



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

Main Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00AM-1:00PM

Pastor Office Hours:

Monday– Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm

Pastor: Pastor Ho Lee

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Adm. Asst./Family Ministries: Debbie Tidwell

Music Director: David Thompson

Custodian: Judi Balson

Ways to Give with Tithe.ly

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

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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THE ARK

“Making Christian Disciples”

Published monthly by Covenant United Methodist Church-Fond du Lac, WI



November 2023

Happy Thanksgiving!



Psalm 100:4

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless His name!”

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30am Bible Study 10:45am Sara Circle	2 9:30am Mutual Ministry	3	4
5 9:00am Worship– All Saints Sunday 10:15am Choir Practice Youth Make a Difference	6 10:00am Worship Comm. Mtg. 1:00pm Chegwin Mtg. 6:00pm Bell Choir	7 6:30pm Trustee Mtg.	8 9:30am Bible Study 4:00 pm Loaves and Fishes at Peace	9	10	11 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Rolling Meadows
12 9:00am Worship Service 10:15 Choir Practice	13. 6:00pm Bell Choir Practice	14	15 9:30am Bible Study 5:30 Bingo	16 4:30-6:30pm Soup Supper	17	18
19 9:00am Worship Service 10:15 Choir Practice 10:30 Youth Activity 3:30 Ecumenical Service	20 6:00pm Bell Choir Practice	21	22	23 Thanksgiving!	24	25
26 9:00am Worship Service	27 9:30am Stewardship Mtg. 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Church Council	28	29 8:00am Women's Breakfast 9:30am Bible Study	30		



From the Pastor's Desk

Real “Stewardship”

One of the major plans for November is stewardship. What comes to mind when you hear the word stewardship in the church? Some church members might see it somewhat negatively, like a church institution badgering its members for some monetary donation. Others might see the necessary program for the survival of the church gathering. Based on these understandings, many church members often visualize an offering plate or a pledge card in relation to stewardship. Certainly, stewardship includes church members’ offerings and pledge cards. However, stewardship is much more than giving. Also, the main reason for talking about giving is not for the survival of church institutions but for God’s mission. Stewardship is not for the church administration, but for church members’ relationship with God, namely, spirituality. The word “steward” means managing another person’s property. In the ancient world, a steward was a person who was given the responsibility and authority to rule over the affairs of the household. The Bible calls all believers as stewards of God. This is because all we have now is given by God not only for ourselves but also for others and God. As God’s stewards, we should know how to use our given talents and resources well for others and God. Reflecting on various ways to use our given talents and resources is stewardship in Christianity. Thus, stewardship is not only about money, but also about all our abilities and resources. In our denomination, the United Methodist Church, stewardship is about how to use our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness for others and God. Moreover, stewardship is not about the survival of the institutional church. Instead, it is about exploring ways to glorify God with all the resources God has entrusted to us. Knowing how to glorify God with all of our given resources is knowing how to deepen a relationship with God. From this perspective, the ultimate goal of stewardship is spirituality. This fundamental understanding led me to prepare our church stewardship in November as an opportunity to reflect on how to use our given resources as God’s steward, as well as how to deepen a relationship with God.

November Sermon Series- *Stewardship : 5 Essentials*

I have prepared a new sermon series for this November: “Stewardship: 5 Essentials.” This new sermon series will present five essential ways to use our time, talent, and resources to deepen a relationship with God. Serious Christians yearning for a deeper relationship with God will search for practical ways to be authentic and mature disciples of Jesus Christ or at least, a simple map leading to that spiritual goal. If you are one of these serious Christians, this sermon will provide five essential and practical ways to bring you to a deeper relationship with God. At the same time, these five essentials will help you know where you are in your spiritual journey and guide you to the next road of sanctification. These five essentials are:

1) Worship, 2) Spiritual Discipline, 3) Small Group, 4)Mission, and 5) Giving. We have already explored the first essential, Worship, throughout October. Thus, we will talk about the rest of them, one by one, each Sunday throughout November.

