

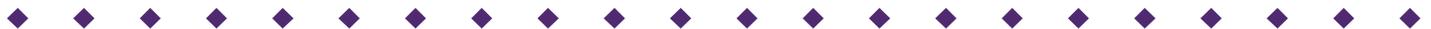


COVID-19 RESPONSE

As you know, there has been a high number of COVID-19 cases in Fond du Lac County with the quick-spreading Omicron variant in recent weeks. In response to this, the church council unanimously agreed that church services will be held **online only through February 6**. At that time, the situation will be re-evaluated. A recorded worship service will be available on our website and Facebook page each week. Visit covenantforyou.church or find us on Facebook @CovenantFDL. Sunday School is meeting at 10:00am on Sundays via Zoom, and Confirmation classes are online as well.

We are still here for you during this time! The office is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00am-1:00pm. Email office@covenantforyou.church or call 920-921-4949. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need something!

To avoid confusion, the February calendar will be published once a decision is made on February 6.



SPRC Update

On January 2, SPRC held a listening session to help determine what the congregation would like to see in our next pastor.

These are the traits/characteristics that members of Covenant would like to see:

- More leadership and involvement in the life of the church
- Have personal communications with the sick and those not attending church
- Spiritual development of the church and community outreach to let people know we are here
- Someone who can draw in youth and young families and bring them into the life of the church
- Sermon messages that share the pastor's life experiences (make it personal)
- Sermon messages that are more scripture based (might contradict above comment)
- Supportive of the Hispanic Ministry and willing to coordinate/work with Rev. Janet
- Language barrier could cost us members; need to be able to understand each other
- Worship needs to flow from beginning to end
- Encouragement from the Pastor to keep our committees going
- Pastor needs to be visible and engaged in mission projects
- Pastor needs to hold regular office hours and be relatable to the staff

A couple questions were also raised:

- Can we afford a full-time pastor? We could not answer this, but it led us back to bringing in more members so we could afford it.
- Does our pastor have a job description? Denise responded that our church doesn't have a specific job description, but the Methodist Church has a generic one to apply to all churches.

Pastoral Prophecies from Joel:

“A BIG Thank You!”

February 2022

As we continue to move into the uncertainty of this new year, with the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 Virus continuing to put a strain on our front line workers and first responders, as well as continuing to stress our healthcare facilities, I want to assure you that God is still in charge! I also want to thank all of you for your faithful stewardship of your time, talents and financial resources during this past year. Without your faithful stewardship, our programs of ministry and mission would not be possible. I am always amazed at how generous our congregation is!

Your giving helps Covenant UMC with projects like “The Angel Tree” which allows us to give Christmas to families at Chegwin Elementary School who otherwise would not have anything for Christmas! Our United Methodist Men raise money to provide hats, mittens, gloves and boots as well as bananas and other food for those who cannot afford to buy them for their children. This helps children go outside for recess during the winter months who otherwise would not be able to do so. Our United Methodist Women provide Backpacks for school, food for the Food Pantry, as well we many other projects, both locally and globally, that change people’s lives in ways that we cannot even imagine!

Your giving also helps us reach out to the rent-controlled housing units that are within blocks of the church by offering fellowship and companionship to the residents who join us for Packers, Brewers and Wisconsin Badgers Sports Parties (which we haven’t done in 2021 with the COVID-19 Pandemic still in swing). Your faithful giving also allows us to serve a meal at “Loaves and Fishes” four times a year.

We have also finished the updating our interior and exterior lighting to more energy efficient LED lighting. Critical upgrades to our computer network, and our sound and video systems has been completed, too. None of these capital improvements would be possible without the wise stewardship of our Endowment Fund Investments and unrestricted Estate Gifts that have provided us with the ability to fully pay for these capital improvements without taking on any debt!

So again, I say a BIG Thank You to all of our members and friend for your faithful giving of your time, talents, and financial resources during 2021. We truly are changing the lives of people in Christ’s name and making the world a better place through living out our discipleship through the many programs of mission and ministry we do as Covenant UMC.

May all of you have a blessed February 2022! And may God bless the ministry we will do together in Christ’s name this year.

Peace,



Joel

United Methodist Women

WELCOME, SARA CIRCLE of Covenant UM Church. Our circles officially merged and chose Sara for the start of something new and inspiring for our members. Thirteen were present. We voted to purchase a battery operated vacuum for our custodian. We elected new officers and our books will be available at our next meeting. We will continue supporting Arc and Solutions Center as our local mission projects.

Our February meeting will be cancelled due to Covid issues.

