



THE ARK

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

COVENANT United Methodist Church

(920) 921-4949

www.covenantforyou.church

Office@covenantforyou.church

"Covenant United Methodist Church" on Facebook

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

40-Day Prayer Challenge!



Now, we are approaching the middle of the Lenten season. As I emphasized several times in the worship service and my writings, Lent is the best time to deepen a relationship with God by adding holy habits and giving up bad ones. What holy habit did you try, and what bad habits did you try to eliminate from your daily life? Some church members might try something, but it has not been successful. Others might haven't tried anything due to their busy schedules and unexpected life situations. Either way, you do not have to feel bad about yourself. We still have a whole month before we reach Easter. How about thinking about one of the holy habits you are trying in this Lenten season while reading this article?

In fact, I have one holy habit that I want all church members to try to do during Lent. That is prayer. Many Christians and spiritual forefathers call prayer spiritual

breathing because it is essential and critical for our spiritual journey. Prayer is a way to vividly experience the living God and invite God to work among us. Without prayer, our relationship with God is shallow and superficial. Without prayer, all our mission becomes human work instead of God's. Without prayer, the church becomes a human gathering rather than the body of Christ. One of my visions for Covenant UMC is for the church to become where people experience God vividly through prayer. Then, how should we pray? What is the best way to communicate with God? For this, I have prepared several different things for all church members, such as the Lenten Bible Study about prayer and the Lenten sermon series, "How to Pray." However, the most important thing to learn about prayer is putting it into practice in your daily life. In a phrase, hitting your knee now.

For your daily prayer practice, I strongly suggest three guidelines that you can find in the Bible. If you try to pray faithfully according to these guidelines, your prayer life will be dramatically changed.

1) Set a place to pray: You need to be alone with God, where nobody can interrupt you. That could be right next to your bed, your favorite sofa in the living room, the table in the kitchen, a man's cave in the basement, or even a closet. The point is that you need a place to focus solely on God.

2) Set a time to pray: Decide when you will pray. This will help you prioritize prayer, focus on God, and continually pray. The optimal time would be the morning before you begin your day or the late night before you sleep..

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

3) Pray for 40 days: Forty days are not magical but very biblical. When God's ark saved Noah and his family, rain fell upon the earth for 40 days. When Moses got the Ten Commandments, Moses spent forty days in Mount Sinai with God. Before his public ministry, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit to the wilderness and fasted for forty days. Forty days are times when God works and makes a big difference. That is the main reason we keep the Lenten season for forty days. Set your personal forty days and keep praying to God for forty days. Through this forty-day prayer, God will do something extraordinary in your life. Also, after this forty-day prayer, you will find that prayer becomes a part of your life, dramatically changing your spiritual journey.

I have prepared several different worship studies and events to deepen your prayer life.

Lenten Sermon Series & Special Worship Services

The first is the Lenten sermon series, "How to Pray," and special worship services. I will continue to talk about the effective ways to pray by exploring the Bible, Christian history, and my personal experience. I haven't decided yet, but I will probably keep discussing prayer, even after Easter. This sermon series will guide your prayer life practically and theologically.

Moreover, there will be several different special worship services, especially at the end of Lent, namely, Holy Week. Through these services, we will follow the way of the cross where Jesus walked. **On March 24, Palm Sunday,** we will reenact Jesus' triumphant entry to Jerusalem by waving Palms and reflecting on the meaning of the event in relation to Jesus' crucifixion. **On March 28, Maundy Thursday,** we commemorate Jesus' last supper and his new commandment to love one another with three important rituals: Holy Communion, Washing Hands, and Stripping of the Church. **On March 29, Good Friday,** we ponder Jesus' last seven words on the cross with special music. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, both services will be held in the sanctuary at 6:30 PM. **On March 31, Easter,** we celebrate Jesus' resurrection with communion and reflect on its deep meaning for us in connection with his death on the cross.



