



Covenant United Methodist Church

THE ARK

December 2018

Office Hours

The church office will be closed December 24 and 25 for Christmas. Additionally, the office will be closed January 1 for New Year's.

Hat, Mitten, and Sock Tree

Share the gift of warmth this holiday season by donating winter hats, headbands, mittens, gloves, and warm socks for the children of Chegwin School. Many of the students at Chegwin are living at or below the poverty level, and it is not unusual for children to come to school unprotected from the cold of winter. Your donations of warmth can help; donations will be accepted through December 16.

Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is an opportunity to share a gift and brighten Christmas for families in need from our congregation and from Chegwin School. The families remain anonymous. Different colored tags represent different families on our Angel Tree. Each tag lists a needed or desired items, along with age, gender, and size if necessary.

The Angel Tree will be up beginning December 2 in Fellowship Hall.

Please select tags for the gifts you wish to purchase. Find the color-coordinated sheet to sign up. We suggest you enclose a gift receipt for clothing when you wrap the package.

Attach the "Angel tag" to the package and return gifts by Sunday, December 16.

If you prefer to give a cash donation rather than shop, you may place it in a mission envelope in the park and mark "Gifts for Families," and it will be used to buy a gift or food.

Cookie Walk

On December 16 from 10am-noon, we will have our annual cookie walk. Help the Sending Forth Committee and UMW raise funds for gifts for families to supplement angel tree gifts.



Cookie bakers wanted and volunteers

needed! Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex. Cookies can be brought to the church on Saturday, December 15 from 9:00-11:00am. Bring them on a holiday plate if possible. Make sure your name is on your plate and the name of your cookie is clearly marked.

On December 16, purchase beautiful, delicious cookies for your holiday gifting and celebrations. Choose your cookies and pay by the pound (\$6).

Scriptures for December

* denotes sermon focus

December 2

**Jeremiah 33:14-16* *Psalms 25:1-10*

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 *Luke 21:25-36*

December 9- Christmas Cantata

Malachi 3:1-4 *Luke 1:68-79*

Philippians 1:3-11 *Luke 3:1-6*

December 16-Children's Christmas Program

Zephaniah 3:14-20 *Isaiah 12:2-6*

Philippians 4:4-7 *Luke 3:7-18*

December 23

**Micah 5:2-5a* *Psalms 80:1-7*

Hebrews 10:5-10 *Luke 1:39-45, 46-55*

December 30

1 Samuel 2:18-20 *Psalms 148*

Colossians 3:12-17 **Luke 2:41-52*

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the shoebox program! We were able to send 36 boxes!



Pastoral Prophecies from Joel:

“GOD’S BIG GOAL FOR HUMANITY!”

The month of December confronts many of us with both the joy and wonder of Christmas, as well as the busyness of trying to schedule all the family gatherings and the pressure of shopping for gifts and overextending our finances. Amid the busyness of the season, I think it is easy for us to lose sight of what God’s real intent for humanity really is with the coming of “Emanuel” God with us, as we experience it in the baby boy child Jesus. The real BIG GOAL that God had in sending us his Son was to save all of humanity, once and for all time! As Christians we have experienced that joy and salvation that comes only through Jesus Christ in our heart as our Lord and Savior. The problem is that we don’t share it often enough with other people!

Keeping these things in mind, I would like to put a challenge before you this Advent and Christmas Season. Use this Advent and Christmas Season to tell other people about what Jesus has done in your life. Share your faith stories with others this Christmas season. So here is the challenge: Invite one person to come to worship with you every week during this Advent and Christmas Season! It can either be the same person, or different people every week. However, the point is that the Advent and Christmas season is a PERFECT TIME for us to share our faith with others and invite them to come to church with us. Statistics show that about 80% of the people who visit a church for the first time are invited by someone who is already there! So, think of what could happen here at Covenant UMC if you use this Advent and Christmas season to “INVITE OTHERS TO COME TO CHURCH WITH YOU”! Think of how much the Kingdom of God would expand in our midst! Think of how much our church would benefit if we invited them to come to worship with us more than once! Our church would have new vitality as we share our faith with others and invite them to know the joy of salvation. We would have the opportunity to grow in our faith, our discipleship, and numbers. Just think of the possibilities!

