



# THE ARK

Covenant United Methodist Church

February 2019

## Endowment Fund Activities for 2018

Each year the endowment committee can distribute up to 4% of the Covenant endowment fund's balances as of the previous December 31st. For 2018, this amounted to just over \$31,000. The endowment committee allocated \$12,000 of these funds to pay for upgrades to the church's computer system. It also allocated \$14,000 to assist the church in paying its conference apportionments for 2018 in full. Lastly, the committee allocated \$5,000 to the January 2019 Senegal mission trip that Mary Balson is participating in. These funds will be used to help fund feeding centers that feed hungry children. The cost to provide one child with a nutritious meal is just over 36 cents, so Covenant's contribution will purchase about 13,800 meals for hungry children.

## Scriptures for February

\*denotes sermon focus

### February 3:

Jeremiah 1:4-10                      Psalm 71:1-6  
I Corinthians 13:1-13                \***Luke 4:21-30**

### February 10:

Isaiah 6:1-8                          Psalm 138  
\***I Corinthians 15:1-11**                Luke 5:1-11

### February 17:

Jeremiah 17:5-10                    Psalm 1  
\***I Corinthians 15:12-20**              Luke 6:17-26

### February 24:

\***Genesis 45:3-11, 15**                Luke 6:27-38  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
I Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

## Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive

February 17- March 10

The Family's 'Help for the Homeless' hygiene drive works with area homeless coalitions every spring to stock the shelves of 83 homeless and crisis



programs in 15 Wisconsin communities in our listening areas. The goal of 'Help for the Homeless' is to supply a year's worth of product to each agency. In 2018, generous community members donated \$409,000 worth of laundry soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. to their local crisis programs. Donations remain in the communities where they are collected. We will be collecting NEW hygiene and cleaning items February 17 – March 10. Please place your donations in the Help for the Homeless collection box located in the narthex. Supplying these items to local shelters will help them direct their limited funds to providing qualified staff, counseling, food and shelter to those they serve.

## All Day Sew

Rachel Circle has planned an "all day sew" to make bags for foster children who are moving from one place to another. This day will be February 12 from 9:30am to 3:00pm. We will work in Fellowship Hall. Soup will be served for lunch.

If you have a sewing machine to bring, please do so, as we will be sewing these bags from kits that are made up.

Anyone is invited. This will be a "social day" as well as making something useful for the community. For more information, see me in church.

-Cathy Morris



*To the Congregation, the Covenant Choir, and  
SPRC*

*Thank you one and all for celebrating my many wonderful years on the Covenant Staff. I was very touched by the Covenant Choir's tribute, altar flowers, gifts, the SPRC "heart plaque", and the response from the congregation to my talk. It was important for me to tell you what I did tell you. Also, thanks to Seth, our new organist, for his grand buildup on the verses to "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." It was thrilling!*

*-Helen Gilsdorf*

### **United Methodist Men**

On January 12, the UMM met at Rolling Meadows Restaurant. 5 men and 1 guest were in attendance.

On Monday, January 7, the UMM sent 3 boxes of socks, underwear, and sweatpants to Chegwin, Parkside, and Riverside schools.

These items are highly needed and well received. The men were able to do this with funds raised from Eaton's Pizza coupon sales so thank you to everyone who purchased. The men are now selling Serogy's candy bars. If anyone can help us move these boxes of chocolate, please let me know. The proceeds from the sale will allow us to support our youth here at church as well as our community.

The United Methodist Men will meet again the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in February at 8am at Rolling Meadows Restaurant. It would be great to have 15 or 20 men involved; just think of the mountains we could move with YOU.

*-Darrell Jewson, UMM Chair*

### **Trustee News**

Our last meeting was very busy. We discussed some of the projects we have on our agenda for 2019. We plan on completing the next phase of the sound/video updates that we started last year, we will be addressing repair needs on the sanctuary roof, and we are looking into installing a security system at entrances to make it easier for staff to know who is in the building and why. Our downtown location makes this a need for us this year. We will start to have more serious discussions on the future of our education building in regards to the future of Covenant Church. For this discussion we would like to know your thoughts:

Where do you see us in five years? in ten years? Should we begin to plan for the future or let it catch up to us unprepared? Do you see our programs growing or just staying the same? Many of us will not be here in the next ten years, but our children will. What do we want for them? Where will the funds come from to let us go into the future? What will our financial picture be like in 5 years? ten years? All these questions need to be answered by all of us. The Administrative Council and the Trustees would like to hear from you. We are the present of Covenant Church, but we are also the future. We have many different options and the trustees are ready to explore some of them. The trustees will be doing their research and due diligence; we want you to consider doing yours. This process will take a lot of time so just know there will be no quick solutions to any issues around the church and its buildings. We appreciate your patience as we move forward.

