



## Covenant United Methodist Church

# THE ARK

September 2019

### Scriptures for August

#### September 1:

Jeremiah 2:4-13

\*Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

#### September 8:

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

#### September 15:

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

\*1 Timothy 1:12-17

#### September 22:

\*Jeremiah 8:18—9:1

1 Timothy 2:1-7

#### September 29:

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

\*denotes sermon focus

Psalm 8:1, 10-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Philemon 1:1-21

\*Luke 14: 25-33

Psalm 14

Luke 15:1-10

Psalm 79:1-9

Luke 16:1-13

\*1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

### Trustee News

The trustees worked hard painting the narthex in August. It looks great! The clean, neutral look makes this a warm and welcoming space. Thanks to all who volunteered to help with this project!!! The ceiling in the sanctuary will be painted soon as well.

Additional adjustments will be made to the narthex area to create a neat and inviting space. The worship committee and trustees will be working together on this project.

The parsonage fence has been painted, and after the refrigerator died while pastor's family was on vacation, it was replaced. The lawn at the parsonage is looking better every day but still needs a little work.

The new brighter lighting inside and outside gives the building a fresh new look. Our security cameras are in and makes this a safer place when staff and volunteers are in the building.

### Safe Sanctuary Policy Update

Covenant UMC has placed a high priority on providing a safe and inviting environment for worship, fellowship, and activities. To that end, the Staff Parish Relations Committee is putting the finishing touches on an updated child protection policy for the church.

Last fall the Wisconsin Conference updated its policy, which applies to conference youth activities. Covenant's policy, called, Safe Sanctuary, draws on that and will apply to both youth and vulnerable adults. In creating the policy, the committee studied model policies from other churches and youth organizations, as well as recommendations from the church's insurance carrier, Church Mutual. The new policy, which is to be implemented this fall, calls for expanded criminal background checks and mandatory child protection training for those adults working with youth and vulnerable adults. Special provisions apply to overnight activities or church sponsored transportation. Watch for details from leaders in September. All in all, the committee feels the updated policy will help parents and caregivers remain confident that Covenant UMC is a safe place for their loved one to grow in Christ.

### Thank You

Thank you for your continued contributions to the missions we support through our loose offering on Sundays. Whether they are local, small non-profits like the Solutions Center, Mahala's Hope or Back to School FDL or larger United Methodist conference or global ministries, financial support is critical to their continued success. We always receive a card or letter thanking us for our financial gifts. Those come from YOU, so THANK YOU!

**Pastoral Prophecies from Joel:**  
**“What is Rally Day?”**

Well, summer is almost over and the children will soon be back in school. Which means that our Fall programming will also start up, too. We will begin our new program year on Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. with worship, followed by our Rally Day activities with a Carnival and Ministry Fair and a church-wide picnic! There is additional information about these events in this newsletter so be sure to read the whole newsletter this month!

So, what is Rally Day anyway? The following information may help our understanding of the importance of this day in the life of Covenant Church.

**“Rally Day”**

“In liturgical Protestant churches, Rally Day marks the beginning of the church calendar year. It typically occurs at the end of September or the beginning of October (Our tradition is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of September). Although not all Protestant churches observe this day, the customs associated with it include giving Bibles to children, promoting children from one Sunday school grade to the next, welcoming new members into the church, and making a formal presentation of church goals for the coming year.”

**SOURCES:**

*RelHolCal-2004*, p. 101

Holidays, Festivals, and Celebrations of the World Dictionary, Fourth Edition. © 2010 by Omnigraphics, Inc.

When we come to the end of the summer where we have had time to relax and vacation (hopefully, that is), the fact is, we need “a renewal of energy” when it comes to spiritual matters.

It is very hard to renew your energy on your own. However, it is much easier in a group. And that’s why we set aside one special day at the end of summer to “rally” – to “draw together for a common purpose” seeking the Holy Spirit’s power to “renew our energy” for worship, for digging into God’s Word, for praying, for serving, and for witnessing to our faith.

