



THE ARK

November 2025

NEWSLETTER

COVENANT United Methodist Church

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office@covenantforyou.church

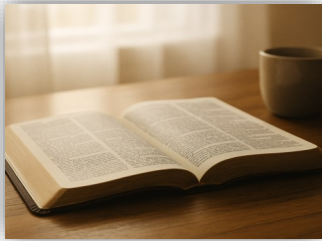
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From Pastor's Desk:

November Sermon and Worship

The sermon series **"What Is the Bible?"** will continue throughout November as we keep exploring the nature of Scripture and how to read it faithfully. In October, we reflected on two key aspects of the Bible—its **human** and **divine** sides—and considered several guiding principles for reading Scripture: paying attention to its context, interpreting it through the greatest commandment to love God and neighbor, and discerning its meaning through the four authorities of **Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience**. In November, we will focus on the **Old Testament** and **New Testament** separately, learning how to approach each with greater understanding and appreciation. Below are the themes for the upcoming Sundays:



November 2 – All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday is a sacred day when we give thanks for all who have lived lives of faith and now rest in God's presence. It also reminds us of our own calling to grow in holiness and live as saints in the world today. During communion, we will light candles in memory of the saints of our church who have passed away since last All Saints Sunday, giving thanks for their faithful witness among us. The sermon will reflect on what the authentic Word of God is and how we encounter that Word in our reading of Scripture.

November 9 – Second Sunday

Many Christians tend to distance themselves from the Old Testament, viewing it as merely a Jewish historical record, a collection of difficult laws, or outdated teachings. On this Sunday, we will explore common misunderstandings about the Old Testament and discover a more balanced way to see and read it—examining, in particular, how Jesus himself engaged with these sacred writings.

November 16 – Third Sunday

This week's message will offer a broad overview of the Old Testament—an ambitious task for one sermon! While 20 minutes can only begin to touch the depth of its 39 books, it will provide a helpful framework for understanding its main themes and structure. My hope is that this overview will help you feel more connected to the world of the Old Testament and inspire you to begin reading one of its books yourself. After worship, we will gather to decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season.

Continued on next page

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November 23 – Christ the King Sunday

The fourth Sunday of November is **Christ the King Sunday**, the final Sunday of the Christian year. Christ the King Sunday reminds us that our time and lives ultimately belong to Jesus Christ, the one true King. On this day, we celebrate his eternal reign and reaffirm our faith in his lordship over all creation. This Sunday will also conclude our sermon series, **“What Is the Bible?”**, with a 20-minute overview of the **New Testament**—highlighting the main themes of each book and guiding you on how to read them with deeper understanding and faith.

November 30 – First Sunday of Advent

The First Sunday of Advent begins a new year in the church calendar and ushers in the Christmas season. As we remember the birth of Jesus and his coming into the world, we are invited to begin anew with him. The church year beautifully guides us in this journey—beginning with the baby Jesus and ending with Christ the King. During Advent, we will focus on **Isaiah’s prophecies** about the coming Messiah and what they reveal about Jesus.

May these worship services and sermons help you **end this year with Jesus** and **begin the new one with renewed faith and hope in the Christ child**.

November Sermon and Worship

| DATE | CALENDAR | SERMON | WORSHIP |
|-------|------------------------------|--|---|
| 11/2 | All Saints | - Bible: John 1:1-5, 14 / 5:39-40 - Sermon: “The Word Beyond Words” | - Communion - All Saints Ceremony |
| 11/9 | | - Bible / Sermon: TBA (Focus on developing a balanced understanding of the Old Testament) | - Choir |
| 11/16 | | - Bible / Sermon: TBA (Explain the whole Old Testament in 20 minutes) | - Bell Choir - Hanging of the Greens |
| 11/23 | Christ the King Thanksgiving | - Bible / Sermon: TBA (Explain the whole New Testament in 20 minutes) | - Choir |
| 11/30 | First Sunday of Advent | - Bible / Sermon: TBA (Christmas stories based on Isaiah) | - Light Advent Candle |

Charge Conference

Our **Charge Conference** will be held on **Sunday, December 7th at 10:45 AM** in the **Fellowship Hall**. The Charge Conference is the **annual meeting of a United Methodist local church**, where leaders and members gather to conduct important church business—such as approving the budget, electing lay leadership, and reviewing the church’s missions and ministries. We are pleased to welcome **Rev. Heather Brewer**, one of the elders in our circuit, who will preside over the meeting. I strongly encourage all members to attend this valuable opportunity to learn more about our church and help shape its direction. The meeting will be brief, lasting **less than 30 minutes**.