DATE	CALENDAR	SERMON	WORSHIP
3/3	3 rd Sunday in Lent	- How to Pray 3: "Pray Habitually" - Bible: Luke 22:39-46	- Communion - Nursery
3/10	4 th Sunday in Lent	- How to Pray 4: "Pray Honestly" - Bible: Psalm 62:5-12 / Luke 22:39-46	- Bell Choir - New Member Ceremony
3/17	5 th Sunday in Lent	- How to Pray 5: "Pray in Faith & in Detail" - Bible: Mark 11:20-24	- Choir
3/24	Palm Sunday	- How to Pray 6: "Pray Persistently" - Bible: Luke 18:1-8	- Choir
3/28	Maundy Thursday	- Maundy Thursday Sermon - Bible: Mark 14:22-25 John 13:1-17, 31-35 Mark 14:32-50	- Communion - Washing Hands - Stripping of the Church - Choir
3/29	Good Friday	- Reflections on Jesus' Last Words	- Special Music
3/31	Easter	- "Unfinished Story" - Bible: Mark 16:1-8	- Communion - Choir

2. Holy Week Prayer Relay

“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations.”



PRAYER RELAY

Jesus said this while he cleansed the temple by driving out merchants, money changers, and their customers from it. This saying shows the purpose of the church building and one of the most important uses of it: prayer. How about making Jesus’ saying real in our church? How about using our church building for prayers? That is why I decided to open our sanctuary during the first three days of Holy Week (3/25 – 27) during office hours (9:00 AM – 1:00 PM) and invite our church members to do relay prayer. Each church member comes to the sanctuary on an assigned day and time and prays and meditates on the Bible for 30 minutes. Each church member who decides to participate in this prayer will be given the Bible passage and the list of prayer requests from the church on an assigned day and time. During this 30-minute, you will reflect on the Bible passage and pray for the list of prayer requests as well as your personal prayer. Please make our church a house of prayer by joining the relay prayer! (sign-up sheet will be placed in the narthex area.)

Date: 3/25 (Monday) to 3/27 (Wednesday) from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

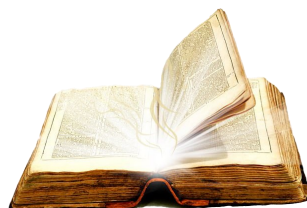
Place: Covenant UMC Sanctuary

What to do: Meditate and Pray for 30 Minutes.

(Bible passages and prayer requests will be provided)

3. Reading the Book of Mark

Prayer and reading the Bible go together. Prayer leads the Bible to be the living word of God, and the Bible guides our prayers to be a real conversation with God. Thus, it is not wise to ignore the Bible if you want to deepen your relationship with God by prayer. When you pray in a certain place and time, please have a short time to read and reflect on the Bible first. This reading will help you to deepen your conversation with God. In this Lenten season, I strongly encourage you to read the Book of Mark. If you faithfully follow the Mark Reading Chart (which is in the Narthex area), you can read the whole book of Mark twice before Holy Week. To encourage you to read the book of Mark, church leaders and I plan to have a special event in April. We will have Bible Trivia on April 21, right after worship service. All questions will come from the book of Mark. You will join one of the teams and compete with others. Indeed, there will be a great prize if your team wins. Also, there will be some beverages, snacks, and food. Read the Book of Mark faithfully and join this fun event!



Sunday School News

Covenant UMC Sunday school is growing thanks to the time and effort of many teachers. Thank you for all the teachers' dedication and commitment. The March Sunday school schedule is below.

March Sunday School Schedule

DATE	CALENDAR	SUNDAY SCHOOL	TEACHERS
3/3	3 rd Sunday in Lent	- No Sunday School - Sunday School Teachers' Meeting - Nursery	AnnaRose A.
3/10	4 th Sunday in Lent	-Theme: "Last Supper" - Bible: Luke 22:14-20	Mona A. / Miyeon K.
3/17	5 th Sunday in Lent	-Theme: "Praying in the Garden" - Bible: Luke 22:39-46	Donna D. / Denise S.
3/24	Palm Sunday	-Theme: "Jesus Enters Jerusalem" - Bible: Matthew 21:1-11	Jullie T. / Kelly T.
3/31	Easter	- Theme: "Resurrection" - Bible: Matthew 28:1-10	Denise S. / Miyeon K.

Fun Sunday: Roller Skating on April 7!



All Sunday school and youth group members plan roller skating on the first Sunday of April, April 7, right after the worship service. We will go to Korneli's on the Avenue and enjoy the time together. The church will cover most expenses for children and youth. This event aims to build a relationship among kids and invite more children and youth members to the church. Invite any children and youth in the community to this fun event! For more detailed information, please contact Dinae W.!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

19 people enjoyed tubing on February 4th at Sunburst in Kewaskum. Everyone had a great time and the weather was perfect for tubing and spectating.



