



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



THE ARK

“Making Christian Disciples”

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



September 2023

Main Office Hours

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

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

Adm. Asst./Family Ministries: Debbie Tidwell

Music Director: David Thompson

Custodian: Judi Balson

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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September 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|-------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | 1 10-6 Brat Fry at Festival | 2 |
| 3 9:00am Communion Service | 4 Labor Day Office Closed | 5 6:30pm Trustee Mtg. | 6 9:30am Bible Study 10:45am Sara Circle | 7 | 8 | 9 8:00am Men's Breakfast @ Rolling Meadows |
| 10 9:00am Worship Service 10:15 Choir Practice | 11 10:00am Worship Mtg. 6:00pm Bell Choir Practice | 12 | 13 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Youth Ministry Mtg. | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 9:00am Worship Service 10:15 Choir Practice 11:00-3:00 Bay Beach Out- ing for Sunday School and Youth | 18 4:30pm Finance Mtg. 6:00pm Bell Choir Practice | 19 6:30 pm Shepherd- ing Mtg. @ Salem | 20 9:30am Bible Study 5:30-8:00pm Bingo | 21 1:00pm SPRC | 22 | 23 |
| 24 9:00 Worship Service 10:15 Choir Practice Sunday School Begins 10:30 Youth Mission Reveal | 25 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Church Council | 26 | 27 8:00am Women's Breakfast 9:30am Bible Study | 28 | 29 | 30 |



From the Pastor's Desk



Greetings, Covenant Sisters and Brothers.

I greet you from South Korea. I want to share a few updates about my health and life. First of all, my nasal surgery went very well. An ear, nose, and throat specialized doctor from my home church heard about my health situation and stepped up to do the surgery. Since this doctor is the child of a pastor and a pious Christian, he gave me special attention and treated me cautiously and gracefully. He rearranged his schedule to do the surgery earlier and prioritized my treatment. He even discounted the surgery and treatment charges as much as he could. His generous and graceful treatment made me feel guilty to some extent. In fact, my parents and I haven't known this doctor very well, even though we have been in the same church. FYI, my home church is a mega church where more than three thousand people gather weekly. This doctor did me a favor only because of his love and passion for church mission and ministry. With the feeling of responsibility and gratitude, I received the best care. Thanks to that, my nasal surgery was successful, and I have recovered rapidly. The doctor said that I did not have to return to the hospital after this week. The only thing I need to do is regular self-nasal irrigation. Nowadays, I have found that my sleep quality has incredibly improved. To maximize the effectiveness of the surgery, I spend most of my time exercising nowadays to lose weight, following the doctor's recommendation.

My wife told me that many church members were concerned about me and have been praying for me. I have also witnessed the church members praying for me through the online worship service. I do not know how to express my gratitude for your love and support. I believe your prayers enabled me to experience this unexpected and amazing healing process and God's providence. To repay your love and support, I have been paying attention to the recovery of my physical, mental, and spiritual health. Other than three-hour daily exercises, I have focused on prayer, reading the Bible, and reading some books related to church missions and ministries. I believe I can return, being refreshed with many new ideas and visions for the church missions. Please continue to pray for me. At the same time, please remember that I also pray for you every morning. Korean churches hold a unique spiritual tradition, the so-called Dawn Prayer. Many pious Korean church members gather in the early morning, at 5:00 or 5:30 AM, and pray to God together. I am joining this meeting every morning with my mother. I firmly believe that God will bless us, you and me, through our prayers, although we are physically apart.

My wife shared her gratitude and thankfulness for the church members' constant support for the family. I heard some church members have come to the parsonage to fix things or mow the lawn. Others have comforted my family with heartfelt words, constantly trying to find a way to concretely support the family. My wife and I once again realize how we are blessed with new family members in this new land. Your constant support has freed me from worries and concerns about my wife and three children and let me pay attention to my treatment. This is another reason why I have experienced a rapid recovery. It seems my wife wants me to return to the United States sooner, though. (Although she does not say anything, her exhausted face with three giggling children tell me more than words whenever I make a video call.)

