

From Pastor's Desk:



Advent and Christmas season is already here. Advent is the four-week season when all Christians, regardless of their denomination, expect, prepare, and celebrate the birth of Jesus, at the same time, are looking forward to the second coming of Jesus at the final day. It is joyful and exciting season that brings hope, faith, joy, peace, and light to the world as the Advent wreath candles represent. Many people in the world celebrate this season beyond their culture, even religion. It is not very hard to find many unbelievers in the world enjoying this season by sharing their gifts and having a party. Also, I still vividly remember that some Buddhist monks joined the Christmas worship service to celebrate the birth of Jesus. I believe many church members

already have some joyful plans such as decorating Christmas tree and house, purchasing some gifts for loved ones, and having a family gathering. I already had some fun decorating the church building with some other church members a few weeks ago. Buying some Christmas gifts for my children, decorating the house with the Christmas ornaments, and having some Christmas gatherings are already on my to-do-list. Yes, for believers, rejoicing the Christmas season and having fun is the right and good thing more than any other people in the world. However, I hope our church members not only have fun this season but also deepen their relationship with Jesus. Thus, I am preparing and suggesting some spiritual ways to celebrate this Christmas that will bring you much more joy to your life.

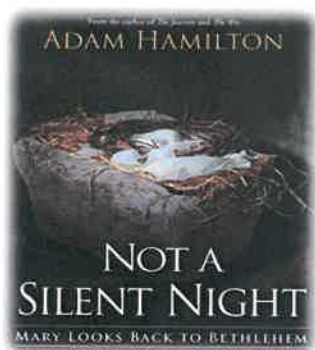
1) Advent and Christmas Eve Worship Services

One of the most important and meaningful ways to celebrate the Christmas season is to participate in the advent and Christmas worship services. Worship is the central ways to deepen a relationship with God. Certainly, we will sing some traditional Christmas carols and light the Advent candles in the services to celebrate this season. Also, we will try to examine the familiar Christmas stories once again through the sermon. However, this time, we will see them from the perspective of Mary, the mother of Jesus. This will reveal hidden meanings of Christmas and another aspect of God we did not know. In addition, some special music from some church and community members will enrich our worship experience.



There will be a few special worship services. On 12/11, we will have the Christmas program that our children and youth members have prepared. They will share the joy of Christmas with cute dances and songs. Also, they will present the nativity story with a few carols, instead of my long sermon. This will be a great opportunity for the church members to think about the meaning of the birth of Jesus with a lot of fun. On 12/24 at 6:30 PM, we will have Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service. The theme of the worship service is the Christmas story from the perspective of Mary, the mother of Jesus. We will think about the meaning of Christmas, following Mary's life journey. Three preachers (Mary, Denise, and me) will share short reflections on each stage of Mary's life in relation to Jesus throughout the service. Some brass music, Chancel Choir and special music will enrich your worship experience. Certainly, we will conclude the service by lighting the candles and singing, "Silent Night, Holy Night." Please plan to come and join with your family members. Also, please remember that we will have a regular worship service on Christmas Day at 9:00 AM.

2) Other Meaningful Ways to Celebrate the Christmas Season



Other than worship service, there are various ways to celebrate the Christmas season meaningfully and spiritually. The first thing coming to mind is to have a personal devotional time. There are a lot of devotional books out there, and I strongly recommend these resources to use in your personal devotional time. However, my strongest recommendation is the Bible itself, especially one of Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John). How about reading the book of Mark during this Christmas season and reflecting on Jesus' life and ministry once again?

Reading a good book about Christmas is one of the great ways to celebrate it. I strongly recommend "Not A Silent Night" (written by Adam Hamilton) this year. The author of the book brings great and innovative insights on

Christmas stories from the perspective of Mary. In addition, it is easy to read. Furthermore, this book is my basic material for Advent sermon series, "Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem." If you read it with my sermon, it will enrich your spiritual life. If you are not a reader, joining Wednesday Bible Study group is a good option. Currently, they reflect on the Christmas stories from the perspective of Mary based on this book.

