



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

Email: Leeho0531@gmail.com cell: 617.894.3545

Pastor of Hispanic Ministry: Rev. Janet Martínez

Adm. Asst./Family Ministries: Debbie Tidwell

Music Director: David Thompson

Custodian: Judi Balson

Ways to Give with Tithe.ly

- Tithe.ly app
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- 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.

CONTACT US:

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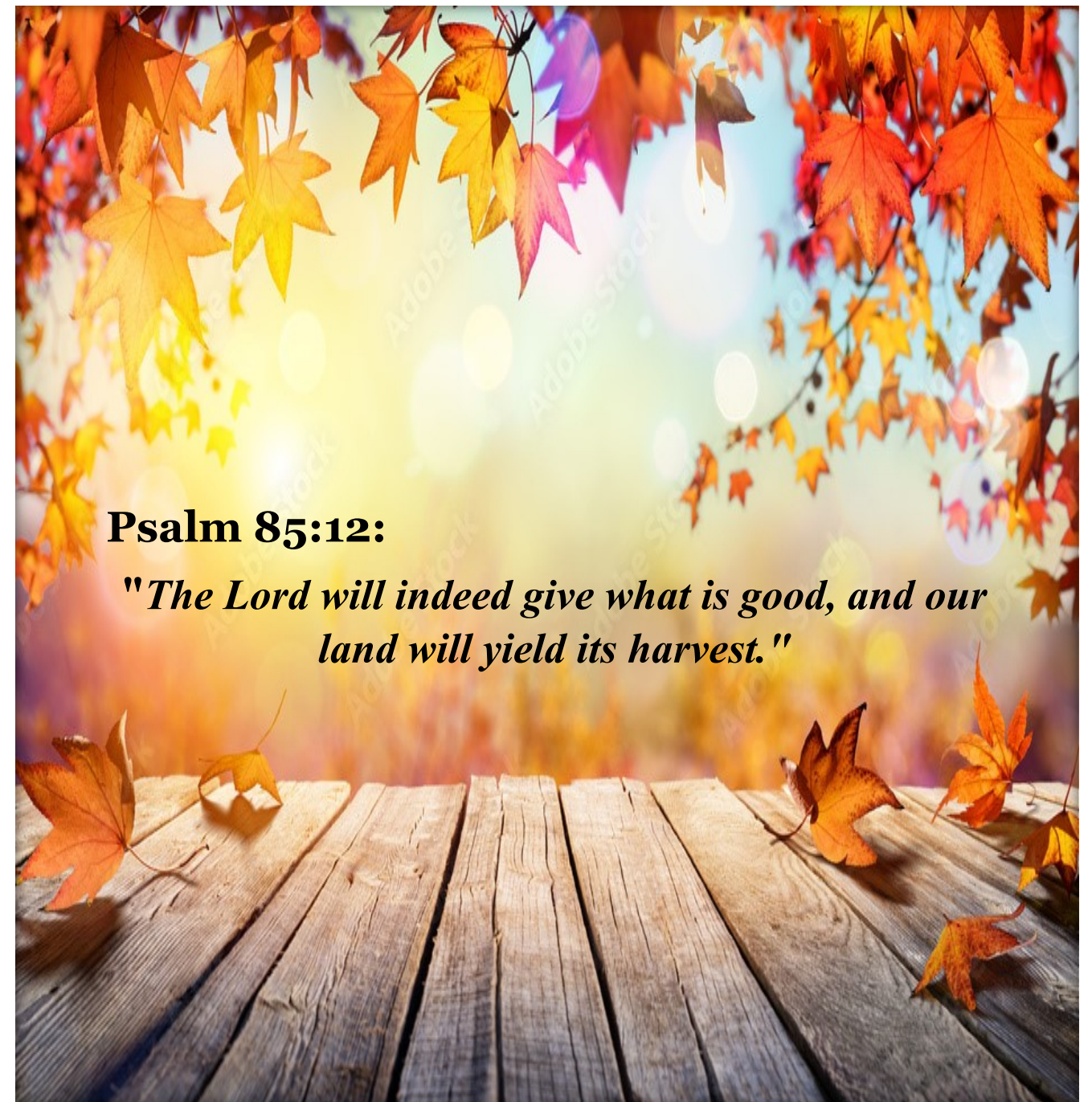
THE ARK

