church, in seminary classrooms-particularly worship and liturgy, and for individual devotional use--

united methodist church lectionary 2023: *The Episcopal Church Annual 2023*, 2023-07-18 The leading source of information on the Episcopal Church With origins dating back to 1830, The Episcopal Church Annual – aka “The Red Book” – is an indispensable reference tool, trusted year-after-year by churches, diocesan offices, libraries, and many others. You will find the following between the covers of the 2023 edition of “The Red Book”, and more: A comprehensive directory of provinces, dioceses, and churches, including contact information and listings of active clergy The canonical structure and organization of the Episcopal Church, including complete directories for the Office of The General Convention, The House of Bishops, The House of Deputies, standing committees and commissions, and more Listings and contact information for seminaries; Episcopal schools; centers for camps, conferences, and retreats; Episcopal Church Women; and more Up-to-date church-wide statistical data and chronological tables A classified buyer’s guide of vendors and organizations offering valued services to the church

united methodist church lectionary 2023: *The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2025* Charley Reeb, 2024-04-02 The local pastor’s go-to resource for weekly sermon planning. The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2025 is Lectionary-based and follows the calendar year (January - December). It includes special days like Maundy Thursday and Ash Wednesday, and indexes for Scriptures and themes, to assist preachers with non-Lectionary sermons. Each entry begins with a preacher-to-preacher prayer for preparation, then moves to the key feature: a commentary on one or more texts for the week, exploring themes and storylines, theological reflections, and thoughts about how the text and topic relate to our lives today. Also included are ideas for bringing the text to life--stories, illustrations, ideas for further reading, questions the preacher might pose to the congregation, and suggestions for a ‘call to action’ in response to the message. Finally, for the preacher’s ongoing enrichment, the Annual includes excerpts from new books on preaching and

homiletics. This helpful resource is written by every-week preachers who aim to come alongside you, offering a reliable starting point for your sermonic planning, writing, and delivery.

united methodist church lectionary 2023: Revised Common Lectionary (1992) for the United Methodist Church United Methodist Church (U.S.), 1992

united methodist church lectionary 2023: The OneWord Worship Model Lisa M. Allen, 2023-09-26 The OneWord Worship Model: A New Paradigm for Church Worship Planning offers a clear, concise, and collaborative approach to planning congregational worship using the biblical text as its foundation. The model engages laity and clergy in the true definition of liturgy--the work or action of the people. This text serves as both invitation and instruction for pastors, worship leaders, and congregations to plan powerful, fruitful, and transformative corporate encounters with the triune God.

united methodist church lectionary 2023: Doxology 33.4 Benjamin Zakhary, Rebecca L. Holland, Susan Delaney Spear, Heather Josselyn-Cranson, Cynthia Astle, Sarah Mount Elewononi, S. Aaron Wong, 2022-11-27 Doxology: a journal of worship and the sacramental life, Volume 33.4 (Advent-Christmas 2022) Founded in 1984, Doxology: a journal of worship and the sacramental life is a quarterly, peer reviewed journal published by the Order of Saint Luke (OSL Publications). It focuses on emerging and historical theologies and practices of Christian worship. Print distribution is to the members of the Order globally, as well as to a number of theology departments and seminary libraries in the United States. Doxology also continues the tradition of the journal Sacramental Life, which merged with Doxology in 2020.

united methodist church lectionary 2023: Planning for Rites and Rituals Andrew R. Wright, 2023-07-18 The indispensable guide to curating resources for worship in the Episcopal Church. Newly revised and reorganized, Planning for Rites and Rituals is a guide to liturgical planning in the Episcopal Church, organized around the seasons of the church year and the cycle of Sunday readings in the revised common lectionary. Structured as a series of three volumes—one for each year in the lectionary cycle—Planning for Rites and Rituals includes guidance for making seasonal choices among the church's authorized worship resources, brief commentary on each Sunday's readings, guidance is approaching the Prayers of the People, and suggestions for observing commemorations from the church's calendar. New selections on the readings by Deirdre Good offer fresh insights to preachers. New introductory material suggests approaches to curating liturgical resources. New editor Andrew Wright has applied his years of experience in planning liturgy at parishes across the Episcopal Church and mentoring clergy to this revision. Including contributions from throughout the church, this volume offers clergy and lay liturgical planners a framework for planning throughout the church year.

