



# THE ARK

**MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER**

**COVENANT United Methodist Church**

**(920) 921-4949**

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**“Covenant United Methodist Church” on Facebook**

## **FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

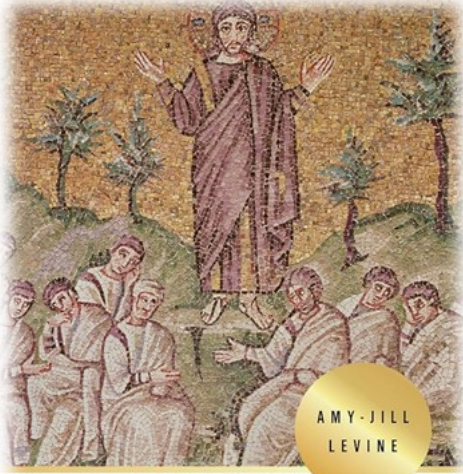
### ***New Sermon Series: “Sermon on the Mount”***



The theme of the new sermon series from May is “Sermon on the Mount.” The Sermon on the Mount is the most well-known teaching of Jesus, placed in the book of Matthew from chapters 5 to 7. This collection of Jesus’ teachings has been considered one of his best sermons. Although it is only three chapters, the depth of these teachings is bottomless. It was not a coincidence that the Sermon on the Mount was one of the most widely quoted Bible passages, and I was no exception.

Some church members might feel bored and have no expectations about this new sermon series due to the word “Sermon” in the title. Who wants to read, listen to, or study a sermon through the time of the sermon, even though it was by Jesus? However, Jesus’ sermons would be very different from what you imagined based on the word, Sermon. Jesus’ saying was more like a conversation with his followers and the disciples about the Kingdom of God instead of preaching or lecturing. Imagine that Jesus went up to a mountain with some followers and sat in the middle. Then he had a conversation about life with them casually. It was not a formal sermon in a temple but a casual conversation with friends in nature. In fact, ‘Sermon on the Mount’ is not an official name but more like a nickname because Jesus’ teachings took place on a mountain. I personally think “The Conversation with Jesus on the Mount” would describe it better. Moreover, Jesus’ sayings and teachings in Matthew 5-7 were radical to be expressed as ‘revolutionary.’ Indeed, these teachings were for the contemporaries of Jesus, but they are these teachings still speak to us, revolutionizing our lives. These teachings were delivered with humor and sarcasm. I could imagine that people giggled and laughed while Jesus was talking.

There are several reasons why I decided to talk about “Sermon on the Mount.” First of all, it teaches us how to live today as the children of God. Different from many Christians' assumptions, the central theme of the gospels is the Kingdom of God instead of Jesus’ life and ministry. Out of four gospels, only the book of John focuses on who Jesus is. The rest of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, mainly talk about the Kingdom of God through Jesus’ life and ministry. This means that the primary purpose of the three gospels is to teach us what the Kingdom of God is and how we achieve it in our daily lives. In other words, the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) show us how to lead our lives as citizens of God’s Kingdom. To understand this main theme, the Kingdom of God, Sermon on the Mount is the perfect guide. This is because it teaches about the Kingdom of God in depth. If you understand Jesus’ deep teachings in Sermon



## SERMON *on* the MOUNT

Secondly, I want our church members to pay attention to Jesus again. For about four months, we focused on two things: church members' life-struggling questions and prayer. Indeed, we often talked about them based on Jesus' teachings. However, due to these theme's characteristics, we have yet to have a lot of chance to reflect on Jesus' life and ministry, even during Lent. Thus, I decided to talk about Jesus' best teachings in May. Sermon on the Mount will enlighten us on who Jesus is and what Jesus' way is.

Lastly, exploring the meanings of the Sermon on the Mount will help our church members to make a balance between the human experience and the reason for our spiritual journey. We have thought and explored how to pray for the last nine weeks. Indeed, we have learned about prayer based on the Bible. However, learning about prayer, especially various ways to pray, is more deeply related to human spiritual experience than reason. That is why I shared my personal spiritual experiences during my last sermon series, such as how to pray. Although learning about prayer is necessary, there is a tendency to emphasize human experience too much. This tendency drives believers to be too mystical, ignoring the reality we are facing every day. Learning about Jesus' radical teachings in Sermon on the Mount encourages our church members to

think about our current community and society in a new way. This will prevent us from being lopsided in our spiritual journey and help us understand God with a balanced view.

I do not know details about this new sermon series and how long I will preach about it. This is because I am still studying the Sermon on the Mount with several books and commentaries. One thing I can say about this new sermon series is I will preach in consecutive order: from the beginning of Sermon on the Mount to the end of it.