“Making Christian Disciples”

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



October 2023



Psalm 85:12:

*"The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our
land will yield its harvest."*

October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00am World Communion Ser- vice	2	3 6:30 Trustee Mtg.	4 9:30am Bible Study 10:45am Sara Circle	5	6	7
8 9:00am Worship 10:15 Choir Prac- tice	9 6:00pm Bell Choir Practice	10	11 9:30am Bible Study	12	13	14 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Rolling Meadows
15 9:00am Worship Service 10:15 Choir Practice 10:30- 2:00 Youth Trip to Horicon Marsh	16 10:00am Worship Mtg. 6:00pm Bell Choir Practice	17	18 9:30am Bible Study 5:30 Bingo	19	20	21
22 9:00am Worship Service 10:15 Choir Practice 10:30 Youth /Parent Youth Meeting	23 4:30pm Finance Mtg. 6:00pm Bell Choir Practice	24	25 8:00am Women's Breakfast 9:30am Bible Study	26	27	28 4:30-6:30 Fall Trunk or Treat@ Commu- nity UMC
29 9:00am Worship Service 10:15 Choir Practice	30 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Church Coun- cil	31				



From the Pastor's Desk

I am Back

I am ready to be back! My health condition has been restored and improved by nasal surgery, rest, and exercise. My wife noticed that the quality of my sleep has dramatically improved. Not only my physical health but also my mental health has been better. I had some quality time with my parents and relatives in South Korea. When I came back to the United States, I had a wonderful time with my family members, making a few short trips, dating with my wife, and visiting some friends. Also, I could renew my Spirit by routinizing personal devotional time as well as reading several books. I would like to express my deepest gratitude towards the Covenant church family, who graciously allowed me to have this three month renewal leave. Thanks to it, I feel refreshed and recharged. I want to come back to the pastoral ministry with a renewed body, mind, and spirit. Three weeks before my official comeback day, October 2nd, I started joining some church meetings to make the smooth transition by updating myself about the current church situations. Honestly, I was initially surprised by the many changes in the church. However, it did not take too long to understand that all the changes were necessary and positive while joining these church meetings. At the same time, I realized once again how passionate church leaders, members, and staff are at Covenant UMC. I am sincerely thankful for our church members and staff continually building up the church community with commitment and passion during my absence. They remind me that the church is not the institution that the pastor manages and governs but the community that all members are building together. All these changes and realizations helped me see what I need to pay attention to when I return to the pastoral ministry. As the book of Acts, Chapter 6 says, pastors should devote themselves to prayer and to serving the word. In other words, I need to focus on deepening our church members spirituality, namely a relationship with God, by organizing worship services, teaching God’s Word, visiting church members, and praying for them.

New Sermon Series: “How to Worship”

I have thought about the foundation and basics of Christian spiritual life during my Sabbath. This is because one of the best ways to deepen our spirituality is to go back to the basics. I wanted to renew myself not only physically but also spiritually on the Sabbath. Moreover, exploring the foundation could benefit the church members’ relationship with God. There were a lot of thoughts coming to my mind. Among them, this word, more accurately, this spiritual practice, came to me as the most important basis for me and the church members spiritual life. That is Worship. Worship is the central activity of the church community. Without worshipping God together, a church cannot be a church. The church easily becomes a rotary club or welfare center without this central activity. As one of the spiritual practices, worship is the most essential and most important. This is because worship service is the combination of essential spiritual practices that include praising God, reading the Bible, listening to the Bible, celebrating communion, praying for others and the world, and giving. Thus, all spiritual ancestors and current Christians believe that worshipping God is the foundational way to encounter God. Even the Bible teaches us that we are created to worship God. (“The people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise” - Isaiah 43:21) I do not believe that anybody disagrees with the importance of worship in a faith community. If you agree with the significance of worship for our spiritual life, here is the real question. Do you know how to worship God? What is the way to worship God properly? How do you listen to the word of God? How do you praise God with songs and musical instruments? How can we encounter God and experience the Holy Spirit vividly through the worship service?