**Sunday School Kids, Youth Group,
and the Men's Group**

HOSTING A PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us
for pancakes, eggs, sausage, and applesauce.



**It will be a hectic March starting with Youth Group on March 3rd,
rehearsal for our Good Friday skit after church on March 10th,
the Pancake Breakfast on March 24th,
filling and hiding Easter eggs on Saturday, March 30th,
and helping run the Easter egg hunt on Easter, March 31st.**

Submitted by Diane Weider



SOUP TO GO!

Time to fill your bellies with the warm deliciousness of soup.
Hassel free, let someone else do the cooking for you!



Soup will be available in Quart Size for \$7.00 and Pint Size for \$4.00. See menu and dates below:

March 3rd - Cheesy Broccoli/Cauliflower
March 10th - Cheeseburger

UMF REPORT

Our completed mission report shows we are a 5-star unit again! This is due to good planning, great participation in our endeavors and interested readers always ready to learn.

We are encouraged to continue reading and be thinking ahead to plan for our banquet in May. New program books for the year were ready. Donna Miller will fill our communications position.

Next month we will fill our Easter bags for shut-ins.

Submitted by Dea Hebel

Banish the Boredom: Game Day

Please join us **March 12, 1:30—3:30 p.m.** for a **FREE** afternoon of fun games for all ages!
Play a new game or your favorites while making new friends.
Door prizes & refreshments!

Join in a fun afternoon with board and card games. Mingle with friends and make new ones.
 Enjoy light refreshments and maybe even win a door prize.



We'll be playing Dominoes, Scrabble, Skip-Bo, Pictionary, Play Nine, Cribbage and cards of your choice.

Enjoy your favorite game or learn a new one. This is for all ages.

We'll gather on the second **Tuesday of March 12th, April 9th and May 14th**
from 1:30-3:30 pm

in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendar. Bring a friend and banish the boredom with others.

Questions? Ask the planning team:

Jan Andrews, Mary Balson, Dea Hebel, Jeff Strong, Shelli Dekker, Tom and Denise Retzleff

Submitted by Denise R.

Lent Reading List Progress Board

MARK Reading Chart							
DATE	2/18	2/25	3/3	3/10	3/17	3/24	3/31
	1 st Reading			2 nd Reading			
Mark	1-3	4-9	10-15	16, 1-5	6-11	12-16	Palm Sunday Easter
Stickers	•••	•					

The "Mark Reading Progress" board is now displayed in the Narthex and shows you how many chapters you need to read in a certain week. After completing the assigned reading each week, please place a sticker on the board. Hopefully this will encourage other church sisters and brothers to read more and the board will be filled with stickers! Reading List bookmarks are available in the Narthex to help keep track of your reading progress.

Reading 1 chapter a day will only take 5-10 minutes.

After 40 days, you will have read the whole book!

Missions

We will wrap up our Help for the Homeless Hygiene drive on **March 3rd**.

Loose Offering on March 3rd and 10th will go to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), known for their international disaster response.

March 17th and 24th will go to Midwest Missions, known for their disaster relief and providing resources to improve lives.

March 28th, 29th, and 31st will go to apportionments that support the ministries of the larger United Methodist Church. Any money placed in the Easter offering envelope will go to Youth for Christ.

Submitted by Diane Weider

Sara Circle

Please join us on **March 6th** at 11:00am Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday every month. Sara Circle is a supportive, inclusive Christian membership organization where women can grow spiritually, develop as leaders and serve and work to create a world in which all women, children and youth thrive.

Submitted by Dea Hebel



New Member Welcome

We welcomed Becky Husnick as a new member on February 4, 2024. She has lived in Fond du Lac for thirty years, having grown up in Rosendale. A favorite memory from childhood is spending time with family. She fondly remembers her Aunt Kathy gathering the cousins together on Saturday mornings for catechism lessons. Her grandparents, Bob and Beverly Bird would bring her and her siblings to Covenant when she was a teenager.