In our effort to maintain **transparency in church administration and finances**, the Church Council has decided to make the **2026 church budget** accessible to all members. Once finalized, physical copies will be available in the **narthex**. Please take time to review the budget and share any questions or concerns with **Pastor Ho Lee** or any of the church leaders—preferably **before the Charge Conference**.

Young Couples’ Night Out

In recent months, our church has been blessed with several **young couples** and **families** raising children and youth. However, because of their many responsibilities and busy schedules, it has been difficult for them to find time to connect with one another. Yet, as we know, **connection is at the heart of being the church**.



To help nurture that connection, our church will host a **Young Couples’ Night Out on Friday, November 14, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM**. While the parents enjoy dinner together, some of our kind church members will be offering **babysitting at the church**. The restaurant location will be announced soon, but it will be somewhere in the **Fond du Lac area**. All young couples are warmly invited to join us for an evening of fellowship and fun. If you would like to participate, please let **Pastor Ho Lee** know by **Thursday, November 13**.

Small Group Ministry Update: Trillium Plans Visit to Milwaukee Museum

Dive into nature and culture with a visit to the Milwaukee Public Museum on **Saturday, November 1**, the next excursion planned by Trillium small group.

The museum is known for its outstanding exhibits and programs. These include a live butterfly enclosure, a Costa Rica rain forest replica, and dioramas depicting diverse natural and cultural settings. A popular exhibit called The Streets of Old Milwaukee will be decorated for Halloween. Another current exhibit called Bugs Alive includes live tarantulas and black widow spiders. Also, on November 1, the museum will host **the first annual 3 Rivers Powwow**, a kick-off to Native American Heritage Month. See the Grand Entrance at noon. On this particular day, there is **free admission** to the powwow and museum at large. For more information about the powwow and museum offerings, see the museum’s website at mpm.edu.

Bring a sack lunch and **plan departure from Fond du Lac at 9 a.m.**, with return planned for mid to late afternoon. As with other Trillium events, everyone is welcome. Transportation is via private auto and carpooling. **Sign up in the Narthex or call the office by October 30** if you’re interested.

Submitted by Jeff Strong

Welcome Our New Church Family

Brayden Hoffman joined our Covenant family this summer. He moved to Fond du Lac from Franklin County, Virginia, with his mother, her fiancé, and his little sister. He was born in Tucson, Arizona, and at the age of three moved to Amanda, Ohio, where he attended primary, elementary, and



half of middle school in the Amanda-Clearcreek school district. He then moved to Franklin County, Virginia, and finished middle school and high school at Franklin County High School, where he served as Student Body President.

Brayden is a second-year student at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, with a double major in Politics and Law, as well as Urban Studies, and a minor in International Studies. Currently, Brayden is a Senator for Rhodes College and the Chair of the Senate Communications Committee. He is also Vice Commissioner of the Rhodes Student Government Allocations and Student Organizations Commission. Brayden serves as a Rhodes College Alumni Ambassador and is part of the Philanthropy Committee of Sigma Nu Fraternity. He enjoys anything related to public service and volunteer work. During this summer, he was a regular volunteer at the Fondy Food Pantry. We look forward to seeing Brayden again when he is in Fond du Lac.

Submitted by Donna Miller

Sunday School News

On Sunday, **October 5**, following the church service, families gathered at the Fond du Lac **YMCA for A Family Fun Day** of swimming, games in the gyms, food and fellowship. Attending were all generations with lots of smiles as we enjoyed this special afternoon together. Thank you to all who helped to organize this event, prepare the lunch meal and clean up. We all agree we will do this again in the future!