Sara Circle Book Review

Maid by Stephanie Lane

MAID is a new book and it’s very timely, interesting and gives each of us much food for thought. Stephanie’s dreams of attending university and becoming a writer quickly dissolved as she found herself in an unplanned pregnancy. She spent years in service to upper middle class America as a “nameless ghost” as she cleaned by day and took online classes by night, writing relentlessly as she worked toward earning a college degree. Her true story of sacrifice as she cared for her child shows her true courage and determination to succeed despite all the challenges she faced. This true story is repeated many time in our society

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 things God wants us to be doing as a church family to develop a relationship with others outside and visiting our church.

After a short discussion the committee decided to focus on one particular idea to foster growth of our church family. The area we decided on was to create a hospitality team.

The hospitality team would recognize the little things that play a role in the success of any organization, for example: “Be-frienders” greet new people in church, gather their contact info, be sure to greet them the next week, and introduce them to other people. After guests come to church, call them back, talk to them in-person, visit them in their homes and drop off a mug filled with treats, and have the Pastor send a personal letter to visitors. By focusing on the little things the hospitality team is helping the church create an environment that supports a positive first impression for our guests while developing a positive culture within the existing members.

If you are interested in joining the hospitality team please contact any of the members of the Nominations committee: Pastor Ho Lee, Mona Averbeck, Denise Retzleff, Dea Hebel, Marilyn Stillings or Nina Krueger.

Prayer: Lord, reveal in us the little things that play a role in the success of your church, and give us the strength to grow in these areas so we can be better examples to those we disciple to. Amen

Thomas Retzleff

Many church members regularly and habitually join the worship service. I believe this is a good thing. Making worship service a part of our life routine is an excellent strategy to deepen our relationship with God. However, this spiritual habit without reflecting on the meaning of worship and checking and renewing our ways to join the worship could be a curse that prevents us from a deeper relationship with God. According to one of the surveys conducted within our denomination, the United Methodist Church, over 70% of church members did not expect to experience God while joining the worship service. Many considered worship a long-standing religious habit that they developed from their earlier ages. Some people who participated in this survey did not even understand what it means to experience God or encounter God through worship service. To experience God vividly and be filled with the Holy Spirit through worship service, we need to think about the meaning of worship not only theologically but practically. We need to check our current ways to worship God and find better ways to renew our relationships with God. Throughout October, I plan to discuss various ways and attitudes to worship God based on the Bible, tradition, and personal experiences. Please join the worship service and have an opportunity to renew your worship.

New Member Class

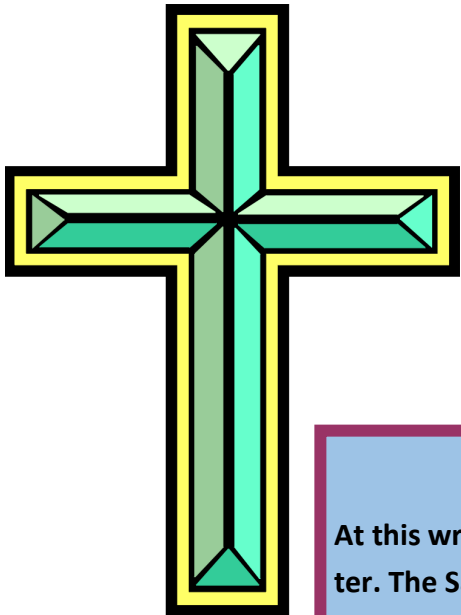
Before I left for the renewal leave, quite a few people expressed their interest in joining the church as members. Thus, I have thought and researched to find a better way to welcome and receive them as members during my renewal leave. Previously, I usually required a new member candidate to take a six-week new member class that focused on the basic theological understanding of the United Methodist Church. However, I realized that many of the current new member candidates have been long-standing members of our denomination who already have a sound theological understanding. Moreover, I felt we needed a shorter and more practical New Member Class. That is why I decided to have a 2 or 3 week New Member Class for these candidates. We will not talk about the basic understanding of God in this class. Instead, we will have a chance to get to know the pastor, staff, church leaders, and each other. In each class, people will casually converse with the pastor about five practical ways to become mature Christians. At the same time, we will introduce how the Covenant church community can support and guide each person’s spiritual journey by sharing the general church goal and vision, missions, programs, and events. After completing this new member class, we will officially welcome you as a member through the New Member Ceremony in the worship service. Tentatively, this New Member Class will be held right after the worship service in the pastor’s office during October and November. If you want to be a church member, do not hesitate to contact me.