As the days of summer are waning, may those days be a Blessing for you and your family, as you are a blessing to others! See you in church.

Peace,



Joel

## Worship Assistants

While everyone present participates in worship by singing, praying and hearing God's word, together our worship leaders deserve a huge round of applause. Liturgists read Scripture each week and guide us through our time together. Ushers make sure everyone has a bulletin and help us to our pews. They beg for acolytes when no one is available, and we even trust them to take our money. Acolytes light the candles to signal the presence of Christ as we begin our worship and extinguish the light when our service has ended to remind us that we do not go into the world alone. Christ is always with us.

Here at Covenant we are blessed to have volunteers from our church family help with our "Time for Youth and Children." While these moments are a brief five minutes, our leaders of this section of worship fill that time with vital information to Christian living in ways that kids understand. If you would be willing to help with this valuable time, remember, it's only five minutes and we have resources to help you with ideas. We even have kids who will sit through a trial run for you! And there are choir members, soloists, bell ringers and audio/visual folks who practice/train to ensure our worship is always at highest quality possible.

We always have room for more volunteers. It's important for us to have as many members of our church family as possible serve as a part of worship life. If you have never served in worship, don't let this hold you back. Two things are for sure: when you volunteer as an usher, liturgist, acolyte, etc. your worship experience; your Sabbath day will be so much more joyful, and you will have made all of us more excited to be here. Why? Because when you serve, you smile, and no one smiles like you do. Please see Kelly in the church office or Chris Deaner-Rogers if you would like to volunteer to serve in any capacity of worship leadership.

## A Great Big "Thank You" for Fellowship Time

# Fellowship Hour

Can any one of us imagine leaving worship and NOT finding coffee/snacks in Fellowship Hall? Chances are we'd wonder if we were actually at Covenant UMC. We'd probably even wonder if we were in a United Methodist Church at all. Every Sunday morning, we are treated with coffee, tea, hot chocolate, juice and probably anything else we could ask for following our worship service. During the Sunday School year, members of various committees and groups provide snacks and treats but those are set out for us along with the drinks by two women who care about Christian sharing, caring and fellowship. Every Sunday, Karen Jewson and Suzanne Burns get to church early and start the coffee pots going and begin getting things organized. These two women keep up with when we need plates, cups, napkins, etc. and let Barb know when to order them. Yes, it is true that others join Karen and Suzanne at times when there are other activities going on and, being United Methodists, we just want to be in the kitchen---but these two ladies carry the majority of the load. Let's be sure we let them know how much we appreciate their volunteering to serve us. Thanks, you two!

Beginning in September after Rally Day, we will again have groups sign up to bring treats for Fellowship Hour. Many groups have signed up already: thank you! If you have not, please take a look at the sign-up sheet on the welcome desk in the narthex and pick a few dates. Thank you!

## FAMILY MINISTRIES

Rally Day and beginning of Sunday School are here again! This year programming will be a little different. We do not want to do things like we always did so we are making some subtle changes. Our youth and younger children are far beyond learning the ways we did when we were in school and our church youth groups. There are Bible passages and bible stories and Christian contemporary music on the internet and social media that are great teaching opportunities for our very media-familiar kids. Thank you in advance for supporting and accepting our programming changes.

# RALLY DAY

First, Rally Day is September 8 and will begin right after worship. The theme this year is "Starting Up Again." I have asked each Covenant group to create a small display or poster telling us about what they do and when. There will be a special area in

Fellowship Hall where you can go to get information about our ministry groups and consider being a part of that group. All display info is due by Sept. 1 as the Family Ministry Team will be setting up for our Rally Day event.

The picnic lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall this year so the bees can stay outside and you can enjoy your food. Lunch will be available at 11:15am-1:00pm. The choir will have practice that day so we want to be sure to include them in the festivities. Brats and burgers and hot beef will be our main dish, and we are asking for some donations of side dishes to go with them. We need about 7 side dishes so if you can make a dish to pass, let Carol know soon. Ice cream and cookies will be our dessert this year.