In order to deepen your understanding of the Sermon on the Mount during this sermon series, I strongly recommend doing one of the following:

- Read and reflect on Matthew Chapters 5 to 7.
- Read the whole book of Matthew.
- Read the book, "Sermon on the Mount" by Amy-Jill Levine.

I hope this new sermon series will provide you with new insight about Jesus, his way, and the Kingdom of God.

### May Sermon and Worship

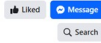
DATE	CALENDAR	SERMON	WORSHIP
5/5	6th Sunday of Easter	- <b>Sermon on the Mount 1:</b> - Bible: Matthew 5	- Communion - Nursery
5/12	Mother's Day	- <b>Sermon on the Mount 2:</b> - Bible: Matthew 5	- Choir - Mother's Day Special Order
5/19	Pentecost Sunday	- <b>Sermon on the Mount 3:</b> - Bible: Matthew 5	- Bell Choir
5/26	Memorial Day Trinity Sunday	- <b>Sermon on the Mount 4:</b> - Bible: Matthew 5	- Choir

## New Facebook Page



Covenant United Methodist Church - Fond du Lac

6 likes • 28 Followers



Unfortunately, Facebook shut down our Facebook page without a clear reason during Holy Week. They notified us they would review our Facebook page, but we are still awaiting progress. If you have trouble finding our worship service online, that is the reason.

Every Monday, we also upload our current worship services on the church website, at [www.covenantforyou.church](http://www.covenantforyou.church) as well as Facebook. If you want to join the online worship service, please go to the website and join.

I have created a new church Facebook page named "Covenant United Methodist Church – Fond du Lac." Please search for this name on Facebook and "like" the page. Then, you can watch the live-streaming worship service again as you did before. If you have any trouble finding this new Facebook page, please come to Pastor Ho Lee or the church office with your smartphone. We will help you.

## Update Church Member Information

Since I was appointed to Covenant UMC as a pastor, I have tried to update church member information by creating new directories and changing church software. As a result, now the church has correct basic information about the church members, such as name, address, and contact information. However, we still need to update more information about the church members to serve them better, such as birthdays, anniversaries, schools, and family relationships. For this, I ask all the church members to fill out the church member database form I created and submit it to the church office by the end of May. I will place this form in the church narthex area during May. All your personal information will be kept in the church office and strictly used for the church community only. Also, do not be surprised when Diane W. asks to take your picture, so we can update your image on the church database software program.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

## Sunday School News & Schedule

Covenant UMC Sunday School is growing and improving its program thanks to many teachers' dedication and commitment. Please invite children around you to this great program. Sunday School teachers, please come to the teachers' meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup> in the fellowship hall at 10:15. We will discuss curriculum, graduation Sunday, and Vacation Bible School.

DATE	CALENDAR	SUNDAY SCHOOL	TEACHERS
5/5	6th Sunday of Easter	- No Sunday School - Fun Sunday (Roller-Skating) - Nursery - Sunday School Teachers' Meeting	AnnaRose A.
5/12	Mother's Day	-Theme: "Peter and John" - Bible: Acts 3:1-10	.
5/19	Pentecost Sunday	-Theme: "Pentecost" - Bible: Acts 2:1-12	
5/26	Memorial Day Trinity Sunday	-Theme: "Peter and Tabitha" - Bible: Acts 9:36-43	



## Banish the Boredom: Game Day

Please join us May 14th from 1:30—3:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.  
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 various card and board games. Enjoy your favorite game or learn a new one. Mark your calendar. Bring a friend and banish the boredom with others.

Questions? Ask your planning team: Jan Andrews, Mary Balson, Dea Hebel, Jeff Strong, Shelli Dekker, Tom and Denise Retzleff, Mary Libertine

*Submitted by Denise R.*



## Care Committee

We continue to support our church family who are in need, with phone calls, visits, cards and food.

We visited Ellie human-Olson on her 100th Birthday. Thanks to Shelli D. for designing a huge birthday card. Thanks to those who also sent her cards.

Please contact Dea H. or Jan A. if you know a church member or family who would benefit from the Care Committee involvement.

*Submitted by Jan A.*



## Loaves & Fishes

Covenant's Loaves and Fishes team served 145 carry out meals to those in need on Wed. evening, April 10<sup>th</sup>. The meal consisted of Pump n Pantry chicken, scalloped potatoes, vegetable, bread, bananas, cookies and milk. A HUGE THANK YOU!! to those who helped serve, bake cookies, make scalloped potatoes or donated products. Without your continued support and help, these meals would not be possible. We have 3 more meals to serve this year. They are June 12<sup>th</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup>, and November 6<sup>th</sup>. Anyone is invited to help out with these meals and in any way you can. God Bless!!