Pastor Visitation

I plan to resume visitations to the church members in October and continue until the end of November. The main reason for this visit is to get to know our church members better and support them spiritually. If you want to have a conversation with the pastor, need spiritual support, or have not had any visitation from a pastor yet, please allow me to visit you.

The way to request a Pastor visitation is simple. You can sign up for the available date and time on a visitation sign-up sheet in the Narthex area. You can decide where to meet, such as your house, a restaurant, a church office, a café, a park, or anywhere you feel comfortable. My official visitation day is usually Thursdays. However, if you want a pastor visit on other days, simply let me know. I will make it work.



Pulpit Preview

October 1	World Communion Sunday	Rev. Chuck Davis
October 8	“God Centered Worship”	Pastor Ho Lee
October 15	“Encounter God”	Pastor Ho Lee
October 22	“Find God’s Message”	Pastor Ho Lee
October 29	“ Sing to the Lord a New Song”	Pastor Ho Lee

Trustee Committee

At this writing, the Trustees are taking on projects in preparation for the winter. The Sanctuary roof is being repaired in areas and snow removal contracts are being sought. An update on the Marr St. door/window replacements should be starting soon. During the replacement, please be patient as the entrance to the office will be closed for a short time. The 1st floor Nursery, Sunday School classrooms and hallway have been painted and the classrooms are set up for the new school year. A big THANK YOU to all who helped with this endeavor! God’s family continues to do good work. Thanks be to God.

Bill Averbeck, Trustee Chair

Worship Committee

Our Task in Worship

Adam Hamilton, in his book “The Call: The Life and Mission of the Apostle Paul” states that our primary task in worship is to prepare ourselves spiritually to hear the Spirit speak. He continues, “Among the times I am most likely to hear God speaking is when I’m with others in worship. I always bring a pen and paper to worship. I expect that God will speak. I pray on my way to church, ‘Lord, please speak to me in worship today.’ As I sing, pray, listen to music and to the sermon, I will often have at least one or two moments, when a thought comes into my mind, or drills down into my heart, about something I should do, someone I should reach out to, or some way I should live differently. I believe that these thoughts are usually the Spirit speaking.”

You are invited to follow Hamilton’s suggestion. Prepare yourself spiritually to worship. Expect God to speak. Take paper and pencil so you can make note of what you sense the Spirit is telling you. Our task in worship: Be prepared, Expect God.

C.C.A.P

A new school year started Sept. 5 and we started delivery of 8 cases of bananas again each week at \$112. Also, on Sept. 5, we delivered 100 boxes of cereal to all 4 schools and bought \$380 of school supplies to help get things going. To Chegwin, we sent 2 bottles of laundry soap to be used with the washer and dry donated a few years ago from UMM. The C.C.A.P. project only lives because of this church and you. Any money that comes in is only used for the kids (Food, Clothing, school) , so if you can help send any donations to church in care of Covenant Cares About People.

Thanks you

Darrell L. Jewson



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE– Soup Supper!