Pastor Ho Lee

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each on you has received.” 1 Peter 4:10

Church Council

During each church council meeting I have been asking the committee members questions from the book, Leading Beyond the Walls by Adam Hamilton. The book focuses on key elements like strategies, ideas, and insights that can help us develop a congregation that is open to all, especially reaching the unchurched. At our last church council meeting we discussed “What is a Disciple?”

We talked about the characteristics of a deeply committed disciple of Jesus Christ according to John Wesley. He summarized Jesus’ great commandment by saying that Christians are those who love and serve God with their “heads, hearts and hands.” Council members broke into three groups and held conversations about how we are serving God with our head, heart and hands. We discussed what we are doing as a church and what we might do differently.

Head-We have functioning committees, projects initiated and completed, financial accountability, and new activities happening by having a Director of Family Ministry.

Heart-We need to learn how to pray well, both personally and in a group; how to read and experience the Bible with your heart; the importance of worship; the need for Small Group Ministry; learning and practicing spiritual disciplines.

Hands-We have many missions(Chegwin, Bananas, Loaves and Fishes, Angel Tree etc.) that serve others outside of the church. We could

- A. Possibly set up a “Connections Team” who would coordinate help for people within the congregation. For example– someone has surgery and needs their lawn mowed or groceries picked up, The team would find volunteers to help that person.
- B. Personally invite people in the congregation who are not active to become involved in some aspect of the church, by sharing a wide list of opportunities from which to select from and serve.

According to Adam Hamilton and John Wesley,: “To love God with our head is to have a solid understanding of what we believe and why. This includes reading the Bible, knowing what it says. It includes loving God with our intellect. We believe Christians should be informed, thinking people. Ultimately, being a Christian begins with a decision to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior”

“To love and serve God with our heart is to have a personal relationship with Jesus. This is done through daily prayer, reading the Bible, worship, and be open to and have a desire for the Holy Spirit to work in our lives.”

“Finally, loving God with our hands always translates into loving our neighbors; It is using our time and talents in Christian service to others. This includes being involved with the needs of hurting people, giving away a portion of our resources to share with others, and ministering both within and outside of the church to demonstrate the love of Christ to others.”

Prayer: Lord, help us to be deeply committed disciples, and give us the strength to grow spiritually so we can be better examples to those we disciple to. Amen.

Thomas Retzleff

Tom Retzleff, Church Council Chair

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service

Covenant UMC will host an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service on Sunday, Nov. 19, at 3:30pm. Various pastors from different denominations in Fond du Lac- (FAMA) decided to have this worship service, and our church volunteered to provide the building for this great ministry. Our Music Director will lead an Ecumenical Choir, and Sara Circle will prepare fellowship after the worship service. It is critical to bring the message of unity to our polarizing world through this service. I strongly encourage church members to join this service.—Pastor Ho Lee

Finance Committee

Progress Update– With work to begin soon on our Educational Building doors and windows project, the Finance Committee would like to update you on our fundraising progress.

The estimated cost of the project is \$110,000. After receiving an insurance claim payment and building account money totaling \$50,400, we were left with a balance of \$59,600. So far, we have raised over \$36,000 from your generous gifts and fundraising events.

Bible Study– “Faithful– Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph”

From his beginnings as a humble carpenter to his all –important role as the earthly father of Jesus Christ, Joseph’s place in the nativity story is sometimes overlooked, but contains valuable lessons for all of us. Absent from much of the biblical narrative, Joseph never spoke a word, but his courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God’s salvation plan for humanity.

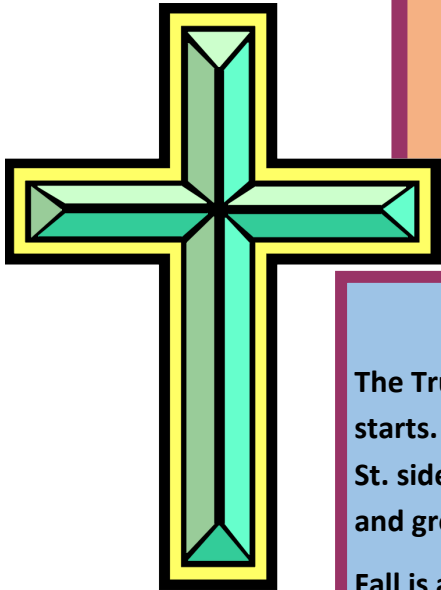
Joseph’s story is much like our own. In life, we encounter circumstances that we would never have chosen for ourselves. At times, it can be tempting just to walk away. Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don’t understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

Join this small group study and conversation on Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30 am in the Choir Room. This new series starts November 29, 2023. There is no registration, no fee, and no work between sessions. Come as you are, eager to ask questions, learn from each other and discuss. For more information, contact Denise Retzleff at 920-539-0336. We will use bestselling author Adam Hamilton’s book and video series “Faithful-Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph.”