Lastly, sharing your love with other neighbors through one of the church missions would be the best way to celebrate the Christmas. I believe many of you plan to buy some gifts or already bought them for your loving family members and friends. I think it is the great way to express your love for them. However, if you extend your love for the marginalized in the society, it makes Christmas even better. So, I suggest the following: how about matching the price for your neighbors in need? For example, if you spend 100 dollars for gifts of your loving family members or friends, spend another 100 dollars for support the people in need. I believe it would be the wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Jesus and live out the message of the baby Jesus in the manger. There are a lot of missions that the Covenant community is doing for the people in need, such as Food for Families, Gifts for Families, collecting socks, mittens, and hats, and so on. Please join one of the missions to express Jesus' love for them.

Introduction of This Year's Confirmands



Hi, I'm **Adam James Averbeck** aka "AJ". I go to South Park middle school and I'm in 8th grade. I like baseball, basketball, football, and hanging out with cousins and friends. I'm doing confirmation because I want to learn more about the Methodist religion and our church. I hope to be taught about Jesus and how we can be more like him in church and around the world.

My name is **Jacob Allickson**, and I go to Campbellsport High School. I am in 9th grade aka freshman. Some things I like are sports, dirt bikes, and hunting. Some things I don't like are reading, doing homework and hockey. Some motivation for confirmation is that when I am done I don't have to do any church homework and I can work Sundays. My expectations for confirmation is that I will learn more about the religion and have a fun time doing so.



Introduction of This Year's Confirmands (continued)



My name is **Henry Allickson**. I'm a freshman at Campbellsport High School and I like hanging out with friends and family along with music of most kinds. I like being social but not all the time. I like aviation along with cars, I know that seems like an elementary schooler's interests, but whatever. I like the older planes and cars along with some newer ones. I like video games and WW2 movies along with comedy movies. I like learning about history that normally isn't taught about along with learning about how things like planes and vehicles work. I also like biking around and doing not so good bmx tricks like a bunny hop and a bunny hop (I can't really do much except a small wheelie.) Finally I like watching sports and occasionally playing them. The only sports I do are cross country, which was definitely better this year than last year, and track. I do not like a lot of the newer 2020 and later music along with Spotify ads. I also don't like coffee and most sodas. I only really like root beer, cream, and grape sodas along with McDonald's sprite, which is weirdly really good. I don't like other things like writing/typing reports, essays or anything over 5 sentences really, along with public speaking and thinking about things that make my head hurt like what happens after death and math. I do like daydreaming though because I'm able to do whatever and it's like what I would be if I just did stuff instead of backing out. Now, I must be honest, I'm only here because my parents make me go, but since I've realized that, I just try to make the best of it. I do expect lots of homework and complicated situations but also to have fun and learn about the church.

My name is **Karissa Hernandez**. I am in 8th at Theisen Middle School. I enjoy playing basketball and hanging out with friends. I also like to listen to music and my animals. I dislike the snow and the cold weather. My motivation for confirmation is to learn more about God and religion. My expectation for going to confirmation is to be a better person.



Date	Scripture and Sermon	Volunteers	Mission	Music/ Special Event
December 4 2nd Sunday of Advent	"Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem 2" Luke 2:34-34 / 23:32-38 John 19:25-30	Liturgist: Children's: Diane W Media: Diane W Live: Mona A Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Bill O Communion:	Gifts for Families	Bell Choir
December 11 3rd Sunday of Advent		Liturgist: William D Media: Diane W Live: Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Bill O	Gifts for Families	Christmas Program Cookie Walk
December 18 4th Sunday of Advent	"Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem 3: Luke 2:41-52	Liturgist: Mary B. Children's: Media: Live: Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Bill O	Apportionments	Choir
December 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service		Liturgist: Children's: Media: Diane W Live: Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Bill O	Apportionments	Choir
December 25 Christmas Day		Liturgist: Children's: Diane W Media: Diane W Live: Usher: Bill K, Dave G, Bill O	Apportionments	

Staff Appreciation

In the last 15 months we have had a complete change in staff. In September of 2021, we were thrilled to welcome Kelly back as administrative assistant. Then in November we got lucky when Judi wanted to be our new custodian. We were fortunate to find Dave to fill in this summer and grateful he decided to join us permanently. Then, the cherry on the sundae, when Pastor Ho Lee and his family were appointed to Covenant.