### **Celebrate CommUNITY**

United for Diversity's annual Celebrate CommUNITY event will be held Saturday, February 16 from 11am-3pm at the Fond du Lac Fairgrounds Expo Center. Join in our community as we celebrate our differences, educate our community, and advocate for inclusion and diversity.

## **Pastoral Prophecies from Joel:**

### ***“Looking Forward, Looking Back!”***

I have always been fascinated with Automobiles, having grown up in the “Muscle Car Era” of the 1960’s and 1970’s. And, while today’s autos are filled with electronics and technology, I like them too. One of the cool things that I have grown very fond of is the “back-up camera”, which is now standard equipment on all new autos. I like it because it lets me look forward and backward at the same time. Now I still have to use the mirrors and turn around to make sure that the camera did not miss anything that I might hit, however, by in large a back-up camera is a nice safety feature on today’s autos. This technological innovation allows you to look backward and forward at the same time.

As we move into 2019, it occurred to me that churches need to be able to do the same thing, look backward and forward at the same time. On Sunday, November 11, 2018, we celebrated the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our church. We recalled the rich history of service this church has in the City of Fond du Lac, and the world at large! 175 years of mission and ministry that has made the world a better place and transformed people’s lives.

At the same time, Christ calls the church to look forward to the full coming of God’s Kingdom here on earth. We look ahead to the full redemption of creation and the promise of eternal life. We look ahead while at the same time listening to where God is calling us to go as we seek to be the presence of Christ in our neighborhood and beyond.

So, let’s be a church informed, and not bound by our history, that has the faith to boldly go where Jesus calls us to be in ministry, and has the faith to know that we do not go into the future alone. For Christ is always with us!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joel".

Joel

# February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Choir Practice 11:30-12:30 Youth Group 4:00-5:30 Scouts 6712-parlor 5:00pm Super Bowl Party 6:30-8pm Boy Scouts 712-Choir</p>	<p>4 6:30pm Rachel Circle 6:30pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>5 6:30pm Trustee Meeting Kindermusik 10am-noon, 5:30-6:30</p>	<p>6 9:30am Small Group Bible Study 10:45am Heritage Circle 6:30pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>7 SWAT- all day, whole church 6:30pm Endowment Committee Meeting</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 8:00am Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>10 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Choir Practice 11:30-12:30 Youth Group 4:00-5:30 Scouts 6712</p>	<p>11 6:30pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>12 Sewing for Foster Children 9:00am-3:00pm-Fellowship and Kitchen Kindermusik 10am-noon, 5:30-6:30</p>	<p>13 9:30am Small Group Bible Study 10:30am Worship Committee Meeting 6:30pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>14 SWAT- all day, whole church 6:30pm Endowment Committee Meeting</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 SCOUT Sunday 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Choir Practice 11:30-12:30 Youth Group 4:00-5:30 Scouts 6712 Help for Homeless Hygiene Drive begins</p>	<p>18 6:30pm Handbell Choir Warming Shelter Meal</p>	<p>19 Kindermusik 10am-noon, 5:30-6:30</p>	<p>20 9:30am Small Group Bible Study 5:30pm ARC Bingo-Fellowship Hall and Choir Rm 6:30pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 9:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Choir Practice 11:30-12:30 Youth Group 1:00-3:00pm Talent Show 4:00-5:30 Scouts 6712</p>	<p>25 6:30pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 8:00am Women's Breakfast 9:30am Small Group Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>28 9:00am Mission Team</p>		