There will again be the popular dunk tank, a football game and lots of other carnival games. There will also be some trivia games and other card and board games you can play in Fellowship Hall if you do not want to go outside. The driveway will be blocked off so plan on parking next door. Come outside under the tent for Wheel of Fortune, a golf game, or just come sit outside under the tent and watch. Each game you play will earn you a ticket that you can use later to win a special prize. There will be one for adults and one for kids. That prize will be awarded at 11:30 so bring the whole family and all your friends and join us for the start of another year of Covenant programming. Consider this a modern day version of the "Church Picnic" as it was called when you were a child. Plan on staying for some time after church or go home and come back for our picnic lunch.

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

A new school year is upon us! Once again, we want to be sure all our children and youth have a safe and enjoyable year. We're inviting all youth and children to bring your school backpacks to church worship on **Rally Day, Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 am**. We will be blessing our students, their parents and teachers as a part of the "Time for Youth and Children." See everyone on Rally Day!!!

Second, the first day of Sunday School class will be Sunday, Sept. 15. This year we are starting a little differently. The youth are creating "Covenant Calendars" that will be available to purchase at Christmas time. The kids are dressing up as their favorite Bible characters and stories. Each month will have a different story to tell. All pictures will be taken upstairs on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor against Bible backdrops and our lessons will be discussed as they are creating the scene. Then the next Sunday the kids will go to their Sunday School rooms for the start of regular classes. The classes are as follows:

- ✚ Pre K to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade taught by Mona Averbeck and Donna Depies
- ✚ 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades taught by Carol Schumacher and a helper
- ✚ 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades taught by Diane Weider and Bob and Judi Balson



Classes will again begin at 10:15am and go until 11:15am each Sunday. All classes will be studying the "Ten Commandments" this year, and at the end of the semester we will have a special presentation for the congregation during worship.

Third, there will be a slight change for children and youth during worship services on Sundays. Beginning in September, we are offering a Youth Church Service on the last Sunday of each month. Youth in grades 5-12 will be dismissed to Fellowship Hall after Children's Time for a special worship designed just for them, led by Carol and Vicky. They will still have Sunday School as usual on those Sundays.

Fourth, our Christmas Program will be a little different. The program is called "A Tree Lot Christmas" and will include our friends from Community Church in NFDL and the Covenant Choir, and other adults will be asked to join us. This year, the program will be held on Sunday, December 15 at 1:00pm. Practices will be Sundays at 12:00 beginning October 27.

Fifth, Confirmation will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 25. Parents will be getting a letter very soon.

Sixth, Youth group will again be on Sundays right after Sunday School. Dates will be on the calendar each month. If your child or grandchild is a youth in 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, they are welcome to attend. This year, the youth will be doing some more mission-oriented activities like helping with Loaves and Fishes and going to a Soup Kitchen in the Milwaukee area. There will be family fun also, and we will let you know as the time approaches.

## Youth 2019

The Youth and Chaperones that attended Youth 2019 Conference in Missouri would like to thank each and every one of you for all of your support, encouragement, donations and participation in all of our fundraising efforts. We started fundraising in 2018 with a Souper Bowl sale, a Brat fry, a Car Wash, our Harvest Fest, a Vendor Fair, and Christmas Gift Wrapping and continued in 2019 with a Pancake Breakfast, Bingo, and a Rummage Sale. Along the way, we also received donations from UMW and UMM and many individuals who made it possible for us to go. Here is the breakdown of our expenses. We spent about \$4400.00 going on the trip. We raised 3600.00 from fundraisers. So out of our Covenant 2019 Mission Trip budget, we used about \$800.00.

We were a small part of over 3000 youth and adults who got the benefit of informative workshops and an awesome worship experience each evening. We helped bag over 40,000 pounds of carrots for local food pantries. We had fun along the way and built great friendships. Just ask either Trevor or Franklin what they learned about playing Yahtzee on the bed!!!!