*Submitted by Nancy Johnston and Mona Averbek*



## Searching for a Volunteer Gardener

If you happen to have gardening skills or just want to help to keep our church courtyard looking good, this may be just the thing for you!

The volunteer would assist in weeding the courtyard on a regular basis throughout the gardening season under the direction of Judie D.

If interested please contact Judie D. or the church office so that we can get you started.

*Submitted by Judie D.*



# FUN SUNDAY

## May 5<sup>TH</sup>

### 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Roller Skating at Korneli's on the Avenue

**Just \$5!!**

3 Hours of Skating, Pizza & Soda

☞ **FOR ALL AGES!!** ☞



☞ **BRING A FRIEND!!** ☞

**Parents are welcome to join us!**



## UWF REPORT

United Women in Faith met April 4th for their annual Call to prayer and self denial led by Denise Retzleff. 4 members plan to attend the fall district meeting at Kaukauna April 27th.

We finalized plans for the banquet. We will have a brief meeting May 1st (regular date) and set up May 8th at 10:45.

We hope all ladies of the church will join us and bring friends or family!

*Submitted by Dea Hebel*



## MOTHER & OTHER BANQUET

Tickets may be purchased May 5 (last day) . Adults are \$10, ages 4-10 are \$5, 3 and under are free. The menu is chicken cordon bleu delight, salads, rolls and bars and drinks. Winnebago barbershop will be entertaining us, so please join us for a fun evening of fellowship. Friends and neighbors are welcome!! Punch at 5:30 with dinner at 6. Browse our yummy bake

sale, beautiful plant sale and bazaar items. We hope to see you there!

*Submitted by Dea Hebel*



## United Methodist Men

The U.M.M. met Saturday April 13th with 7 men and 1 guest. The UMM sent \$200 to C.C.A.P. to buy 100 boxes of cereal from Pick n' Save. I went there right after the meeting and ordered and it was ready by 2:00 p.m.

There was a discussion about the church picnic June 30th. We are asking for donations towards brats, burgers, and other picnic fare. Please earmark these items for the this year's annual picnic.

The UMM at Covenant will be asking all of the men for a \$5.00 a year joining fee. I hope that all men will want to be involved.

The photo shows UMM donating to Parkside School \$450.00 for their field trip to the Milwaukee Public Museum & the Mitchell Park Domes. It's what we do!

**PARKSIDE**



if

*God is on your side, who can be against you? -Romans 8*

*Submitted by Darrell L. Jewson  
Chair U.M.M. Covenant*



## New Member Welcome

We welcomed Dick Tennie and his wife Julie as new members in 2023. Dick grew up in Greenville, near Appleton. As a youngster he enjoyed playing baseball with his two brothers and cousins. He also has two sisters. His parents owned a bar and hall that often hosted wedding celebrations.

Dick and Julie met while in college at UW Oshkosh. He was working in the mail reception area of the dormitory. Julie had cookies sent to her from her mom for her birthday. When she went to pick them up Dick was working. Their birthdays are just two days apart so she offered him a cookie. The next year Julie's mom sent cookies to Dick for his birthday!

While in college they often participated in ecumenical services at the Newman Center for campus ministry. Dick graduated from UW Oshkosh. He taught math and computer science at Horicon High School for 29 years. He also coached baseball and some football. He is now enjoying retirement.

The Tennies live in Oakfield, not far from their daughter Julie, her husband and their two daughters. Julie and Dick enjoy caring for their two granddaughters before and after school.

Dick's hobbies include biking, cross country skiing, and gardening (both vegetables and flowers). He also loves spending time with his family. Dick is a pilot, and rents a plane on occasion to visit his siblings in Manitowoc and Wisconsin Rapids. He's flown as far as Michigan and Kansas City to visit friends. Dick and Julie like to travel and have been to many US states, as well as Germany and France. His bucket list is to keep traveling to Europe and Canada.