united methodist church lectionary 2023: Reconciliation in Remembrance of Jesus Christ LIT Verlag, 2023-01-23 Since the Lima Declarations of Convergence in 1982, no other document in the international ecumenical movement has dealt with Eucharistic communion at the celebration of the Lord's Supper in remembrance of the Holy Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. On the occasion of the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 2022 in Karlsruhe, ecumenically minded Protestant, Free Church, Old Catholic, Roman Catholic and Orthodox theologians from Germany have taken up this topic afresh. They provide insights into the current state of ecumenical conversations, present the various traditions of confessional worship and offer practical suggestions for an ecumenically sensitive liturgical practice. The German Ecumenical Study Committee (DÖSTA) contributes a joint statement on the subject. Memories of the 3rd Ecumenical Kirchentag (Church Congress) 2021 in Frankfurt am Main are revived. The decision to go to the Lord's Table together, trusting in the presence of Jesus Christ in the celebration of Holy Communion, Eucharist and Holy Sacrifice, can be justified theologically, but continues to raise controversy. On the Sunday of the Assembly in Karlsruhe, September 4, 2022, a rich range of liturgies will commemorate the life of Jesus, his death for us, and the sending of God's Spirit. Together, all churches testify that "The love of Christ moves, reconciles and unites the world." Hacik Gazer, Professor of History and Theology of Eastern Christianity at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg; Armenian Apostolic theologian. Markus Iff,

Professor of Systematic Theology and Ecumenics at the Theological Seminary of Ewersbach; pastor in the Federation of Free Evangelical Churches. Werner Klän, retired Professor of Church History and Systematic Theology; pastor of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church. Dorothea Sattler, Professor of Ecumenical Theology and Dogmatics at the University of Munster; Roman Catholic theologian.

united methodist church lectionary 2023: Being United Methodist Christians Andy Langford, Sally Langford, Ann Langford Duncan, 2023-09-21 Learn what it means to be a United Methodist Christian. How may we describe United Methodists? Where do we come from? What do we believe? How do United Methodists act? What are our distinctive characteristics? What is required to be a member of our denomination? How do we grow as disciples of Jesus Christ within this great communion? In this resource, we offer answers to these questions and others in broad strokes as we describe our United Methodist Church. We will introduce you to how United Methodists live and think as followers of Jesus Christ. The United Methodist Church possesses the characteristics of many other Christian traditions but has its own distinctive profile. Our denomination combines knowledge and vital piety, believing that serious theological reflection and spiritual practices are both part of the Christian life. United Methodists link personal and social holiness, expecting high personal integrity and deep concern for social justice. We are both evangelical and sacramental, showing concern for people who have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and honoring the transforming power of Baptism and Holy Communion. We welcome people with many different theological perspectives. Finally, United Methodists are both local and connectional, expressing our faith in local congregations, regional associations, and global missions, so that we might do more together than any of us could do separately. This book will help readers: · hear and claim for themselves the story of God's love, God's redemption, and God's ongoing presence and power through Jesus Christ. · explore and claim for themselves the unique beliefs and emphases of United Methodist Christians. · identify ways to live day by day as United Methodist Christians as individuals and in community with other Christians. We invite you to claim for yourself the continuing story of God's mighty acts of creation, redemption, and power through Jesus Christ within our great denomination. As you begin or continue to see yourself within this living, dynamic part of the universal body of Jesus Christ, we invite you to live, be, and grow as a United Methodist Christian. The book includes reflection questions. Supplementary resources include a downloadable Sermon, Worship, and Study Series outline.

united methodist church lectionary 2023: *The Upper Room Disciplines 2025* , 2024-09-01 Longing for daily spiritual renewal with God? *Disciplines*, the beloved and bestselling year-long devotional from The Upper Room, offers a unique opportunity to ground and center your day in God's word. With daily meditations and prayers crafted by renowned and diverse Christian thought leaders, you'll be guided through a transformative exploration of scripture to deepen and inspire your daily life with God. Following the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of scripture readings, *Disciplines* sparks new insights and revelations as you engage with the timeless truths of the Bible. Each week, a different thought leader will lead you on a journey of spiritual discovery, providing fresh perspectives and meaningful reflections to deepen your understanding of scripture and God's longings for you and your community. The Upper Room *Disciplines* also includes a Guide to Daily Prayer and a Small Group Leader's Guide, making it perfect for individual study or group discussion. Whether you are seeking personal growth or nurturing a community of believers, this devotional guide is the perfect companion on your spiritual journey. The Upper Room *Disciplines* is essential reading for all who yearn to live everyday grounded in God's word and hope. Order your copy today and start your journey towards a deeper relationship with Christ. Among the writers for the 2025 edition of *Disciplines* are Jorge Acevedo, Bishop Sidwell Mokgothu, Osheta Moore, J. Dana Trent, Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth, and Nadiyka Gerbish. The Upper Room *Disciplines* features: A focal scripture passage for each day of the year Brief, insightful meditations from 53 thought leaders from diverse Christian traditions A prayer or reflection to carry with you each day Weekly scripture overviews An index of scripture readings A guide to daily prayer A small group leader's guide

united methodist church lectionary 2023: The Lectionary Series for United Methodist Worship United Methodist Church (U.S.), 1980

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