February 2 is Loaves & Fishes. Even though our church is closed, outside activities will still go on so we will be serving Loaves and Fishes on February 2nd. We will need volunteers. If you can help please call Eleanor King at 920-922-1522 or Marilyn Roessler at 920-924-9442. Thank you.

We hope to have our March 2 meeting and have more members present.

We welcome anyone who wishes to join Sara Circle; this is a great time to join our fellowship and participate in our mission projects!!

Attention Cancelled Stamp Savers

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and is ready for a great 2022. I imagine many of you have cancelled stamps from all the Christmas cards you received. Please bring them to church and give them to Nina or me on any Sunday once we reopen or if you see us in between, that will work, also. You can also drop them off in the church office. Thank you once again for your faithfulness in helping the United Methodist Women with this mission.

Doing this helps the Marion Mission send medical supplies, clothes, shoes, bedding and other items to the needy people in Africa.

Remember do not save prepaid postage type stamps as they are not accepted.

- Marilyn Stillings

United Methodist Men

Your United Methodist Men met January 8 at Rolling Meadows with 5 men present. We talked about how we can get Covenant Church out there so that when people think of church, they think of Covenant; more to follow on this.

We talked about candy bars or pizza sales. More to come on this as church has since closed down. After our last meeting, the men sent \$250 to UMCOR for the December tornado relief. Thank you for your support which allows us to do this! Imagine what we could do if more men were involved. We will meet again February 12 at 8:00am at Rolling Meadows Restaurant; hope to see you there.
-Darrell Jewson, UMM Chair

"If you count up the sunny days and the cloudy days in a complete year, you will find the fine days have come more often."



This year's theme for **Black History Month**, "Black Health and Wellness," takes a look at how American healthcare has often underserved the African-American community. As the COVID-19 pandemic has recently shown, a widespread disparity of access to quality healthcare negatively impacts outcomes for blacks and other minorities. For African-Americans, the root of the problem goes deep, and back centuries.

Beginning with slavery a lack of economic opportunity, often put medical care out of reach for many African-Americans.

Even in good economic times, during the Jim Crow "Whites Only" hospitals were commonplace throughout the South. Black medical facilities were often understaffed, underfunded, or non-existent. This stark reality gave credence to the saying: "When white folks catch a cold, black folks get pneumonia."

Black folk remedies helped pick up the slack involving rituals and incantations, harking back to its African roots. Many plant-based medicines were also part of the cure. These included garlic for high blood pressure, and aloe vera for skin injuries which have since been validated in scientific studies. It was only into the 20th century when Black America was given a better shot at institutional health care. That's when the US government threatened to withhold Medicare payments to "Whites Only" medical institutions and -- almost overnight -- hospitals were desegregated. The year was 1964 with the passage of the Civil Rights Act.

More than 40 years later, following years of negotiations with the health insurance industry, the Affordable care Act was eventually passed by the Obama administration that gave better access to medical care for Americans of all colors.

Today, (almost unbelievably for a rich industrialized nation), the US continues to lag behind the rest of the world in providing affordable medical care for a majority of its citizens. As a result, African-Americans, other minorities and especially the poor remain among the country's most vulnerable populations.

Source: http://www.chiff.com/home_life/holiday/black-history-month.htm



Trustees

The Trustees are entering 2022 with a number of issues that need to be addressed. Parsonage upgrades in the garage and yard will be on the agenda. Live streaming of our Sunday services and other church events will be taking place later this summer and/or early fall. Building maintenance will be high on the agenda in the midst of the Covid challenges we are facing, and input from the congregation is welcome. Let us be proud of God's house as we move through 2022 and beyond.

—Bill Averbeck, Chair

Birthdays

2/1	Rhoda Roehrig
2/4	Susan Myers
2/7	Marge Miller
2/11	Sharon Olson
2/12	Susan Bird-Schaefer
2/14	Leslie Nussbaum
2/15	Gerald Burns
2/17	Diane Weider
2/23	Shirley Martin
2/25	Joyce Barfknecht
	Ruth Beirne
2/27	Wilma Hamilton
2/29	Janice Klaske



80+ birthdays!

Leslie Nussbaum
Ruth Beirne
Shirley Martin
Wilma Hamilton



Anniversaries

Feb 4: Jayne & Robert Pickart

FEBRUARY MISSION: Loaves and Fishes

ARK submission deadline is the
15th of each month at noon. 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

Temporary Church Office Hours

Monday and Wednesday 9:00AM-1:00PM

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

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www.facebook.com/covenantFDL

Ways to Give with Tithe.ly

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

Happy Valentine's Day