Pacto de Gracia by Reverend Janet Martinez

At present, Pacto de Gracia United Methodist Church in Fond du Lac continues in the worshiping season, participating in worship every Sunday at 2:00 pm. The current average attendance is twenty-five people every Sunday, including children and young people. We have also started working on the maturing season. In leadership development, three leaders attend the Spanish IDC training. Two youths participated in the “Encuentro con Jesus Camp,” sponsored by the Hispanic Latino Committee on August 3-5 in Lake Lucerne.

In finances as of June, with the support of the Shepherding Team, we raised 94% of the budget for 2023. This goal has been made possible with a donation from each United Methodist Church: Salem, Covenant, and Community. Also, with fundraiser activities: Rummage sale at Community Church on May 7, sales of tamales with the support of the three UMC churches, monthly donations from the Community closet, donations from Sara Circle of Covenant Church, mission offerings from Covenant Church, donations from people and congregation offerings.

In the structure, we have started with the Council integrated with three people. We participate once a year or as many times as necessary in the meetings of the Trustees and Council of Covenant UMC.

In discipleship, we started on May Bible Studies with the Disciple book, number one. We have four Bible Study Groups with the participation of two adults per group. Sunday School for children every Sunday with seven children as average attendance each Sunday.

My leadership is a participatory democratic style based on teamwork. Part of the team each Sunday are a Liturgist, Acolyte, sound system person, pianist, Sunday School teacher for children, community Closet Coordinator, and two people for refreshments.

In March of this year, we started English classes through a partnership with Fond du Lac Literacy Services. They provide the curriculum for the classes, and the volunteer teachers and tutors are members of the United Methodist Churches.

One of the challenges is being able to have children’s Sunday school teachers rotating every Sunday. Part of our pastoral care includes taking care of volunteer staff.

We continue with our vision: to have a dynamic Church that can be a place of worship and empowerment for the Hispanic/Latino community of Fond du Lac and its surroundings.

Stories and Testimonies

During the Rummage Sale, I met some Hispanic people. One of them the following Sunday, attended church and continues to come every Sunday.

The Salvation Army referred a family with diverse needs to us: rent, utility bills, and other necessities. We helped them with part of the rent and utility bills. We provided clothes, kitchen items, and furniture through the community Closet. Now, they attend the church and have begun to serve refreshments on Sundays. The family said, “It is a blessing to have found a church in Spanish.”

In May, a mother from Nicaragua visited her daughter, who lives in Fond du Lac. In the Community Closet, she found clothes for all of her family from Nicaragua. She just gave a small donation. She said: “This is a great blessing for my family.” Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in Central America.

We bought a four-burner Burner Griddle for a lady whose husband had an accident at work. He has multiple fractures and he will not be able to work for six months. Every week, he has medical appointments in Milwaukee and other places. With this grill, she makes pupusas and tortillas to sell. The money helps her with gas, rent and other expenses that her husband cannot provide. With only \$370, we alleviate this family’s anguish and necessity.

Please, Continue help to Pacto de Gracia with your prayers, volunteer teacher for Sunday School children once a month, volunteer teachers for English classes each Sunday, donations of clothes, linens, housewares and furniture gently used.

You can bring the donations to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday from 2:00-4:00 pm with a note for Pacto de Gracia. Also, you can contact Ms. Dana Knack at (262) 370-6102 or Pastor Janet Martinez for more information.