## Family Ministry

### Sunday School

Sunday School is going strong and growing. As a result, Pastor Joel and the team have decided to split up the current class into two groups. We now have a class for ages 3 through Kindergarten and a class for first through fifth grade. Mona Averbeck will be leading the new younger group with the help of Donna Depies and Vicky Vossekuil. Donna will also be helping Carol Schumacher who will continue leading the elementary age children. We are very excited that we are growing and will keep working to grow even more. We can't do this important work without you and your families so consider joining us on Sunday mornings and help us teach your children the way of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

It's time again for our annual Super Bowl Party on Sunday, Feb 3. If you have no plans for that day, join us for a potluck supper at 5:00pm and then watch the game with us. We will be selling pints and quarts of soup as well as sandwiches for you to take home to host your own Super Bowl get together. You can get your soup and sandwiches that Sunday but any pre-orders are appreciated so we can get an idea of how much soup to make. Please see below a list of soups and sandwiches available.

- 1) Chicken Dumpling, Cheese Broccoli, Potato, Beef Vegetable are the choices of soup. A quart is \$6 and a pint is \$3.
- 2) The sandwiches are Hamburger-\$2.50, Cheeseburger-\$3.00, Brat-\$3.00 and this year we are adding a sub sandwich. You can choose a ham or turkey on a white or wheat roll. Each sandwich will come with lettuce, onions, tomatoes, and pickles. No substitutions or special instructions will be allowed. We will be making the subs ahead on Saturday. The subs will be \$4 each.



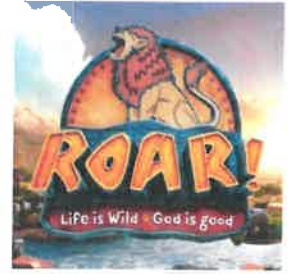
If you do not want to order soup or a sandwich but would like to help us out by donating ingredients ahead of time, please see Carol. We can use carrots, onions, celery, cut up chicken or beef, potatoes, stewed tomatoes or chicken or beef base.

### GOT TALENT

On Feb. 24, Family Ministries will be hosting a Talent Show in the sanctuary from 1pm to 3pm. We have 13 acts signed up already and are looking for more. To participate, sign up at the information desk and let Carol know what kind of performance it will be and what kind of musical or other accompaniment you will need. For example, if you are doing a karaoke performance, you will need to let Carol know so she can have all info needed for the sound person for that day. If you need to practice any time before that day, also see Carol to set up a time. Other United Methodist Churches are invited to join us and we look forward to sharing our talents with each other. We are also serving cookies and punch during and after the show. We need volunteers to make cookies and punch as well as greeters and ushers and clean up volunteers for the fellowship hall and sanctuary. If you can help in any of these things, contact Carol or sign up at the information desk.



In March, Family Ministries will be hosting another winter VBS. Plan on joining us from Friday, March 15 -17 for a roaring good time. This year's program is called "Roar" Life is Wild, God is Good. More info will be coming. Once again an overnight stay for the kids, and Salem and Community churches will be joining us. Please invite your kids and grandkids to participate.



Our youth will be involved in several opportunities to continue to raise funds for the Youth 2019 trip this summer. Vicky is busy getting everyone who is going registered. An early registration saves some money. The cost for each person is around \$1000 for room and board, meals, transportation and entertainment and the program that is offered. We can use your help raising these funds. All you have to do is participate in each fundraiser either by buying something, volunteering for a project, or simply donating some monies. We are offering opportunities to sponsor a youth or youth leader going on the trip. You can make a \$25, \$50, or \$100 donation anytime. Just make your donation using an envelope in the pew and mark it clearly. Don't forget to use your envelope number so it gets marked properly. We already have over \$500 from last year. The youth will be helping the men sell candy bars and will be working at the Pizza Ranch for a percentage of the proceeds and we will be offering Valentine gifts you can purchase for your loved ones as well. The proceeds from the "Souper Bowl" fundraiser will also go towards the trip.

# LOVE WELL

## YOUTH 2019

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI | JULY 10-14, 2019

On March 3, we are going bowling at Ledgeview Lanes. Plan on joining us for an afternoon of family fun. Please let us know if you might be joining us so we can plan accordingly at the bowling alley. Even if you are not planning to bowl, you are invited to come and watch all the strikes as well as gutter balls. As always this is a church event so you can call the taxi for a ride if you don't have one.

