



SPRC Updates

STAFF APPRECIATION

In recent years, many Church members and friends of our Church have appreciated the opportunity to recognize the efforts of our church staff, especially during the Christmas season.

If you would like to contribute to a monetary Christmas donation to our staff, please send your contribution to the Church office on or before December 15, 2021. Please clearly mark that your contribution is for "Staff Appreciation Gift" so it is properly disbursed.

Wishing all of you a very happy Christmas season.

New Staff

We are happy to welcome Judi Balson to the position of custodian for our church. She started on Monday, November 22. We are pleased that Judi stepped forward, and we know that she will be a good addition to our staff. She will be working 25 hours a week but will not be working on Sundays. Please respect her worship time and do not approach her with custodial concerns on Sundays. Welcome Judi!

Listening Session

The SPRC will be meeting with our DS in early January to discuss what qualities we are looking for in our next pastor. If you would like to share your thoughts, the SPRC is offering a listening session on Sunday, January 2nd, in the sanctuary following the service. This will only last about 15-20 minutes so please join us to share your thoughts as we look to our future.

Sugarplum Cookie Walk

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11: 10:00am—1:00pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12: 10:00am—11:00am

Purchase a variety of cookies and Christmas treats without having to bake!

It's a one-stop shop for gifts and gatherings!

Bakers and Candy Makers Needed!

Sign up by December 12 if you would like to donate candy or baked items!

Helpers Needed!

Holiday Plate Donations

Nativities for Table Decoration

Set Up: Friday, December 10: 9am-noon

Work the Sale Days on December 11 and 12

Sign up in the Narthex before or after church or by calling Marilyn Roessler at 920-924-9442 or Dea Hebel at 920-929-9625



Proceeds from the Cookie Walk will go towards Christmas gifts and food for Chegwin families and mission work in Senegal, Africa.

Short of Everything, But Love

While shopping not too long ago, I noticed that something seemed to be missing. I quickly realized that what was missing was Christmas. We usually see stores arrayed in Christmas decorations the day after Halloween, sometimes even before. This year, however, those decorations and doo-dads weren't in the stores as plentiful and quickly as before. As a matter of fact, there were more decorations out last year during the COVID crisis than this year. This year, much more than last, I've seen store employees dealing with customers yelling, not merely confronting, but yelling. The toys, tree decorations, and many other Christmas needs and necessities we want, we want now to be sure we find them before there's a shortage. We don't seem to realize that the shortages are now. COVID is over, at least it seems calmed down enough that our world should be back to normal. As we find so often after a tumultuous change in our lives is that normal will never be normal again. Our world has changed and what we have endured, what we have seen, what we have lost have impacted us in ways we'd never want to imagine. And so, there are shortages, not only of material things but spiritual commitments. We don't feel the presence of Christ as deeply as we once did. Sometimes we're angry. At other times we're overwhelmed with our feelings of loss and loneliness. In the past histories of our nation, we have gathered not only as a united people but folks in our country have turned to Christ. The church has brought comfort whereas now the church seems to be the enemy. There are shortages of material things this year but even more desperate there's a shortage of the Christmas spirit, the anticipation of the season, yards filled bright lights and weird air-filled animals waving around in front of houses. The truth is, normal will never return and if we don't put our hearts and faith in God's gift to us all, in Jesus' humble birth, life, death and Resurrection, we will never find a normal in which we can find enjoy and inner peace.

I ran across a poem as I was sorting through some books the other day and in one of those books that speaks to our current "shortages" this year.

*"It isn't far to Bethlehem Town!
It's anywhere that Christ comes down
And finds in people's friendly face
A welcome and abiding place.
The road to Bethlehem runs right through
The homes of folks like me and you."*

Our world may find limitations because of the shortages that make up life among us but even in this year God promises there is not shortage of the "Bethlehem spirit." There is always a Bethlehem where Jesus can be born. There is always a Bethlehem for even on the night of God's only Son's birth when there was a shortage of rooms where the young parents of Jesus could give his birth to us all, there was never in any place a shortage of love and grace; not a shortage of rejoicing and giving; never a shortage of acceptance and caring.

-Chris Deaner-Rogers

The Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is set up and ready in the Fellowship Hall. The Angel Tree is an opportunity to share gifts and brighten Christmas for families in need from Chegwin School. For some of the families, these will be the only gifts they receive this Christmas.

Once again we have requests for items that most of us would consider basic needs - jackets, hats, boots, socks, sweaters, flannel sheets, and



blankets. We took on one extra family and would really appreciate your generosity!

Please select one or more tags for the gifts you would like to purchase. Find the color coordinated sign-up sheet on the table and sign for the tag you pulled. Please try to include a gift receipt when you wrap the present.

Bring the wrapped gifts to church on or before Sunday, December 12th. When you bring in your gift(s), please check it off on the sign-up sheet.

If you prefer to give a cash donation rather than shop, you may place your cash or check in a mission envelope found in the pews and mark it "Gifts for Families." Or you can mail a check to the church with "Gifts for Families" in the memo. Shelli and I will be happy to buy the gifts for you.