*Submitted by Denise Retzleff*

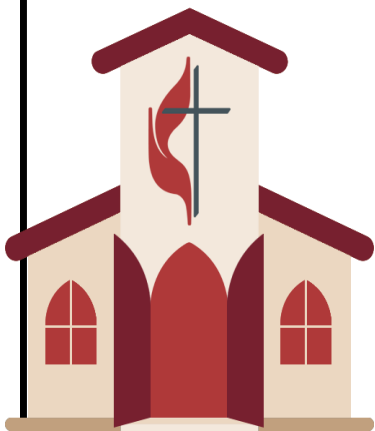
## Missions Committee

**Loom Mission Project** Join us to work on our Loom Mission **every Tuesday morning** from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. You don't have to join for the full two hours, just come as you can. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

*Submitted by Diane Weider*



## Trustees



Since Spring is here, the Trustees will be doing maintenance and other upgrades at the Parsonage and the exterior of our Church. We are very pleased with our 2 new additions to Covenant's staff personnel, Janet Liebich, and Kristin Gitzlaff. Improvements were made in the Sanctuary in regard to our sound booth and microphone systems. We look forward to the improvements that will enhance our worship experience. Two additional projects to be considered are updated camera security system, investigating a request for grant money for this project and the possibility of a new outdoor scrolling sign on the Division St. side of Church. As always, any questions, concerns please let any one of our Trustees know.

*Submitted by Bill Aeverbeck, Trustee Chair*

## Covenant Cares About People



As of April 13th we have delivered 248 boxes of bananas to 4 schools & over 800 kids. We will have delivered 725 boxes of cereal for the kids to take home. This is COVENANT at it's best, lets go, go, go! You can view 4 thank you cards on the Missions bulletin board in the Narthex.

This summer we will send bananas to 2 schools for summer school and the Boys & Girls club. It's all about the kids!!

*May we have faith in the goodness in ourselves and others.*

*African Proverb*

*Submitted by Darrell L. Jewson*

## Little Food Pantry



Thanks so much for your continued support as it is being used daily by our neighbors!

The warmer weather allows us to put in canned fruits and vegetables (not peas or green beans). Canned chicken, tuna, granola bars, cereals, microwave mac & cheese, Spanish rice packets, ramen noodles, peanut butter, tortillas and wraps (watch date on them), and hygiene items such as toilet tissue, kleenex, toothpaste.

Every item is so 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 but not on Sunday mornings.**

## Mission Offerings for May

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday (5/5) Little Food Pantry

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (5/12) Little Food Pantry

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (5/19) Golden Cross

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (5/26) Golden Cross



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 05/01 Trevor Hernandez
- 05/02 David Olson  
Thomas Retzleff
- 05/07 Nina Krueger
- 05/23 Mary Libertine
- 05/24 Courtney Allickson
- 05/31 Pastor Ho Lee



## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 1st - Pastor Ho Lee & Miyeon Kim



## May Worship Volunteers

DATE	Liturgist	Children's Time	Ushers	Acolyte	Live-Streaming	PPT/Sound
5/5	Shelli D.	Pastor Ho Lee	Jeff S. Jan A.	Charli A. Memphis A.	Mona A.	Sloan A.
5/12	Denise S.	Diane W.	Harold S.	Ivy T.	Denise R.	Tom R.
5/19	Denise T.		Bill D. Brandon D.	Kyle A.	Lily K.	Tom R.
5/26	Bill D.	Shelli D.	Sandi T.	Jin L. Ha'el L.		Diane W.

**THANK YOU  
SO MUCH**  
YOU ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!



# MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs-	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 9:30 am Bible Study	<b>2</b> Visitations	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 10:15-11:15 am Choir Practice	<b>6</b> 6-7 pm Bell Choir	<b>7</b> 9 am Loom Mission  6:30 pm Trustee Meeting	<b>8</b> 9:30 am Bible Study	<b>9</b> Visitations	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 8:00 am Men's Breakfast  <b>9am-3pm</b> <b>Rummage Sale</b> <b>Pacto de Gracia</b>
<b>12</b> 10:15-11:15 am Choir Practice	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Community Worship Service at Lake House  6-7 pm Bell Choir	<b>14</b> 9 am Loom Mission  <b>1:30—3:30 pm</b> <b>Game Day</b>	<b>15</b> 9:30 am—Bible Study 10:30 Mission Committee Meeting  <b>5:30-8:00 pm</b>	<b>16</b> Visitations	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10:15-11:15 am Choir Practice	<b>20</b> 6-7 pm Bell Choir	<b>21</b> 9 am Loom Mission	<b>22</b> 8 am Women's Breakfast  9:30 am Bible Study	<b>23</b> Visitations	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:15-11:15 am Choir Practice	<b>27</b> 6-7 pm Bell Choir	<b>28</b> 9 am Loom Mission  11 am Care Committee	<b>29</b> 9:30 am Bible Study	<b>30</b> Visitations	<b>31</b>	



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**Covenant United Methodist Church**

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**THE ARK** *Covenant UMC*

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**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.