Mark your calendar for our Church Soup Supper on NOVEMBER 2! All proceeds will go toward the Windows/Door Project! Sara Circle is sponsoring it, but we need lots of help from members to make it successful.

First, tell your friends and extended family so they come and join us. Anyone who has social media accounts– we will appreciate you sharing the information with friends that way. There will be a sign up sheet at the desk in the narthex for different opportunities to help. Last, but not least, if you have a favorite soup and can donate a batch to us, we’d greatly appreciate it so we can have a nice variety to serve. Any questions and suggestions can be directed to Dea Hebel, Shelli Dekker or Marilyn Roessler

United Women In Faith

UWF began our Fall program hearing about our reading program opportunities which include a variety of new books, quite a few Zoom presentations that we can watch and our Response magazine to read. It gives us many opportunities to learn and grow in our faith. We had reports from the tour at Youth for Christ and the Little Food Pantry which is serving many people weekly. We voted to give money for two sewing machines to the school in Senegal to teach women a new skill. Plans were completed for the UWF Sunday Service. There was a discussion about a Soup Supper and the date selected was November 2, a Thursday evening 4:30-6:30. The committee will begin plans soon and we will again ask church members for help because it is a fundraiser for the Windows/Door Project. The next meeting will be October 4 at 10:45 with our Business meeting followed by a speaker from Charis and a Pot Luck Lunch.



- 10-3 Baldwin Clasen
- 10-8 Lilly Kutchek
- 10-9 Deb Christian
- 10-12 Dawn Jewson
- 10-17 James Brockway
- 10-19 Marilyn Stillings
- 10-21 Arlene Schultz
- 10-24 Jeffrey Shaw, II
- 10-26 William Dekker
- 10-29 Darcia Moore

Anniversaries

October 12 - Dan and Diane Klaske
October 14 - Jim and Judy Reams
October 23 - Jeff and Sue Strong



Mission Offerings for October

- 10-1-23 Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- 10-8-23 Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- 10-15-23 Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- 10-22-23 Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- 10-29-23 Youth Mission Trip



Fall has officially arrived! Sunday School has finally begun! There is a lot more to look forward to in October. Our new Acolytes have been trained and will begin serving in October. We also will be joining Community UMC, Pacto de Gracia UMC and Salem UMC for a Fall Trunk or Treat on Oct. 28 at Community UMC. It has been wonderful to see so many new faces this past month! Parents and grandparents, thank you for bringing your children to Sunday School! Allowing our children to wonder and experience God is so valuable!

God Bless You!
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

- Oct. 1- Communion Sunday- No Sunday School
- Oct. 8- God Creates Living Things
- Oct. 15- God Creates Adam and Eve
- Oct. 22- Abraham and Sarah
- Oct. 29- God's Promise to Abraham



Come join us for a
Fall Trunk or Treat!

Saturday, October 28 4:30-6:30pm
Community UMC North Fond du Lac
Food, games and a Bounce house!
Fun for the whole family!



2024 Mission Trip

It is Official!

Our Youth Group will be going to Lake Traverse, South Dakota in June 2024 for our Mission Trip! We are excited to be able serve others and will be making preparations for a great experience!

All Youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us!

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

October 15 10:30-2:00

Horicon Marsh Trip- Native American / Trapper Encampment Festival

October 22 10:30am -Parent/Youth Mission Information Meeting in Youth Lounge

YOUTH

PARENTS

MEETING

Summer Mission Trip to South Dakota

Join us after worship on Sunday, October 22 to discuss our Youth mission trip this summer. All parents and Youth are urged to attend.



Special Music Schedule

October 8- Choir

October 15- Bell Choir

October 22- Choir

October Choir Practices

October 1- 10:15 a.m.

October 8- 10:15 a.m.

October 15- 10:15 a.m.

October 22- 10:15 a.m.

October 29- 10:15 a.m.

Bell Choir Practices

October 2- 6:00 p.m.

October 9- 6:00 p.m.

October 16- 6:00 p.m.

October 23- 6:00 pm

October 30- 6:00 pm