At this time of the year, we like to show our gratitude and appreciation with staff gifts. If you would like to contribute to the gifts, you may mail a check or place it in the offering with **"Staff Gifts"** in the memo line or use one of the envelopes in the pews. The money will be distributed evenly among the staff. Please submit your gift by December 11. Thank you for considering this,
Diane Weider, SPRC Chair



Worship Highlights

The mission of the church is to make disciples. We are called to grow into mature disciples while also reaching new people. Which of the worship experiences below are meeting this direction that is set before us by Christ?

Youth in the confirmation class (Carissa, Jacob, Henry and AJ) introduced themselves to the congregation at the October 23 worship service so that we can build relationships between these young people and other members. It is by having connections to each other that we can support each other's spiritual growth.

We enjoyed Trevor Hernandez offering his talent by playing the guitar during our singing. He plans to do this one Sunday each month.

Three members/friends of Covenant who passed away during the past year were remembered on All Saints Sunday. There was a special reading and lighting of a candle in their memory. We paused to reflect on our history and remember the people who have influenced our faith.

The first Sunday of each month we have the gift of Holy Communion. If you are homebound and would like communion, please contact Pastor Ho Lee or the church office.

Every Sunday there are opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to be involved with worship service – ushers, greeters, children's message, liturgist, sound booth, live streaming, candle lighting, and music. During the four Sundays of Advent, there is also an opportunity to light the Advent candles and read a short message. Pray and ask God if He is inviting you to carry out any of these roles. Sign up at the desk in the narthex. If you want to know more about any of the roles talk to Pastor Ho Lee, or with any individual who you see already taking part in that responsibility.

Our veterans who served in the military were recognized on the Sunday following Veterans Day. Thank you for your service.

Looking forward to December, we will have the children present the Christmas message at their program on Dec. 11. All are invited for a Christmas Eve service at 6:30 pm on Dec. 24 and regular worship on Christmas Day, Dec. 25 at 9 am. Share these dates with others and let them know there is room for them in worship.

Submitted by Denise Retzleff, Worship Committee Chair

United Methodist Men (UMM)

The UMM met on Sat, Nov 12 at Rollin g Meadows Restaurant with 5 men present. Our jam sale went well; we have 10 or so left over so we donated them to the food for families. The men will again be buying clothing for our kids; and we ordered 144 pair of waterproof gloves!

Our men's group could use the input of more men! Please consider attending our next meeting/breakfast on December 10 at 8:00am.

"We're not all meant to look and act and think exactly the same. God demonstrates his glory through diversity and different gifts and personalities of his followers." -Mandisa

Submitted by Darrell Jewson, UMM Chair

Riverside students enjoying bananas! Thank you for allowing us to continue providing these to our local students!



Hat, Mitten and Sock Tree

Jack Frost has returned and he is nipping at your nose, toes and fingers. That means it is time for the Mitten tree. Please bring in child and adult hats, mittens or gloves and socks. It can be challenging to find water proof or water resistant mittens to keep fingers dry and warm while playing in the snow and cold. The most requested item in shelters is socks. Not everyone has boots and when your feet get wet they get cold. Please bring in your donations by December 11th to fellowship hall. Let's fill up the boxes and keep everyone warm this winter.; donations will be given to students at Chegwin, Pier, Riverside and Parkside Elementary Schools.



Gifts for Families/The Angel Tree



The Angel Tree is ready to go in the Fellowship Hall. We have eight families (93 gifts) to purchase for this year. If you aren't a shopper but want to contribute, you can give money (just make sure to indicate that it is for Gifts for Families) and we will shop for you. This year we have adopted families from Chegwin and Pacto de Gracia. The need is great, and together we can help them have a happier Christmas.

Choose an ornament (or 2 or 3), sign the ornament out on the sheets on the table, purchase gift (include gift receipt), wrap gift, attach the tag to the outside of the package. All gifts are due back by December 11th (at the latest). When you bring your gift, sign it back in on the sheets on the table.