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### **Altar Flowers**

If you would like to purchase altar flowers for a special occasion, please contact Kelly in the church office. The poster that was in the narthex has been removed. If you would like Judie to purchase the flowers, Kelly can get you in touch with her. Thank you!

### **Ash Wednesday**

As we look ahead to Lent beginning early next month, plan to attend our Ash Wednesday Potluck and Evening Service on Wednesday, March 6.  
Potluck beginning at 5:00pm, Service at 6:30pm

URGENTLY NEEDED: Worship Guides

A study dealing with the subject, “pastors and socialization” concluded that over 50% of pastors are introverts, which means that we’d rather spend time with a room full of books than a party full of people. It’s not that we don’t like people. It’s just that we’re more at ease with a few people we know, meeting in a room with a lot of exits. Joel and I are complete opposites in this regard. He’s much more comfortable at a large gatherings and parties; more excited about going to concerts or plays. I even hate Walmart, but Joel loves it. In fact, his great dream in life is to retire and become a greeter at Walmart. Me? I’ll wait for him in the car. So how do introverts manage to be good pastors, preach before large congregations and enjoy churches? St. Paul said that “all things are possible with God.” Any time I’m in situations where I’m faced with more than a few people, even if I know them well, I fall back on that promise. God has called me to be a pastor, a choir director, work at Franklin’s school and with his bowling team. God thinks these are places I can be a witness for Christ. Me? I’m a bit stressed but I can’t say “no” to God’s call and purpose for my life just because I’m uncomfortable. I’ll never be a social butterfly, but I can get out there and shine for Christ because “anything” is possible with God.

What does all this have to do with serving as a worship guide? Simply this: the worship of God’s people is made most enjoyable and inspirational when that it’s guided by members of a congregation. Worship begins when someone greets us at the front doors and welcomes us into the house of the Lord. Greeters assure us that the Lord’s house is one of welcome, acceptance and blessing reminding us that by grace any of us is welcomed into God’s arms with a love greater than all loves combined. How would we feel on a Sunday morning if we got to the front door and no one was there to greet us? If we visited a church would we feel welcome if we did not meet a greeter? Would we go back? To be a greeter all you need is a wonderful smile, and everyone at Covenant has a truly awesome smile.

**And then there are...**

**USHERS!** Ushers do so much more than shove a bulletin in our hands and make sure the offering plates get down every aisle. They serve communion, help us to our pews. Ushers make sure our acolytes get down the aisle on time. One of the first things a child wants to do in worship is be an usher. They see ushers as important, and they’re right. Just before I walked down the aisle to begin worship on Sunday, I realized that I’d left the sermon copy at the parsonage. Without skipping a beat, our head usher grabbed my house keys and went next door to retrieve the copy. Not every usher is called to such great rescues, but every usher is a vital part of our worship experience.

**Worship guides are...**

**LITURGISTS!** Over half of our worship service is led by a church member and not the pastor. It’s not that Pastor Joel isn’t important, but the reality is that members of the congregation are the true leaders of our worship time. People who serve as worship leaders are our “liturgists.” Every word a liturgist needs to say are pre-printed so you can go over them, ask questions about pronunciations, practice reading and pray for the worship service days before Sunday even gets here. Do liturgists get nervous? Maybe. I’m not saying being called to be a liturgist doesn’t make some people worry but I do know that “with God all things are possible.” Every liturgist gets through the experience and feels pretty good for having served. Denise Retzleff from the Worship Committee has written a wonderful “Liturgist Guide” to help explain more about being a liturgist here at Covenant. If you have never served as a liturgist, you should give it a try. Kelly in the office will be glad to help guide you through any questions.

## **But the really fun thing to do as a worship guide is...**

Children's Time. Believe it or not those few minutes we spend with our children on Sunday morning is some of most important, memorable and fun tasks Christ expects of us as his servants. Kelly has resources available in the office to help find ideas. These resources include everything you'll need to be a hit with the kids. Pastor Joel and Chris also have resources available. Any of these resources are available. If you'd like to have some fun during worship, consider sharing your faith with our children. It's a great way to heighten your worship experience and grow in the ways of Christ, and just plain have a good time.