Sock and Ski-Glove Drive

We have LOTS of hats and mittens! We are so grateful. This year, we would also like to get socks for the kids so they can always have clean, dry feet! What a blessing! Also, kids LOVE to play in the snow. We would love to give them some waterproof, ski-type gloves or mittens that they can wear for recess or to build a snowman! There will be boxes in Fellowship Hall today through December 12 for donations of socks or ski-type gloves and mittens!



If you have any questions about the Angel Tree or Sock Drive, please contact Diane Weider or Shelli Dekker. THANK YOU in advance!

If you have any questions about the Angel Tree or Sock/Glove Drive, please contact Diane Weider or Shelli Dekker.

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women's Reading Program

We have purchased and received a number of new books for this year. We have a variety of selections:

A Little Golden Book about Ruth Bader Ginsberg, some fiction selections, youth books, Michelle Obama's Becoming, Bishop Curry's Love is the Way

(Mary Balson on UMW Sunday spoke about this book) and many others. Remember these books are available to all members of Covenant Church-just see Nina on Sunday morning.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Book Review

THEY CALL ME GUERO: A BORDER KID'S POEMS

Guero-a nickname for Mexican Americans with pale skin. Guero is at home on both sides of the border. His poems give a very realistic picture of life on the border. They describe the landscape, celebrate holidays, play, family relationships and much more. He uses a mixture of Spanish and English in the book so I was happy to find a glossary in the back with those word translated. I really enjoyed reading about Guero. Easy, entertaining, and informative-I definitely would recommend this book.



Clothing for
refugees at
Ft. McCoy



Rachel Circle

December plans include our Christmas pot luck which will be at church on Dec. 6th at 6pm in fellowship hall. We will bring donations for Solutions Center, and this year they especially need paper towels and cleaning supplies such as 409. They are always so appreciative of our support. We will also fill our gift bags for shut-ins at this meeting.

The Cookie Walk will be our big project this month so be sure to tell your friends and neighbors to come and shop on December 11! We are looking forward to another successful sale so we have funds to support Christmas gifts for families. Be sure to sign up for baking as well as helping the day of the sale!

United Methodist Men



I started writing this before the meeting. Since the October meeting, I spoke with all 4 schools, and they all ask for snowpants, boots, gloves, socks, underwear, leggings and sweatpants. They also expressed a need for playground stuff like balls, Frisbees, jump ropes. If you have boots, snowsuits or play equipment not being used, bring it to church; there will be a box in the narthex. We have done a good job for our kids, but it seems that times are going to get tougher. Please help where you can. At the November 13 meeting, the UMM OK'd spending \$400 for the above clothing, but more will be needed so please donate if you can. The UMM also gave \$500 to Covenant Cares about People. Also, I spend about \$300/month on bananas and other grocery items for the kids. On 11/12, I bought 72 boxes of cereal at \$317.12, but with coupon and sale the cost was only \$121.32. To date, we have bought about 300 boxes of cereal; we have been able to do this because of donations from you! Thank you; don't stop.

"We do not inherit the earth from our parents. We borrow it from our children." -Mark Twain

Come see what your men are about; we need you!

-Darrell Jewson, UMM Chair

Family Ministries

Our Sunday School kids, youth and church members had a great Halloween Sunday Fun Day with great costumes worn by kids and adults. The movie Hocus Pocus was shown along with games and a chili social. Thanks to all who helped with food, etc to make it fun. Our kids have been a great help in bringing the Christmas trees and decorations down from the third floor in preparation for our Hanging of the Greens on Sunday the 14th. It sure saved our adults a lot of leg work and was greatly appreciated!! Hanging of the Greens went very well. Church is ready for our Christmas season. Soups and sandwiches were available for all. It was a great way to involve all ages in decorating the church. Our Christmas program will be held on December 12, during the service. There will be a PRACTICE after classes on Sunday, Dec 5th from 11:15 to 12:15 p.m. and on Saturday, Dec. 11, from 10 am. to 11 a.m.

There will be no Sunday School or Confirmation classes on December 26 and January 2.

May you all have a blessed and joyous Christmas season and blessings for the New Year.



Birthdays

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



80+ birthdays!

Shirley Krueger	81
Iona Shaw	95
Ardis Sherman	83
Jerry Blackburn	100
Fred Baldwin	92
Gordon Schultz	90
Dea Hebel	83



Anniversaries

Janet & Robert Lewis: 63 years

ARK submission deadline is the 15th of each month.

Please get your content to the
office by this date for the next month's issue.

THANK YOU!



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

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00AM-12:00PM

Ways to Give with Tithe.ly

- Tithe.ly app
- Text "give" to 920-267-4801
- Visit our website: covenantforyou.church/give

Pastor: Rev. Joel Deaner-Rogers

Pastor of Hispanic Ministry: Rev. Janet Martínez

Music Director: Rev. Chris Deaner-Rogers

Administrative Assistant: Kelly Braun

Custodian: Judi Balson

Office: 920.921.4949

E-mail: office@covenantforyou.church

www.covenantforyou.church

www.facebook.com/covenantFDL