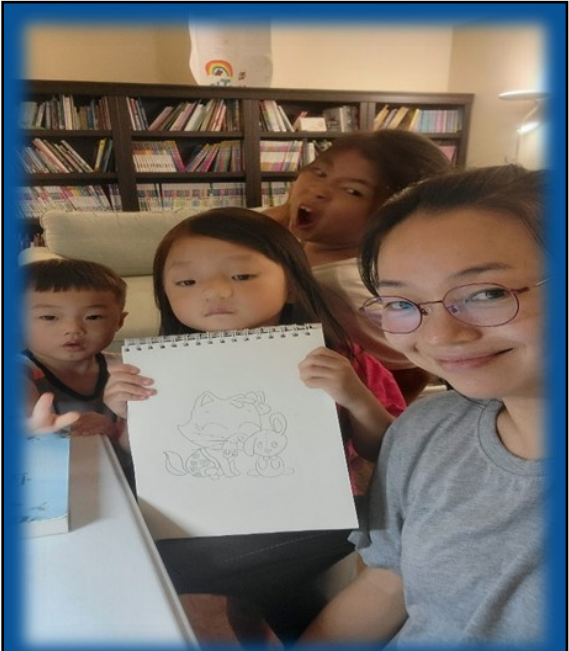


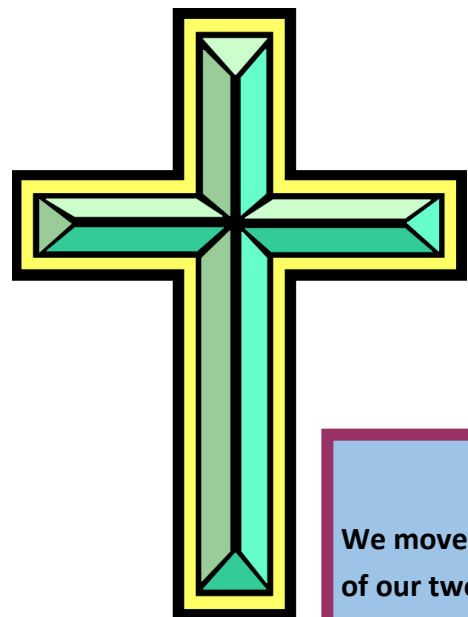
- Personal and Professional Plan for September

I can manage to come back to the United States a little earlier, thanks to my rapid recovery. I plan to fly back home on September 7th instead of the 19th. However, as originally planned, I will not return to the pastoral ministry until October 2nd. Don't get me wrong. I will really resume the pastoral ministry as soon as possible. The reason for being a pastor is not only because it is my job and God's calling, but also I love being a pastor and participating in all kinds of pastoral ministries. Although I stated above that I would resume the pastoral ministry on October 2nd, I know I will get involved in some church ministries before that date. Despite that, I will do my best to stay home until October 2nd. This is because the renewal leave made me realize the importance of self-care and the balance between my professional and private

I will not be in the church office or the worship service until the end of September to keep these plans. It is impossible for me not to get involved in the church ministries once I begin seeing church members. So, I will try not to be in the church, especially the worship service, until the end of September. Instead, I will join other church worship services to be spiritually filled as well as to gain new insights about the church during these weeks. I feel somewhat strange writing that I will do my best not to return to the pastoral ministry until the official date, October 2nd. However, I believe this little space and boundary will make Covenant Church and myself healthier and stronger. I promise that you will see a much more energetic and passionate Pastor Ho Lee after this renewal leave with a lot of new changes and programs. I am looking forward to seeing you all with my new passion and energy. Before that date, please be prepared to fly with me again!

Pastor Ho Lee





Guest Preacher Schedule

September 3 Communion Sunday D.S., Rev. Park Hunter
 September 10 Rev. Michael Morning
 September 17 UWF Sunday Lay Speaker, Denise Shaffer
 September 24 Rev. Mary Balson
 October 1 World Communion Sunday, Rev. Chuck Davis

Trustee Committee

We move into Fall of 2023 with the expectation of completing the replacement of our two Marr St. entrances in the educational unit. We also have some minor roof repairs which need to be done. Our Sanctuary sound system needs an upgrade with additional microphones for a more enjoyable worship experience. Maintaining God's House is an ongoing mission.

If you see or experience an issue with our church facility, please bring it to the attention of any of our Trustee members, so the issue can be addressed. The future of Covenant UMC starts today and everyday as we move forward.

In God's Love,

Bill Averbek, Trustee Chair

Worship Committee Highlights

We look forward to hearing from our guest worship leaders during the month of September, while Pastor Ho Lee is on leave.