**If you have questions about serving in any of these worship capacities, you can find Kelly in the office, myself, Bill Kelley (usher) or any member of the Worship Committee. And, if someone invites you to serve, *seriously* consider saying, "yes." You won't be sorry you did.**

Thank you,

Pastor Chris and the Worship Committee

## **Eucharistic Offerings**

Our celebration of "The Lord's Supper" is formally referred to as "The Eucharist." "Eucharist" is the term used to define the bread and the wine (in the United Methodist Church, grape juice), the presentation of those elements on the altar, the "Words of Institution" (the words used by the pastor/priest that remember what the Lord himself did at the Last Supper when Christ took the bread and the cup, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat and drink: this is my Body; this is the cup of my Blood. Do this in memory of me.) With these words, the bread and cup are consecrated to become the true symbols of Christ's body and blood. The Church has arranged its entire Communion Celebration in parts that correspond to Christ's words and actions, namely: presentation, consecration, offering and going forth.

Beginning in February, we will be placing more emphasis on the presentation section of our Communion Celebration. The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the preparation of the gifts and the altar. The Preparation of the Gifts has rich symbolic meaning. Here the bread and cup, and our monetary donations serve as symbols of our gifts and of ourselves. The collection gathered for the needs of the Church speaks of our willingness to follow the Lord in caring for those in need. Our giving symbolizes our commitment to give our whole lives to God and to use all the gifts God has given us according to God's will. As the pastor prepares the altar for celebration, representatives of the congregation bring the bread and cup to the altar instead of having those elements placed on the altar before the service begins. The presentation of the gifts from within the congregation reminds us that we are all involved in this celebration and not just the pastor/priest. We are presenting our whole lives for God's blessing and Christ's grace. In February, Franklin and Chris will be presenting the Communion elements using the bread plate and the cup that were made for Pastor Joel and Chris as a wedding present. If you would like to volunteer yourself and a friend or your family for this service, contact Kelly in the church office or say "Yes" when you're asked.



## Liturgists

Feb. 3: Eleanor King  
 Feb. 10: Darrell Jewson  
 Feb 17: Gary Miller  
 Feb 24: Donna Born



## Ushers

Head Usher: Dave Olson  
 Ushers: Bill Kelley and Bill Olson

## Fellowship Hour

Feb. 3: "Soup"er Bowl Sunday  
 Feb. 10:  
 Feb 17: United Methodist Women  
 Feb 24: Trustees



**Please have your group sign up for Fellowship Hour for 2019. There are still dates open!**

## MISSIONS

across the street & around the world

Feb. 3: Boys and Girls Club  
 Feb. 10: Apportionments  
 Feb 17: Warming Shelter  
 Feb 24: Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive

### 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](http://covenantforyou.church/give)

## Birthdays

Jayne Pickart	2/1	Leslie Nussbaum	2/14
Rhoda Roehrig	2/1	Gerald Burns	2/15
Susan Myers	2/4	Diane Weider	2/17
Marge Miller	2/7	Shirley Martin	2/23
Pat LaPlante	2/9	Joyce Barfknecht	2/25
Bette Worm	2/9	Ruth Beirne	2/25
Camille Leisten	2/10	Marilyn Averbeck	2/26
Sharon Olson	2/11	Ed Sadler	2/26
Susan Bird-Schaefer	2/12	Wilma Hamilton	2/27
Chelsie Bargaquast	2/13	Janice Klaske	2/29

## 80+ Birthdays

*Pat LaPlante celebrates 94 years on February 9*

*Bette Worm celebrates 94 years on February 9*

*Les Nussbaum celebrates 84 years on February 14*

*Shirley Martin celebrates 84 years on February 23*

*Ruth Beirne celebrates 94 years on February 25*

*Wilma Hamilton celebrates 91 years on February 27*



*Robert and Jayne Pickart celebrate 35 years of marriage on February 4*



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

**Reminder: Deadline for Ark  
submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Please get your content to the  
office by this date for the next  
month's issue. Thank you!**

PASTOR: REV. JOEL DEANER-ROGERS  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: KELLY BRAUN  
CUSTODIAN: BARB KING  
CHOIR DIRECTOR: REV. CHRIS DEANER-  
ROGERS  
ORGANIST/PIANIST: SETH DOBSON

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00 AM  
OFFICE HOURS: 9:00-12:00 MON-THUR.  
E-MAIL: COVENANT@COVUMCFDL.ORG  
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