Becky is married to Andrew for 17 years. She has two children, three step-children and three grandchildren. In her free time she enjoys riding bike, roller skating, kayaking, being outside in nature, and hanging out with her grandchildren. Her bucket list includes a trip to Alaska to enjoy the great outdoors and the wildlife.

Becky is a CNA for SSM Health at St. Francis Home. Her career spans 25 years of caring for others. You might see her in church every other week because she is employed on weekends.

Her favorite scriptures are those about loving your neighbor. She would like to be involved in an evening Bible study, providing an opportunity to engage with scripture. Introduce yourself to her and share how you are involved with church activities.

Submitted by Denise Retzleff

Worship Volunteer Training

There are many hands at work to create a meaningful worship experience that runs seamlessly. In order to increase the number of people we are involved and that feel at ease with these tasks we will offer brief trainings each month to those who are already volunteering and those who might be curious.

Responsibilities will be outlined and questions answered.

Training will be held in the sanctuary after the worship service 10:15 a.m.

Live stream training will be Sunday, March 17th Sound and PowerPoint training will be Sunday, Apr. 28th.

Usher training was held in February. If you missed that date or can not make an upcoming one, let Pastor Ho Lee, and an individual training can be arranged.

All are welcome!

Attending training does not mean you are committed to participating every week.

Please pray about your involvement for these roles that are carried out during worship services.

Submitted by Denise Retzlaff



What are We Talking about in Bible Study?

February 21 - March 20 (five weeks)

Pastor Ho Lee will lead the session using the book, *Draw the Circle*. This will be a five week Lenten series on prayer. You are invited to any or all of these conversations.

We meet on **Wednesdays at 9:30 am in the choir room.**

Please feel free to drop in.

Submitted by Denise Retzleff

Care Committee Report

We continue to have our church family facing difficult challenges. What a difference it can make by a simple phone call, card, visit or preparing a meal for them.

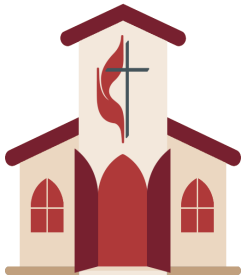
If interested in joining this committee please contact Jan Andrews or Dea Hebel.

Thank You To All Of Our Volunteers!

Submitted by Jan Andrews



Trustees



We are happy to announce that the Marr St. windows and doors replacement is now complete. We will also be putting new signage on all the doors due to changes in our scheduling times. This will be completed when there is a warm spell so the signage adheres correctly. We will be applying for a grant in the next few months so we can possibly do an upgrade on our security system this year which is needed. Another upgrade that will be completed in the next few months is additional sanctuary microphones to enhance our worship services and other events that will be held there.

An effort is being made to open up our fellowship hall and educational unit rooms for groups to use. Of course, the use and time of outside groups will only occur when our Church groups are not using those areas. Outside groups will be obligated to fill out and sign a request form, a building use form, and a memorandum of understanding. These forms will also be signed by a Church Trustee.

As we move forward into the Lenten season,
let us be mindful of God's promise to all people of Christian Faith.

Submitted by Bill Averbek, Trustee Chair

Little Food Pantry



A big thank you for continued support for our food pantry which is serving many this winter. Several local businesses have cooperated to give us special savings on widely used items like peanut butter, bread and hot cereal. We would prefer to have donations be in cans or plastic rather than glass containers to prevent possible breakage and spills. Your help is so greatly appreciated!

Submitted by Dea Hebel

Taxi service to Church



Covenant Church has an agreement with Quality Cab (920-929-8888) to provide a taxi service for anyone needing a ride to a church service or activity. You must call the cab company on Tuesday or Wednesday to schedule your ride. Be sure to tell them to charge it to the Covenant account.

Wheelchair cab service may be available on weekdays ut not on Sunday mornings.

The Sleeping Mat Project

In 2023 Midwest Mission launched the Sleeping Mat Project. The project began to take off in churches and communities around the Midwest. These Sleeping Mats are made from plastic grocery bags using a loom. This is a great mission project for churches and small groups. Midwest Mission provides looms for a \$100 donation, or you can make your own loom by following the directions on their website.