- September 3 is Communion Sunday with District Superintendent Reverend Park Hunter.
- On September 10, Reverend Michael Morning will be our Guest Pastor.
- September 17 is United Women in Faith Sunday with Denise Shaffer preaching. During Children's Time, Reverend Mary Balson will offer a blessing to the young people for the new school year.
- September 24, Reverend Mary Balson will be our Guest Preacher
- We are looking forward to the return of the Bell Choir on September 17 and the Choir on September 24.

Marion Mission

Marion Mission is a nonprofit organization in the United Methodist North Indiana Conference. They collect and sell canceled stamps. The profit provides shipping cost for medical supplies, clothes, shoes, and other items for the needy people in Africa.

Canceled stamps are a throw away item that can be recycled for good. Just tear off your stamps (include at least 1/2 inch of envelope around the stamp.) They will be trimmed to 1/4 inch before we send them to Marion Mission. This organization sends box car loads of shoes, clothes, medical supplies, etc. to the needy in Africa. Bring your stamps to the Church Office or give them to Marilyn Stillings.



United Methodist Men

Your U.M.M met August 12 at Rolling Meadows. We had 5 men present. Last month, the UMM donated \$415 to the Back to School Project and we were proud that we could do this. We started a discussion on having a Spaghetti Dinner again, so watch for it. We will need extra help to pull this off. As always, we are looking for more men. How about you?

Darrell Jewson

From the book, "70 Years"— If one lives to be 70 years of age and is the average person, he spends 23 years sleeping, 19 years working, 9 years playing, 6 years traveling, 6 years eating, 4 years sick, 2 years dressing himself, and 1 year in the House of the Lord. These statistics are well over 30 years old. I believe that the time spent in church has been greatly reduced since then.

United Women In Faith

The Ice Cream Social that we sponsored was a great success! THANKS TO ALL CHURCH MEMBERS WHO HELPED IN ANY WAY!!! If you invited friends or extended family, donated food or came to eat, we are so grateful. The planning committee worked very hard and it was a learning experience as it was the first time that we had this event. We took in \$1,000 and with additional donations, our total was \$1, 341.99 and that was given to the church for the Window/Door Project.

We had 8 readers this year, reading 97 books which is very good for our small group.

Registration for the Fall District Meeting in Neenah on Sept. 23 is due by Sept. 10th. Forms are available at the Book Station or see Dea Hebel.



- 09/04 Penny Werner
- 09/04 Diane Duncan
- 09/07 Lois Chipman
- 09/08 Darrell Jewson
- 09/11 Bob Balson
- 09/13 Rich Roessler
- 09/19 Dan Patt
- 09/21 Jennifer Colla
- 09/24 Tami Averbeck

Anniversaries

- Sept. 19– Dave and Marge Miller
- Sept. 26– Ted and Lois Chipman
- Sept. 28– Jim and Liona Brockway



Mission Offerings for September

9-3-23

Children’s Sunday School

9-10-23

Children’s Sunday School

9-17-23

UMW Mission

9-24-23

UMW Mission



September is a wonderful time as we start another year of learning! It’s a time of new beginnings and experiences!

On September 17, during the Worship Service, we will have a special Blessing of the Children to start a new school year. Later that morning, families of our Sunday School and Youth are invited to join us as we go to Bay Beach Amusement Park in Green Bay. We will have a shared picnic there before we visit the park. It should be a great day! Contact Debbie at the office, for more information and to reserve your spot!

We will be starting Sunday School on September 24! Children will start in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. with their families until they are excused for Sunday School. This Fall, we will be learning more about the Old Testament, especially the books of Genesis. My prayer this year is that your children will be blessed with a better understanding and a growing relationship with our truly amazing God!

God Bless!

Miss Debbie– Director of Family Ministries

Get ready for Sunday School this Fall! We will resume regular Sunday School on September 24th! Children ages 3– 5th grade are welcome to attend.

The Nursery is Open!

All children ages 18 months– Kindergarten are welcome to attend our Nursery during the Worship Service!

It’s Coming!

Save the Date!

Fall Festival at Covenant UMC on Sunday, Oct. 22!

Fall food, games and fun for the entire family!