## **Worship TIME**

Most of us have realized that worship seems to be going over the hour we set aside for it every week. It's not that we mind giving God extra time to praise and celebrate God's glorious name, but we have other activities that start at 10:15 am. The Worship Committee has been reviewing the contents and timing of our worship time over the last year. We have discovered that we spend way too much time (often 10 minutes) on Announcements. We are also endeavoring to be sure that various parts of our worship experience do not take more time than needed. Our goal as a committee is to always be sure that our worship experience is uplifting, educational and inspirational, giving us the strength of faith that we need to face our coming week as Christ's people.

Two changes are coming: First, announcements will NOT be made from the sanctuary floor. Any announcements for the coming week(s) or for the good of the congregation must be in the bulletin (deadline Tuesday). If your announcement does not make in by the bulletin deadline please submit it in writing either to Kelly in the office by Thursday noon, or give a written announcement to the audio/visual folks. If necessary, announcements can be given to the Head Usher. Please try to avoid telling Pastor Joel before worship. Pastors are very busy prior to worship being sure that everything they need is in place. The more people who talk to a pastor before worship begins, the later our worship service will begin. Second, we all enjoy our "Time for Youth and Children" and the time set for those moments is five minutes. While this does not seem like a lot of time, by the time the kids get up to the front and settled back into their seats those five stretch to 7-8 minutes. Beginning in September we WILL NOT be having a "Time for Youth and Children" on the first Sunday of the month when we celebrate The Lord's Supper.

While the length of time we spend in worship is important, it's also important to realize that the time moving back and forth or involved in non-worship activities (such as Announcements) robs us of time we could be spending in actual worship activities. Help us keep our worship time spent in the experience of worship.

## **Harvest Fest**

Harvest Fest will be on Sunday, Sept. 22. We will be celebrating the harvest season with mums, produce, pies and other baked goods, chili and jewelry all for sale. With the exception of the mums, which goes to the Chancel Guild, all proceeds will go to the general fund to help with costs incurred throughout the year. We will be inviting our Downtown Community to join us for this festive day. The festival starts at 10 am, right after worship. At noon, we are hosting a Packer Game for our friends and neighbors. A light lunch will be served so join us for all the fun. If you are not a football fan, we can show a movie in the narthex for you to enjoy. There will be Sunday School this day so the kids will join in after class is over at 11:15am. There will be games for them if they get bored watching the game.



## United Methodist Women

Summer is over, and once again it is time for the United Methodist Women of Covenant to invite all the women of our church to join one of our Circles. They offer many opportunities for learning, for fellowship and some excellent desserts.

Heritage Circle meets the first Wednesday of each month in Fellowship Hall. The first meeting will be September 4th at 10:30am. Contact Marilyn Stillings or Sandy Kilmer for more information.

Rachel Circle meets the first Monday of the month (generally) at 6:30 in the evening. The first meeting is September 9th. It will be at the home of Eleanor King. Contact Dea Hebel or Eleanor for more information.

Sunday, September 15th is United Methodist Women's Sunday. Our speaker is Gwen Gibson. More about her:

*I am a native Alabamian, married to a native Tennessean. We have four children and four grandchildren. Bill and I became members of Emmanuel United Methodist shortly after our arrival twenty years ago to the Fox Valley.*

*My Methodist heritage has instilled in me the love for my church and those around me. Participating in the life of my church, teaching, attending studies, singing in the choir, United Methodist Women leadership, brings joy to my heart. In 2011 to 2015, I trained and served as a missionary at the United Methodist Church Mission in Senegal Africa. Bill served through 2016. As a member of ESTHER, a social justice interfaith organization in the Fox Valley, I strive to fulfill the requirement to do justice and walk humbly with God.*

We are excited to hear her message on September 15.

October 2nd is our joint brunch. Again, we invite all the women of the church to attend. Brunch will be served at 9:00 with our speaker about 9:30. This year's speaker will be Kristin Kohlmann. Her presentation will be about her experiences in Ghana and Malawi with the Peanut Butter Project and malnutrition. I know it will be a very interesting presentation, with some striking photographs to illustrate it. We hope you will join us for some or all of the above events.