God sent Jesus, His only Son to be the savior of the world. This Christmas Season, I invite you to share your faith by inviting others to come and worship with you! What better time to share your faith with others? And Sunday, December 9th gives us a special time to invite others to come with you to worship because our Choir will be presenting their Christmas Cantata at the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, and on Sunday, December 16th during the 9:00 a.m. worship service our children and youth will be presenting their annual Christmas Program. What a great time to invite others to come and share the joy of the Christmas season with you here at Covenant UMC!

Merry Christmas, and please use this Christmas Season to share your faith with others, and by doing so you can grow the Kingdom of God at the same time!

Peace,



Joel



Family Ministry

Christmas Event

You are all invited to a special Christmas presentation of "One Starry Night" Friday, Dec. 7. Join us and Salem UMC for an exciting evening. After you and your family register in the outer office (rm E201) on the second floor, join us for a guided tour of Bethlehem as it was that Christmas night a long time ago. You will experience many parts of the story when you go from room to room and enjoy fun crafts and food that was a part of Bethlehem at that time. Join us anytime between 6pm and 9pm that Friday night. The last tour will leave the office at 8:30pm to make sure you are finished by 9pm.



Advent begins on Sunday, Dec. 2. We again have special activities for families to do together on the days before Christmas. We will be collecting food and toiletries for neighborhood and Chegwin families in Fellowship Hall.

Packer Christmas Party Potluck

at noon on Dec. 9 join us for a potluck lunch for the Packer/Falcons game. Please join us for a neighborhood Christmas party. Some of the residents in the neighborhood may once again have to spend Christmas alone. We want them to know they do not have to be alone. We will have some games and activities for kids and some Christmas movies when they get bored with the game.

Christmas Program

On December 16, we will be performing "Great Big Story" during our 9am worship time. The kids have been working hard preparing for this great program. It is a musical about a Sunday School class and how they tell the story of Jesus' birth. Once again the Rainbow Puppets will add their talents to the story. So please join us on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 9am for 45 minutes of music and storytelling. After the program join us for a Christmas celebration in the Parlor on the second floor. Celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus with us!



Youth Group

Our youth group is working hard! Confirmation class has started, and they are working together on several projects. Registration for Youth 2019 is in December. Fundraising for this event has begun with the Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair which raised over \$500.



On December 16 from 11:00am-2:00pm, the youth will be wrapping Christmas gifts for a donation as a fundraiser for the Youth 2019 trip in July. **Bring in your gifts to get wrapped with love, and help our youth raise funds for their trip.** The Packer game will be on in the Fellowship Hall so you can cheer them on while you wait.

The Angel Tree is up and the youth have selected one family to buy gifts for.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FROM OUR
FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM**



Choir Cantata —December 9, 2018

“A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols” realistic

At the 9:00 AM worship service on December 9th, our Covenant Choir will be presenting their Christmas Cantata. This year's cantata is a collection of Scripture lessons, anthems and Carols that follow the “Festival of Nine Lessons and Carol” as presented by Kings College, Cambridge, England each Christmas Eve. The true “Festival” format was written in 1918 by the new Dean at the college. He had served in the British army during World War I. The horrors and sufferings witnessed by those who served as well as those at home during this “Great War” had caused many to question their faith. The Dean felt that a more imaginative service was needed to help everyone experience the birth of God's Son in a way that made God real and present in their misery. The “Festival” is composed in such a way as to bring to heart the Biblical truth that Jesus is God born in human form to save us from the guilt and misery human sin can cause. Our God willing to be born just like us proves that God's love is with us, especially in times of despair and doubt. Beginning with story of the first sin the Scripture readings (lessons) remember the prophecies that anticipate the coming reign of God over the evil in this world.

In 1919, the “Festival” was revised into its current form, setting the carols “Once in Royal David's City”, “O Come all Ye Faithful” and “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”, along with the current prayers, and Scripture readings were given a permanent place. The service was first broadcast in 1928 and except for one year, has been broadcast all over the world. Broadcasts continued during World War II even though the ancient glass had to be covered and the heat turned off due to black-out conditions and the lack of vital supplies. The name of the college was not included for security reasons.

While changes have been made by many throughout the years to meet individual churches' needs, the format that exists in the King's College performance is considered the “only” format that best expresses the identity of Jesus as true Son of God. While choirs work very hard on the varying carols and anthems that change every year, the power of the service is contained within the Scripture readings. The sections of the “Festival” that touch the souls the most are the prayers offered at the beginning and end of the service: the invitation to us to “... go in heart and mind to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass...” We must make that journey to Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph and witness the birth with the shepherds and Wise Men in order to truly know God and God's Son.