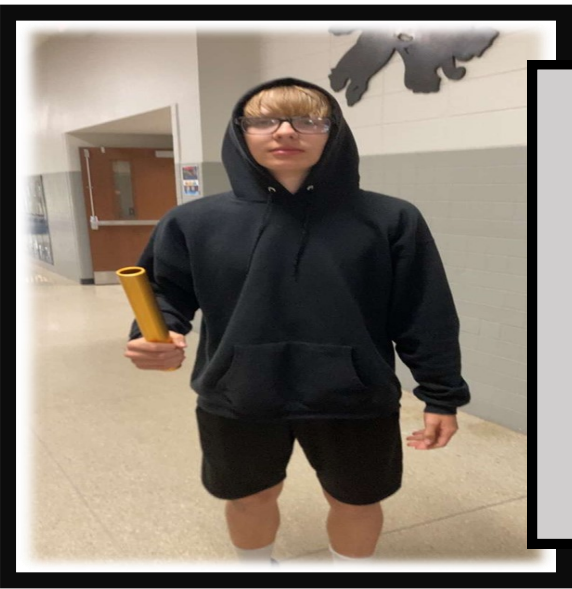


My name is Henry Allickson, and I am currently a confirmand here at Covenant UMC. I'm currently 15 years old and yes, I have my temps, so I'd recommend staying off the roads near me, whenever I'm driving. I was actually up here when I had my 2nd driving lesson on May 18th or something. I'm currently a freshman at Campbellsport High School, and I do cross country and track. I'm pretty good for a freshman as I've been on varsity track a couple times, not for cross country but our teams already strong. I'm fine with being a JV Warrior, especially when I'm middle top JV.

I was told I had to do confirmation by my parents and I've learned just to accept the fact that I have to do it, which is a pretty solid idea to live by. Most people I know have also gone through it, so I know I'm not the only one who's had to complete this course or some other course, although I'm probably the only one other than my other confirmands here today that's had it for 2 years and with 2 different pastors. At least it wasn't 3 years like Sloan did.

During my time this year I've learned about Jesus and more about how his death was painful and details about it along with his role in Christianity. Overall, I've learned about the church and how it helps the community grow and be better. The program helped me learn more about the church and what kinds of ways I'm able to help out with services and other things like Loaves and Fishes. The biggest challenge would probably have to be the time management, which was only difficult because of work and sports. Other than that, there weren't any big challenges.

My future plan is possibly to help my grandmother and the other Sunday School teachers teach the younger kids about Jesus and the Bible along with helping them have fun with it. Along with that, I can help with technology around the church and since I've passed the Adobe Indesign and Photoshop courses, I can help create flyers and stuff. Although I'm not too good at it and I'd need the Photoshop or Indesign programs. Going along, I might also try to get more involved in mission projects and overall get more active in the church wherever I'm needed and maybe try new things like Bible Study or the Men's Group or something. I don't even know if I'm able to join the Men's Group, but you hopefully get my point. I'm hoping I'll become a valuable asset to the church and can help it grow more and become even better.



Youth Group Mission Reveal Day!

All teens in grades 6-12 are invited to come Sunday, September 24 from 10:30-12:00pm in the Youth Lounge. Come join us for pizza and snacks as we reveal our Mission Trip for the summer of 2024! Get ready for a great year!



- Hello Covenant Members!
- Choir will begin on Sunday, September 10. We will meet in the Choir Room before the service at 8:30 a.m. We will be the song leaders for the service that Sunday, then we'll have our first practice after the service, as usual. Our first appearance singing a choir anthem will be Sunday, September 24.
- If you are in choir, I'll look forward to seeing you back. If you aren't a choir member, but would like to give it a try, come before service on September 10, and be one of us for that day— sort of a trial membership! If you decide you don't like it, no problem. If you do, then you'll certainly be welcome as a regular member. Either way, I hope to see you Sunday, September 10!
- Dave Thompson
- Director of Music

Bell Choir Practices

- September 11– 6:00 p.m.
- September 18– 6:00 p.m.
- September 25– 6:00 p.m.

September Choir Practices

- September 10- 10:15 a.m.
- September 17– 10:15 a.m.
- September 24– 10:15 a.m.