Sunday school has been going smoothly as the children learn more about the **Old Testament stories**. A reminder that **an offering** is taken during the beginning of lesson so the children learn about the many missions our church is involved in. It is impressive how well the children are learning the weekly songs with actions! Please mark your calendars for **the next Sunday school teacher's meeting on November 2** following the church service.

In November, Sunday school will continue with our Bible lessons but will also devote time to preparing for our **Christmas Program on December 14th**. **Nancy Johnston** will teach the children simple **bell music** for the season to be presented during that service. It's important for your children to attend weekly so they can be comfortable with their part of this special program! Looking forward to sharing our kids' musical talents!



In January or February 2026, we are hoping for snow so we can plan our Family Fun Day of tubing. Look for details in the next newsletter!

Submitted by Julie Tennie

Highlights from a Wonderful Sunday at the YMCA



November Sunday School Schedule

| DATE | CALENDAR | SUNDAY SCHOOL | TEACHERS |
|-------|------------------------------|--|---------------|
| 11/2 | All Saints | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No Sunday School - Nursery - Sunday School Teachers' Meeting | AnnaRose A. |
| 11/9 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Theme: "The Israelites Cross the Jordan River" - Bible: Joshua 3-4 | Mona / Miyeon |
| 11/16 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Theme: "Joshua Leads God's People" - Bible: Joshua 1:1-11; 5:13-6:27 | Julie / Kelly |
| 11/23 | Christ the King Thanksgiving | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Theme: "John the Baptist Tells about Jesus" - Bible: John 1:1-28 | Mona / Miyeon |
| 11/30 | First Sunday of Advent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Theme: "Jesus Is Baptized" - Bible: Matthew 3:1-17 | Donna / Kayla |

Youth Group News -Youth Service Days

Five youth along with their leaders went to three homes to do yard work and garden cleanout. You can tell by the pictures that they had some fun while working hard. At Flora's they trimmed shrubs and did yard cleanup. At Dave and Denise's they cleaned out the flower and vegetable gardens and did some weeding alongside the house. At Carol's we raked and bagged. We apologize to the church members that we could not help this year.

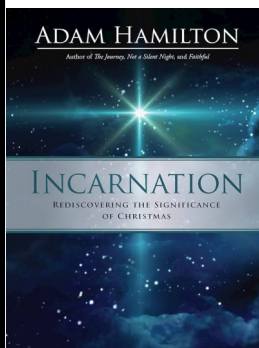
Submitted by Diane Weider



November Youth Group & Confirmation Schedule

| DATE | CALENDAR | YOUTH GROUP | CONFIRMATION |
|-------|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 11/2 | All Saints | - No Class | - Confirmation Class 5: Alpha: Prayer |
| 11/9 | | - Youth Group Meeting: Christmas Program Practice | - Confirmation Class 6: Alpha: Bible |
| 11/16 | | - Hanging of the Greens | - Confirmation Class 7: Alpha: Spirit |
| 11/23 | Christ the King Sunday | - Youth Group Meeting: Christmas Program Practice | - No Class |
| 11/30 | First Sunday of Advent | - No Class | - Confirmation Class 8: Alpha: Fill |

Wednesday Morning Bible Study



On October 29th we are starting a new advent Bible Study. **Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas** by Adam Hamilton. "His parents called him Jesus. But the prophets, shepherds, wise men, and angels addressed him by other names--including Messiah, Savior, and Emmanuel". Join us as we explore the meaning behind these titles, what they tell us about the baby whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, and the significance of that Christ child for our lives today. **All are welcome to attend. We meet in the choir room from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday mornings.**

Submitted by Diane Weider

Missions

***Reminder:** you can write a check for any mission project; you don't just have to give loose bills or coins.

Our loose offering on November 2nd and 9th will go to the **Pastor's Goodwill Fund**. This money is used, at the Pastor's discretion, for times of need. The church often gets calls and visitors seeking assistance. The larger requests are referred to the Solution Center, but others benefit from the Pastor's Goodwill Fund.