The loose offering money collected in November and the first two weeks of December will be used to purchase the gifts of any ornaments not taken from the tree, cleaning supplies, a ham for each family, and some perishable items (like milk and butter). If you have any questions, you can ask Shelli, Diane, or any member of the Sending Forth committee.

Food for Families

Once again, Covenant UMC will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Food for Families mission project. Please return your food filled bags by December 11 and place under the table in the Narthex. An insert with tips on purchasing healthier foods will be stapled to the bags. This is a guide, not a requirement. ALL donations are greatly appreciated!

Cookie Walk

The Sugarplum Cookie Walk is being held December 10 and 11. We are looking for bakers and candy makers as well as volunteers to set up on Friday, work the sale, and clean up. Sign up sheets or in the narthex, or contact Eleanor King. Did you see our beautiful yard signs? We hope to have another successful sale; we need your help!

Saturday, December 10: 10:00am-1:00pm

Sunday, December 11: 10:15-11:15am

Come shop for delicious treats for yourself or as gifts! Let someone else do the baking for you this year! Choose your treats and pay by the pound!



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith met Nov. 2. New reading books were presented with 2 additional readers joining our ranks! What a joy and we hope they are inspired with selections.

Disbursement of \$300 remaining in our treasury was done to the Pacto de Gracia community after hearing Pastor Janet's presentation regarding their many needs.

Cookie walk plans were completed and price of cookies raised one dollar due to cost of ingredients. We encourage any church members to help us with baking. Remind your friends if they need a special gift for a friend or anyone, they could select a box of cookies or candy from this event to save shopping hassle!

Next meeting will be Dec. 7 with a pot luck at Fellowship hall at 10:45. Arc collection will be craft items.

Each December, we donate to Solutions Center and this year their needs are hygiene items and cleaning supplies. We will also pack shut in bags at this meeting.

Blessings for happy holidays to all. -submitted by Dea Hebel

Family Ministries



Trunk or Treat at Salem was a lot of fun. We had a little over 100 people come through to grab treats and play games. Covenant had three cars decorated for the event. We feel that Bob and Judy had the best vehicle entry with their carved pumpkins. Salem plans to make this an annual event and we talked about some changes that might bring in more people.

We are going roller skating! The children and youth will be roller skating at Korneli's On the Avenue (the old Spectrum Rink) on Saturday, December 17th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The entire congregation is invited to join us (or just watch and laugh). After roller skating, the youth are participating in an overnight lock-in at church. Please do not expect Judi, Diane, or

Pastor Ho Lee to be coherent on Sunday morning. :)

I want to thank our Family Ministries team for all that they have done and achieved this year. We look forward to the direction God will lead us in 2023.

Thank you all for your support this past year. Our committee is grateful for the donations of various items for refreshing our Sunday School and Nursery rooms. We look forward to presenting our Christmas program and hope that you will enjoy it. May you have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Trustees

2022 has been busy with projects completed and few still needing to be finished. We look forward to 2023 and the challenges that we may be undertaking.

As the holiday season begins, we have opportunities to spend time with our families and friends. May we all be thankful for the many blessings we have received, and though there will always be challenges in our lives, God will bring us through. May we also pray for those less fortunate than us.

Merry Christmas and God Bless. -Bill Averbeck, chair

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Friends of Chegwin

Trick or Trunk at Chegwin was a success. They moved it indoors so we were able to decorate a room rather than a car. Diane had some fun Halloween props that the kids seemed to really enjoy, especially the smoking cauldron. Thank you to everyone who donated food and drink for the kids. We got some help from the Marian University Hockey Team. The students really enjoyed our room and the treats.

The Friends of Chegwin took a sweet treat feast to the staff for Staff Appreciation at Chegwin on Monday, November 21. We want to let them know how much we appreciate their dedication. Mary Balson baked pumpkin bars, Rev. Janet baked Three-Milk Cakes, Diane baked cookies, and Pastor Ho Lee provided the Starbucks. Diane was greeted with much thanks from the staff she encountered while setting it up in their staff lounge.