Our choir invites you to experience the Birth of Christ in a new and exciting way on December 9th during the morning worship service.

United Methodist Men

The UMM met Saturday, November 10 at Rolling Meadows Restaurant. There were only 3 of us. We can't get much done with only 3: where are the rest of you?

The total from the pizza sales was reported and the UMM made over \$600 profit. The men already donated \$300 to a youth project here at church. We were able to do this because you bought pizzas: THANK YOU! We have another fundraiser right after the New Year. It will fund our youth, church, and community so we will be counting on you.

We really need more and more men involved. We must set examples for our children and grandchildren.

The men will meet again on December 8 at 8:00am at Rolling Meadows. Will you be there? We are looking for a "few good men." We have had another request for emergency clothing from Chegwin: the UMM will be in action again. -Darrell Jewson, UMM Chair

Cancelled Stamp Savers

Thank you again to my faithful cancelled stamp savers! Christmas is a time when we are receiving a lot of additional cards and other mail. Save those stamps! They can be turned in to Nina Krueger or Marilyn Stillings.

Remember: prepaid postage stamps are not accepted. Thank you, -Marilyn Stillings

Free Community Christmas Dinner

No one in Fond du Lac or North Fond du Lac has to be alone this Christmas.

The 18th annual Community Christmas Dinner will again be held in the hall at the Eagles Aerie-270, 515 North Park Avenue Fond du Lac, from 11am-2pm on Christmas Day. The event is free and is open to everyone. No reservations are required. There will be wonderful food, entertainment and fellowship. Meal delivery and transportation are also available to the homebound in Fond du Lac and North Fond du Lac. Call 920-322-5334, 10am-7pm daily through Dec. 21 to make reservations for meal delivery or transportation. Go to fdlccd.org for more information.

Trustee News

As another year comes to an end, the trustees keep busy and hope to catch up on some projects that need to be done. We have found that, in the end, postponing small projects just lead to more expensive fixes in the future.

The parsonage is up to date, and our sanctuary is looking good. The roof on the Education Building doesn't leak anymore, and the mold in the basement is gone. Our sound system is much better and our office computers are current. As always Dave M. and Barb keep up with all the small handyman projects that need done.

Next year our plan is to keep addressing small repairs around the building and grounds and to look into the issues that remain on the sanctuary roof. We still need 4 new wireless microphones to enhance our Sunday morning worship. There are other issues, but we strive to be good stewards of the financial status of our church.

Advent Music and Meal

Church of Our Saviour Lutheran Church at 363 South Main St., will host two special noon concerts followed by lunch. The concerts will last about half an hour each. Both the concert and lunch are free and open to the community. No reservations needed. Free will offering will be taken.

First concert: Wed., Dec. 12 at 12:00 pm and features the Lyrica Trio of the Fox Valley. Members of the trio are Jennifer Hodges Bryan - oboe and English horn, Susan Lawrence McCardell – bassoon and contrabassoon, and Nancy Lepien Kaphaem, cello and bass.

Second concert: Wed., Dec. 19 at 12:00 pm. The Cardinal Singers from Fond du Lac High School will perform. This auditioned ensemble consists of junior and senior students and is directed by Cory Schneider.

The staff and volunteers at Covenant would like to extend warm Christmas wishes to everyone. May your holidays be blessed with the joy of Jesus and the love of family and friends.



Rainbow Puppets

It's Time!

The Rainbow Puppets have been one of the most interesting ministries here at Covenant. Deb Wadman and I started this ministry 25 years ago. Along the way, there has been over 32 active youth and adults who at one time or another were part of this great ministry. I often encounter many past puppeteers in the community. Most are all grown up and have children of their own. We share stories about performances and fellowship times which always puts a smile on my face. It warms my heart to know that we spread the word of God in a way they will always remember.

The puppets will be performing in the Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, Dec. 16 and then on Wednesday the 19th, we will perform one last time for the ARC. This decision was a difficult one for me. Planning and setting up and tearing down stages and sound system takes a toll. It is getting harder for me to keep up. So with heavy heart, I would like to announce the retirement of the Puppet Team. I would like to thank all of you for your support of this important ministry. Thank you for all the applause, the smiles, the donations, and all the cinnamon rolls you bought!