November Mission

It is almost time for our annual Angel Tree. It will be set up on November 19. The monetary mission for November and the first three Sundays of December is gifts and food for families. Grocery bags will also be collected for our families and the Food Pantry.





Pulpit Preview

November 5	“Spiritual Practices”-Communion	Pastor Ho Lee
November 12	“Small Groups”	Pastor Ho Lee
November 19	“Mission and Ministry”	Pastor Ho Lee
November 26	“Giving”	Pastor Ho Lee

Trustee Committee

The Trustees have been busy completing projects before the cold weather starts. As of this Ark report, the windows and doors replacement on the Marr St. side of the Educational Building has started. We look forward to having safe and greatly improved , insulated entrances.

Fall is another great time to reflect on God’s presence and the beauty surrounding us. Your Trustees hope that our congregation approves of the way we deal with issues that physically affect our church to bring a more aesthetic worship area for you and our visitors.

Bill Averbeck, Trustee Chair

Worship Committee

I am the Vine

November is a month of Thanksgiving for all that God provides. Each week at worship, we’ll have a stewardship moment to celebrate the gifts that we bring to God’s church. On All Saints Sunday, we’ll acknowledge the seeds of faith that were planted by former generations of believers. During the month, you’ll be able to view a special display in the Narthex of newspaper articles, photos of past activities, and a booklet of being a church of 100 years. On the second Sunday, we will highlight the small groups of this congregation and how they are helping us grow in our love of God. During the third week, we will rejoice for the many and varied missions of our congregation that demonstrate love in action.

During each of these weeks, you’ll find a colored paper leaf in your bulletin. After the Stewardship Moment, you’ll be invited to write down on the leaf (week 1) the name of the person or an event that has shaped your faith; (week 2) a small group that helps you grow in your faith, or a small group that you would like to see started; (week 3) a mission that is making a difference. After service each week, we will add these leaves to the vine that begins with Christ our Savior. The following Sunday, we’ll see the vine growing as we live out John 15:5-”I am the vine, you are the branches...If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.”

Throughout the month, we will have celebrated the giving of our time, talent and resources. On the final week, we ask you to bring forth your commitment card that represents the fruit you are offering. Everyone will be treated to a mini fruit pie!

Mission Team

Mona Averbeck and Nancy Johnson will be coordinating for Loaves and Fishes. The Mission Team wishes to thank them for their willingness to serve. They will be replacing Marilyn Roessler and Eleanor King. Covenant UMC will be serving Loaves and Fishes on Nov. 8. Sign up will Oct. 29 and Nov. 5.

U.M.M

The U.M.M. met on Oct. 14– nine men were present. We opened with a prayer by Tom R. There was discussion on a possible Spaghetti Dinner maybe in January or February. More to follow about this. Looking into more outreach for church functions– reusable signs etc. Another mission possibility might be once a month dinner for our neighbors– will have to talk to other groups about this. The men will provide emergency clothing to the 4 schools as soon as we get a shopping list. Our next meeting is the 2nd Sat. in November-8:00am at Rolling Meadows. We will make room for you.

Darrell L. Jewson

If you stop believing in GOD, do you think GOD stops believing in you?



Sara Circle

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE– Soup Supper!

Soup Supper is Thursday, Nov. 16. Plans are completed, however we still need a few things and people to work at serving and clean up. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex– please sign up if you can! Soups will include Chili, White Chicken Chili, Taco, Vegetable Beef Barley, Chicken Noodle, Vegetable, Corn Chowder, Stuffed Pepper, Ham and Vegetable, Broccoli Cheese, Potato and Cheeseburger. Soup is all you can eat! Dessert will be your choice of pie, bar or a cookie. Prices are \$10—Adults \$5– Children

A Bake sale featuring breads will be held in the Narthex and we would appreciate all donations from church members as proceeds from this event all go to the Window/Door Project.