Church Council

Covenant's Church Council has been meeting monthly since July. We have faced both opportunities and challenges. Reorganization has taken place for a more effective structure of our committees.

With God's help we will use our talents to the best of our abilities to move Covenant forward in a positive way. 2023 gives us an opportunity to begin again working for ways to do God's work. As 2022 ends, let us look back and reflect on the past, move forward for the betterment of our Church to bring new ideas and changes for a profound effect on our congregation and our community. -Submitted by Bill Averbek, Chair

Pacto de Gracia UMC



*And
Merry Christmas !!!*

Special Thanks

- To the Covenant UMC family for all your prayers, love, and support.
- To Covenant Endowment Fund, United Women in Faith, and Sara Circle for your generous contributions.
- And for those who gave us personal gifts.

You will see your contribution at work in our church to reach out to the Hispanic/Latino community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and help them with other necessities.

The past Sunday, November 20, 2022, the attendees for the worship were 20 people: ten adults, two youths, and eight children. On October 30, we had our first wedding.



Newlyweds:
Dony Talavera and
Nilvia Izaguirre.





Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias will be available this holiday season for you to enjoy.

This year's flower colors will be burgundy and pink.

The deadline for ordering Poinsettias is December 4. The cost is \$12.50 per plant. Please make your check out to Covenant UMC with a note on the memo line for "Chancel Guild."

Name: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Sending Forth

Sending Forth Mission team wishes to thank everyone who helped with Loaves and Fishes on November 2th. We served 151 meals. Our next serving date is January 18th , 2023.



The loose offering for October was for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This raised over \$900.00 to allow them to purchase comforters, sheets, pillowcases, and mattress pads for their mission. Again, thank you Covenant! "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town."

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 9:00am Service 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am Youth Group 10:15am Choir practice 5:30pm Charge Conference	5 10:30am Finance Subcommittee Mtg.	6 10:00am Sending Forth 6:30pm Trustees	7 9:30am Bible Study 10:45am Sara Circle	8	9 Pastor Sabbath	10 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Rolling Meadows Pastor Off Day 9-11am Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:00am-1:00pm COOKIE WALK
11 COOKIE WALK Children's Program 9:00am Service 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am Youth Group 10:15am Choir practice	12 6:00pm Bell Choir	13	14 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am SPRC	15	16 Pastor Sabbath	17 Pastor Off Day 4-6pm Roller Skating followed by Youth Lock In
18 9:00am Service 10:15am Choir practice	19 6:00pm Bell Choir	20	21 9:30am Bible Study 5:00pm Champions BINGO	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 6:30pm Service
25 Christmas! 9:00am Service	26	27	28 8:00am Women's Breakfast @ Rolling Meadows 9:30am Bible Study	29	30	31

Cancelled Stamp Savers

The Christmas season is here: save those cancelled stamps! Stamps can be given to me or Nina or turned in to the office. Thank you! Marilyn Stillings

Thank you!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped “deck the halls” on Sunday, November 13th. It only took about two and a half hours to complete, Thank you to all who made chili and baked goods and to those who served it.

Birthdays

12-1	Shirley Krueger Donna Miller
12-3	Sheila Sayles
12-5	Susan Strong
12-6	Ardis Sherman
12-7	Robert Pickart
12-11	Fred Baldwin
12-12	Jim Reams
12-18	Gordon Schultz Donna Baldwin
12-29	Dea Hebel
12-30	Lorraine Jagow



80+ birthdays!

Shirley Krueger
Ardis Sherman
Fred Baldwin
Gordon Schultz
Dea Hebel



Anniversaries

December 20—Robert and Janet Lewis



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

Main Office Hours

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

Pastor Office Hours:

Monday– Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm

Ways to Give with Tithe.ly

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

Pastor: Pastor Ho Lee

Email: Leeho0531@gmail.com cell: 617.894.3545

Pastor of Hispanic Ministry: Rev. Janet Martínez

Administrative Assistant: Kelly Braun

Custodian: Judi Balson

Music Director: David Thompson

**ARK submission deadline is the
20th of each month at noon.
Please get your content to the
office by this date for the next
month’s issue.**

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