Our loose offering on November 16th, 23rd, and 30th will go to **Gifts for Families** (it is hard to believe that it is that time of the year again). We will once again adopt families from Chegwin and Pacto de Gracia. Your offering will help purchase gifts and cleaning supplies. **The Angel Tree will be up in the Fellowship Hall starting November 23rd** with ornaments for you to pull and shop for specific gifts, if you are willing and able. For those of you unable to shop or just hate shopping (like my partner Shelli), you can donate through the loose offering on these three Sundays.

We will also be collecting hats, mittens, and gloves for children. In addition, we will collect socks for children and adults. The most popular request for Christmas gifts from our families is socks, so, Shelli and I make sure that there is a bag of socks that goes to each family with socks for everyone.

Submitted by Diane Weider

Loaves and Fishes

On **NOVEMBER 5, 2025**, we will be serving our last Loaves and Fishes meal for this year at **Church of Peace UCC, on Military Rd.**

There is a signup sheet in the Narthex, and if you wish to help out in any way, you may still do so. Scalloped potatoes, boxed or prepared, and cookies (2 per baggie) (#of bags) are greatly appreciated. The number of meals per night has been averaging 160-170, and it is strictly carryout.

The need is still great, and your help with serving or providing for the meal is greatly appreciated. God Bless our Covenant members and their kind generosity.



Submitted by **Mona Averbeck and Nancy Johnston**

Care Committee



The Care Committee will be sending a **“Care Package”** or gift card to **our young adults** who have either gone off to college or tech school, or joined the workforce. We will include some snacks, as well as an Ark Monthly Newsletter or bulletin, and an Upper Room. We want these young adults to know that we miss them and care about them. Hope this makes them feel connected to our church in a small way.

Submitted by **Jan Andrews**

Trustees

In the coming months, your Trustees will be discussing future projects for the coming year of 2026. Input from the congregation is always appreciated. When we have more specific details, we will visit with our church members. **Your Trustees would again like to thank all of our members for their past support.** With God's Love,

Submitted by **Bill Averbeck, Trustee Chair**

Hanging of the Greens - Let's Get Festive!

It is time to make our church shine with the beauty of Christmas! I love that it has become an annual tradition for our members to decorate the sanctuary, narthex, and fellowship hall. We know that not everyone is physically able to climb ladders or decorate trees but there is a task for everyone. Last year we had ladies who sat and fluffed bows, a much-needed task. So, on **November 16th**, plan to stay after the service for some chili, and extended fellowship. So, **mark your calendars for Sunday, November 16th and plan to join in the fun festivities.**

Submitted by **Diane Weider**



United Women in Faith (UWF)

The October meeting hosted a **librarian** who shared about all their services as well as **the homeless situation in FDL** including **Hope on the Block** project. We learned a lot. We donated \$200 to the library and \$200 to Hope on the Block for another meal. We voted to give \$500 to the Bolivia project. **Brunch plans** were completed.

The Soup supper was discussed and ladies volunteered to help with food as well as work that evening. We will ask for additional volunteers. **Bake sale** will be included. Please bring friends and neighbors so this is a success!

Submitted by Dea Hebel



Women's Breakfast — November Date Change

Our regular Women's Breakfast is usually held on the **fourth Wednesday of each month**. However, due to Thanksgiving week, the November gathering will be held **one week earlier—on Wednesday, November 19**. We hope you'll join us for a warm breakfast and fellowship!

United Methodist Men (UMM)

The United Methodist men met Saturday, October 11, at Rolling Meadows. Nine men present, including one new member, welcomed quite a discussion on a name change from men's ministry to just the banana project. This was to ensure the funds would only be for the banana project. Also, outside groups are reluctant to donate to one denomination. Election of new officers took place with Dr. Jeff Strong as recording secretary. Bill Decker as treasurer. Thank you very much. Harold Stroud as second chair, and Bill Averbek as first chair. As this is my last report, I am happy for the missions the men have done: the banana project, the fall clothing, socks, undies, etc., cereal, 2000 boxes last year, our own youth mission trips, field trips for Parkside and Chegwin schools, and many more for the church, the community, and our kids. Thank you.

“Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world, red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world.”