## United Methodist Men

The UMM met on Saturday, August 10 at Rolling Meadows Restaurant. We had 6 men and 1 guest. The men will again purchase emergency clothing for the kids at Chegwin, Parkside and Riverside elementary schools. We are able to do this with a donation from the Ruth Beusch family. At this time, the UMM sent \$300 to the Back to School project. We are here to help our church and community by filling needs we see. This month we will put out the coin challenge bucket. Last year we were a bit short of \$400. Let's blow that away this year! The funds go to the pastor's goodwill fund and are used where needed. The UMM are able to do what we do because of church members. What could we do with 20 more men?? Men, think about it. I am asking the men, young and old, to come out and join us, help us. We are Covenant United Methodist Men. **YOU ARE BEING CALLED.** If you see something wrong in the world, you can either do something, or do nothing and accept it.

-Darrell Jewson, UMM Chair

## Thank You

To my Covenant Church family: Thank you! for your prayers, visits, cards of get-well and encouragement. I very much appreciate all that has been said and done on my behalf. I returned home on August 17 for continued recovery. Once again, "Thank you, one and all."

---Bob O-Hagan

## Adult Choir Gets Back Into Practice

Even though our choir director will be playing the piano for worship, we will be continuing to have choir on Sunday mornings. My current hope is that the choir will provide music for the first and third Sunday of the month. A solo/ensemble will provide musical inspiration for a fourth/fifth Sunday. Choir will practice **every Sunday** following worship from 10:15-11:15 AM. A portion of our rehearsals will have to be in the sanctuary in order to be sure that everyone can see the director at the piano. She is a bit short, you know!

-Chris Deaner-Rogers

## Liturgists

September 1: Darrell Jewson  
 September 8: Eleanor King  
 September 15: Sandy Kilmer  
 September 22: Marilyn Stillings  
 September 29: Deb Christian



## Birthdays

Alexis Beesley	9/4	Clare (Red) LaPlante	9/9
Diane Duncan	9/4	Bob Balson	9/11
Penny Werner	9/4	Rich Roessler	9/13
Helen Gilsdorf	9/6	Dan Patt	9/19
Lois Chipman	9/7	Jennifer Colla	9/21
Darrell Jewson	9/8	Tami Averbeck	9/24
Jim Beekman	9/9	Sarinah Beesley	9/25

## 80+ Birthdays

Lois Chipman celebrates 80 years  
 on September 7  
 James Beekman celebrates 95 years  
 on September 9  
 Clare LaPlante celebrates 93 years  
 on September 9

## Anniversaries



Dave and Marge Miller celebrate 55  
 years of marriage on September 19  
 Gordon and Arlene Schultz celebrate  
 63 years of marriage on September 22  
 Ted and Lois Chipman celebrate 54  
 years of marriage on September 26  
 James and Liona Brockway celebrate  
 62 years of marriage on September 28

## Ushers

Head Usher: Bill Kelley  
 Ushers: Marilyn Stillings and Dave Miller

## Acolytes

To Be Announced



## Fellowship Hour

September 1: coffee  
 September 8: Rally Day  
 September 15: UMW  
 September 22: Harvest Fest  
 September 29: Averbeck families



September 1: Blandine House  
 September 8: UMCOR  
 September 15: Northcott Neighborhood House  
 September 22: Apportionments  
 September 29: Food Pantry

## Our Members Who are Homebound or in Assisted Living

At Home: Red LaPlante  
 Woodlands: Shirley Lentz  
 Dick Welch  
 Donna Handley  
 Villa Loretto: Geraldine Justman  
 Lakeview Estates: Sherry Duley

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





Covenant United  
Methodist Church  
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**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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:00 AM**  
OFFICE HOURS: 9:00-12:00 MON-THUR.  
E-MAIL: [OFFICE@COVENANTFORYOU.CHURCH](mailto:OFFICE@COVENANTFORYOU.CHURCH)  
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