We have submitted a grant request to WI United Methodist Foundation for help with the Food Pantry. We are MOST GRATEFUL for your continued support to meet the need which is much greater than we anticipated. We will help with Loaves and Fishes as well as serve refreshments after the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service here at Covenant on Sunday, Nov. 19 at 3:30 pm. The Cookie Walk will be on Dec. 16 and 17th. Our next meeting will be Nov. 1.



- 11-1 Deb Hoffman-Ashenfelter
- 11-6 Linda Mielke
- 11-8 Dan Ashenfelter
- 11-9 Doug Duitman
- Gary Miller
- 11-14 Germaine Patt
- 11-18 Kelly Braun
- 11-20 Del Jewson
- 11-27 John Barfknecht
- Cindy Paasch
- 11-29 Jerry Stillings



Mission Offerings for October

- 11-5-23 Christmas Gift for Family
- 11-12-23 Christmas Gift for Family
- 11-19-23 Christmas Gift for Family
- 1 1-26-23 Christmas Gift for Family

Anniversaries

- November 9 - Chuck and Sandy Kilmer
- November 24– Tim and Janice Klaske



As we welcome November and the Thanksgiving season, it is a wonderful time of the year to focus on all of the things that we are grateful for. Psalm 100:4 says “Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless His name!”

We have so much to be thankful for! Sunday School has officially begun and we have wonderfully renovated our classrooms and Sunday School Hallway. We are going to start preparing for our Christmas Pageant which will be during the Worship Service on December 17. We have a lot to look forward to! During this season, I wish all of you a peaceful and Happy Thanksgiving!

Blessings!
Miss Debbie



SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAS BEGUN!

Ages 3 yrs. through 5th grade Children will start Sunday School in the Sanctuary with their families for the Worship Service and will be excused to go to their Sunday School classes. After the Worship Service, parents may pick up their children from their classrooms. Come and join the fun!

Sunday School Lessons

- Nov. 5– Communion Sunday– No Sunday School
- Nov. 12– God’s Promise to Abraham
- Nov. 19– Abraham’s Visitors
- Nov. 26– Thanksgiving Holiday– No Sunday School



Lake Traverse,
South Dakota

Make a Difference Day

Sunday, November 5, 10:30-2:00

Our Youth Group will be serving congregation members by raking leaves, picking up groceries, moving furniture, painting or any other projects that need some willing hands! If you have a job that needs some volunteers, please contact Debbie, Diane or Judi. Please give us an opportunity to serve! All Youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us!

R.A.D. Youth Group Schedule (Radical About Discipleship)

November 5

-Make a Difference Day, 10:30-2:00

November 19

-10:30-12:00– Youth Gathering– Games, food



Special Music Schedule

November 12 – Choir

November 19 – Bell Choir

November 26 – Choir



Taken from a Facebook Post and it is so true!

Things have changed. There aren't as many people participating in church choirs these days. Some have gone on to sing in the Heavenly Choir. Some of the voices have weakened a bit. Some have lost a portion of their vocal range. The traditional way of doing things are disappearing. Many choirs do not sing in robes anymore. The instrumentation has changed. The piano and organ are being supplemented with other instruments including drums and guitars. Things have definitely changed, and change is inevitable (and sometimes very healthy!)

However choral singing is still beautiful. Dynamics are still breathtaking. Articulations and phrasing are still painting vivid pictures of the text. Good breath support is still creating notes that are on pitch and carry with them great depth of sound. Choir members are still dedicated to working hard each week to bless the Lord and His people.

What has not changed is the fact that choir is one of the most beautiful and engaging ministries in the local church. It provides a powerful expression of praise and worship that a soloist, a band, a congregation cannot do.

So make sure your choir (if you are still fortunate to have one) is affirmed and appreciated regularly. Don't take the choir for granted. It takes a lot of commitment to create and maintain a church choir. Pray for your choir members regularly. Let them know how much you are inspired by their ministry.