Covenant UMC and Oshkosh Wesley UMC launched their Sleeping Mat Projects on Saturday, February 17th with the help of Bonnie Clement a member of the Midwest Mission Board of Directors. Bonnie taught us how to cut and loop the grocery bags. Directions for the process can be found on-line at <https://www.midwestmission.org/loom>

The loom is set on a banquet table that has 5-inch risers under each leg for the purpose of easing strain on the back. The looped bags are placed in the lengthwise direction first. When the lengthwise direction is set you begin going over – under with a series of bags until you reach the opposite side. Pegs on the sides of the frame hold the loops in place.

The completed Sleeping Mats will be given to people sleeping in less than desirable conditions. They give a dry, dirt-free space to get a good night's sleep. The mats will be freely given locally, internationally and in the United States.

If you are interested in participating in this mission project, please contact Diane Weider or Mary Balson, Co-chairs for the Mission Committee. If you are unable to participate, please save your plastic grocery bags for us. If you would like to help by cutting bags, we will give you the proper directions.

Submitted by Mary Balson



New Custodian

We would like to welcome Kristin Gitzlaff as our new custodian. Kristin is married and has three children. She enjoys photography, family time, and cleaning. Kristin seems like a great fit for our Covenant Family and is proving to be an excellent worker.

Submitted by Diane Weider

Mission Offerings for March

1 st Sunday (3/3)	Help for the Homeless UMCOR
2 nd Sunday (3/10)	UMCOR
3 rd Sunday (3/17)	Midwest Missions
4 th Sunday (3/24)	Midwest Missions
Holy Thursday (3/28)	Apportionments
Good Friday (3/29)	Apportionments
Easter Sunday (3/31)	Apportionments



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 26– Bill and Mona Averbeck



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3-2	Bill Olson
3-5	Vickie Goldapske
3-10	Ronald Goldapske
3-11	Carmen Hebel
3-15	Adam Averbeck
3-19	Karen Jewson
3-23	Carol Miritz
3-25	Eleanor Holman-Olson
3-27	Shelli Dekker

MARCH Worship Volunteers

DATE	Liturgist	Children's Time	Ushers	Acolyte	Live-Streaming	PPT/Sound
3/3	Denise R.	Pastor Ho Lee	Brayden A. Jan A.	Charlie A. Memphis A.	Mona A.	Sloan A.
3/10	Shelli D.	Diane W.	AJ A. Bill D.	Ha-el L. Jin L.	Mona A	Diane W.
3/17	Jeff S.	Bill A	Sandy T.		Denise R.	Diane W.
3/24	Bill D.				Denise R.	Tom R.
3/31	EASTER Diane W.	Diane W.			Denise R.	

THANK YOU
SO MUCH
YOU ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:15-11:15 am Choir Practice 10:15—11:15 am Sunday School Teacher Meeting	4 1-2 pm Care Committee 6-7 pm Bell Choir	5 6:30-7:30 pm Trustee Meeting	6 9:30-10:30am Lenten Bible Study 3 10:45-11:45 am Sara Circle 6:30-7:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 3	7 Visitations	8	9 8-9 am Men's Breakfast 9am-3pm Rummage Sale Pacto de Gracia
10 10:15-11:15 am Choir Practice	11 6-7 pm Bell Choir	12 1:30-3:30 pm Game Day	13 9:30-10:30am Lenten Bible Study 4 11 am Mission Committee 6:30-7:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 4	14 Visitations	15	16
17 10:15-11:15 am Choir Practice 10:15-11:15 am Live Streaming Training	18 10 am Worship Committee 4:30pm Finance Committee 6-7 pm Bell Choir	19	20 9:30-10:30am Lenten Bible Study 5 5:30-8:00 pm Champions Bingo 6:30-7:30 pm Lenten Bible Study 5	21 Visitations	22	23
24 10:15-11:15 am Choir Practice 31 10:15-11:15 am Choir Practice	25 6-7 pm Bell Choir 6:30 Church Council	26	27 8 am Women's Breakfast 9:30 am Bible Study	28 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service	29 6:30 pm Good Friday Worship Service	30



20 N Marr St.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Phone: 920-921-4949



Covenant United Methodist Church

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THE ARK *Covenant UMC*

Ways to Give with Tithe.ly

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

Main Office Hours

Mon-Thurs
9:00AM-1:00PM

Pastor Office Hours:

Mon– Thurs
9:00am-3:00pm

Submissions deadline is no later than the 15th of each month at noon.

Please get your content to the office by this date for the next month's issue.