Submitted by Darrell Jewson



Nov 1 Deb Hoffman-Ashenfelter
 Nov 5 Brittany Engel
 Nov 6 Linda Mielke
 Nov. 8 Dan Ashenfelter
 Nov. 9 Doug Duitman
 Nov. 9 Gary Miller
 Nov. 14 Germaine Patt

Nov. 20 Del Jewson
 Nov. 20 Emily Depies
 Nov. 21 Ivy Taillefer
 Nov. 27 John Barfknecht
 Nov. 27 Cindy Paasch
 Nov. 29 Jerry Stillings



November Anniversary

Nov. 24 Tim & Janice Klaske

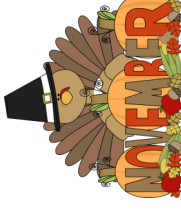


| | |
|-------|------------------------|
| 11/2 | Pastor's Goodwill Fund |
| 11/9 | Pastor's Goodwill Fund |
| 11/16 | Gifts for Families |
| 11/23 | Gifts for Families |
| 11/30 | Gifts for Families |

2025 November Worship Volunteers

| 2025 | Liturgist | Children's Time | Acolyte | Live-Streaming | PPT/Sound | Ushers |
|-------|-----------|-----------------|------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 11/2 | Bill A. | Pastor Ho L. | Memphis A. | Mona A. | Tom R. | Jeff S. (Head) Jan A. / Sandy T. |
| 11/9 | Donna M. | Diane W. | Ivy T. | Ava A. | Diane W. | Jeff S. (Head) Art A. / Sandy T. |
| 11/16 | Dick T. | Shelli D. | Abigail G. | Penny W. | Tom R. | Jeff S. (Head) / Donna M. |
| 11/23 | Mary B. | Diane W. | Tay L. | AJ A. | Diane W. | Jeff S. (Head) / Sandy T. |
| 11/30 | Patti S. | Patti S. | Ha-el L. | Mona A. | Tom R. | Jeff S. (Head) / Sandy T. |

NOVEMBER 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 30 9am Worship Service 10:15 am Choir Practice 6pm Confirmation Class | 11/31 11:45 am Staff mtg. 6:00 pm—7:00 pm Bell Choir Practice | | |  | | 1 Pastor Day Off 9am Trillium Outing to Milwaukee 9am Safe Sanctuary Training |
| 2 9am Worship Service All Saint Sunday & Communion 10:15 am Choir Practice 10:30am Sunday School Teachers' meeting 6pm Confirmation Class | 3 11:45 am Staff mtg. | 4 10am Trustee Mtg. 1 pm—3 pm Loom & Weaving | 5 10am Sara Circle 4pm Loaves & Fishes | 6 Pastoral Visitations | 7 Pastor Sabbath | 11 Pastor Day Off 8am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Rummage Sale Pacto de Gracia |
| 9 9am Worship Service 10:15 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Youth G. Mtg. 4pm Financial Mtg. with Pacto de Gracia 6pm Confirmation Class | 10 10am Community Worship Service at Lake House 11:45 am Staff mtg. | 11 10am Care Cmte mtg 6 pm—8 pm Loom & Weaving | 12 9:30 am Bible Study 1pm Trillium Inside mtg. at Church | 13 Pastoral Visitations | 14 Pastor Sabbath | 15 Pastor Day Off |
| 16 9am Worship Service 10:15 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Hanging of the Greens 6pm Confirmation Class | 17 11:45 am Staff mtg. 6:00 pm—7:00 pm Bell Choir Practice | 18 1pm - 3 pm Loom & Weaving 2pm—4:00 pm Circuit Mtg. at Ripon UMC | 19 8am Women's Breakfast 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship Cmte. Mtg. 5:30pm—8:00 pm Champions Bingo | 20 Pastoral Visitations | 21 Pastor Sabbath | 22 Pastor Day Off |
| 23 9am Worship Service 10:15 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Youth G. Mtg. | 24 11:45 am Staff Mtg. 6:00 pm—7:00 pm Bell Choir Practice 6:30pm—7:30 pm Church Council Mtg. | 25 6 pm—8 pm Loom & Weaving | 26 9:30 am Bible Study | 27 Thanksgiving Day Church office closed | 28 Pastor Sabbath | 29 Pastor Day Off |



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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.