With love, Carol Schumacher



Spotlight on Mission: Heifer International

"Heifer International has inspired hope in hungry communities, where the gift of one animal can bring health, prosperity and peace."

—former President Jimmy Carter

The Heifer Project is a global nonprofit working to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable, values-based holistic community development. Heifer empowers families to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity – but their approach is more than just giving them a handout. Heifer links communities and helps bring sustainable agriculture and commerce to areas with a long history of poverty. The animals provide partners with both food and reliable income, as agricultural products such as milk, eggs and honey can be traded or sold at market.

When many families gain this new sustainable income, it brings new opportunities for building schools, creating agricultural cooperatives, forming community savings and funding small businesses. On Sunday, December 9, our loose offering will support Heifer International. There will also be gift options available for those interested in making a specific donation.

To learn more, or to give online, visit <https://www.heifer.org/>.

Covenant's 175-year Anniversary Wrap-up

Special thanks to Audrey Fink for all her hard work making displays of our history! They were beautifully done and so much fun to look at and reminisce. Audrey would like to extend sincere thanks to everyone who brought in photos for the historical displays celebrating the 175th anniversary of Covenant Church. Especially helpful were Carol Schumacher, Barb King, Nina Krueger, Shirley Beusch, and Donna Born.

If you haven't done so already, your photographs and other items may be picked up in the parlor.

We would like to acknowledge our faithful neighbors, Kurki-Mach Funeral Chapel, for a generous donation in honor of our celebration.

A sincere thank you to the worship committee and family ministries team for organizing and carrying out all our special events this fall.



Liturgists

Dec 2: Denise Retzleff
 Dec 9: Cantata
 Dec 16: Children's Program
 Dec 23: Darrell Jewson
 Dec 24, 4pm: Pastor Chris Deaner-Rogers
 Dec 24, 7pm: Diane Weider
 Dec 30: Diane Weider



Ushers

Head Usher: John Roets
 Ushers: Bill Kelley and Bill Olson



Dec 2: Gifts for Families
 Dec 9: Heifer International
 Dec 16: Gifts for Families
 Dec 23: General Fund
 Dec 30: General Fund

Fellowship Hour



Dec 2: Rachel Circle
 Dec 9: Choir-tenors/altos
 Dec 16: Cookie Walk
 Dec 23: Diana Dehnel
 Dec 30: UMM

Our Members Who are Homebound or in Assisted Living

At Home: Red LaPlante
 St Peter's Place: Donna Handley
 Artisan: Catherine Mueller and Ruth Beusch
 Woodlands: Shirley Lentz

Giving with Tithe.ly

- Tithe.ly app
- Text "give" to 920-267-4801
- Use the "Donate" button on our Facebook page
- Our website covenantforyou.church/give

December Birthdays

Shirley Krueger	12/1	Fred Baldwin	12/11
Donna Miller	12/1	Nancy Candlish	12/12
Shirley Nussbaum	12/3	Jim Reams	12/12
Sheila Sayles	12/3	Donna Baldwin	12/18
Sue Strong	12/5	Gordon Schultz	12/18
Iona Shaw	12/6	Terry Shoemaker	12/18
Ardis Sherman	12/6	Deborah Soll	12/24
Bob Pickart	12/7	Dea Hebel	12/29
Jerry Blackburn	12/10	Lorraine Jagow	12/30
Franklin Deaner-Rogers	12/10		

80+ Birthdays

*IONA SHAW CELEBRATES 92 YEARS ON
 DECEMBER 6*

*ARDIS SHERMAN CELEBRATES 80
 YEARS ON DECEMBER 6*

*JERRY BLACKBURN CELEBRATES 97
 YEARS ON DECEMBER 10*

*DEA HEBEL CELEBRATES 81 YEARS ON
 DECEMBER 29*



*James and Beverly Beekman celebrate
 70 years of marriage on December 4*

*Charlie and Marilyn Averbek
 celebrate 47 years of marriage on
 December 10*



Covenant United
Methodist Church
20 North Marr Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA
DECEMBER 9 AT 9:00AM**

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
DECEMBER 16 AT 9:00AM**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
4:00PM AND 7:00PM**



**Reminder: Deadline for Ark
submissions is the 15th.
Thank you!**

PASTOR: REV. JOEL DEANER-ROGERS
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: KELLY BRAUN
CUSTODIAN: BARB KING
CHOIR DIRECTOR: REV. CHRIS DEANER-ROGERS

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00 AM
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