



THE ARK

MAY 2026

NEWSLETTER

COVENANT United Methodist Church

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Facebook: "Covenant United Methodist Church - Fond du Lac"

From Pastor's Desk:

May Worship and Sermon

The month of May can be seen as a "Family Month" in the life of our church, as many of our worship services and events invite us to reflect on the meaning and value of family. My hope is that this season will offer all of us an opportunity to deepen our relationships within our families.



At the same time, I encourage you not to focus only on your immediate, physical family, but also to extend that care to your spiritual family—the church. As we know, the church is more than a group of people who gather for worship; we are sisters and brothers in Christ, called to share in one another's joys and burdens. Fittingly, the church calendar leads us to reflect on this truth as we approach Pentecost, when we celebrate the birth of the church. As you spend meaningful time with your loved

ones this month, I invite you also to reach out to your church family.

On May 3, we will celebrate **Holy Communion** according to our tradition. In the sermon, we will return to the Lord's Prayer, which we began earlier this year, focusing on the line, "And lead us not into temptation." After worship, our Sunday School children and their families are invited to join **Fun Sunday** at a **trampoline park in Appleton** (details can be found in this newsletter).

On May 10, Mother's Day, our service will center on celebrating women—motherhood and womanhood—through carnations, special music, and a poem. The sermon will reflect on Mark 7:24–30, where Jesus encounters a Gentile woman whose faith challenges and inspires. Following the service, we will host a family photo opportunity with a special picture stage. You are warmly encouraged to invite your family and capture a meaningful moment together.

On May 17, we will celebrate **Confirmation**. Our confirmands—**Brayden, Lily,** and **Kyle**—have faithfully completed their two-year journey and will publicly affirm their faith and baptism. Like baptism, confirmation is not only a personal milestone but a communal covenant. As they profess their faith, we as a congregation also renew our commitment to support them as members of the Body of Christ. Please join us for this important and joyful occasion.



On May 24, we will **commemorate Pentecost**, celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. The sermon will conclude our series on the Lord’s Prayer. We will also take time to recognize veterans among us and offer prayers for those who have sacrificed in service to our country.

On May 31, we will celebrate **Graduation Sunday**, marking the end of the school year. Our Sunday School children and Youth Group will lead the service, offering music through dance and bells, and some graduates will share their future plans. We will also present church scholarships (please contact Diane W. if you are interested in applying). The sermon, based on Deuteronomy 6:1–9, will invite us to reflect on how we nurture and support the next generation in faith.



I pray that these services and gatherings will renew and strengthen your relationships—both within your families at home and within your family of faith.

May Worship and Sermon

DATE	CALENDAR	SERMON	WORSHIP
5/03	5 th Sunday of Easter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sermon: about Lord’s Prayer 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communion - Fun Sunday: Trampoline Park - Offering: Little Food Pantry
5/10	Mother’s Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sermon: about The Syrophoenician Women’s Faith • Bible: Mark 7:24-30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Choir - Special Music - Mother’s Day Carnation - Mother’s Day Poem - Picture Stage - Offering: Little Food Pantry
5/17	Confirmation Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sermon: about Confirmation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bell Choir - Confirmation - Confirmands Speech - Offering: Little Food Pantry
5/24	Pentecost Sunday Memorial Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sermon: about Lord’s Prayer 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prayer for Memorial Day - Offering: Ingathering
5/31	Graduation Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sermon: about Future Generation • Bible: Deuteronomy 6:1-9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Choir - Scholarship - Graduate Speech - Children’s Bell Choir - Offering: Ingathering

Small Group Ministry Update:

Trillium Celebrates Birds

The next inside meeting of Trillium on **May 13** will feature “All Things Birds.” We’ll review and learn several new bird calls/songs, play “Backyard Bird Bingo” with bird-themed prizes, and be shown how to use a popular free phone app that identifies birds by just listening. The outside activity for late April/early May has been a plan to view **sturgeon spawning on the Wolf River**. As of the Ark deadline, however, the preferred viewing site (as well as most of Shiocton) is underwater with flooding from the heavy spring rains. We’ll still plan this pop-up event if the timing and dry land work out.



Trillium is a small group with the theme of God and nature, which meets on **the second Wednesday** of the month at **1:00-2:00 PM**. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Submitted by Jeff Strong

Food and Fellowship

Our April event is "Make Your Own Pizza" night. Thanks to Debbie for sharing a simple crust for us to use in making them. It is hard to believe we have been sharing a meal for over a year. It is getting hard to come up with meal themes. A friend of mine does something like this at her church and plans a meal by picking a color. This little group has so much fun that we almost have to set a time to remind us that it is time to go home.

I saw something on Facebook about spending time on a porch with friends. So, of course, my brain went into overdrive. What about a small group called "Prayers on the porch"? You could meet on someone's porch at any time of day, and could include snacks. Then I also thought about people who are working; they could meet anywhere and call it "Lunch with the Lord."

I feel so blessed to be able to share a meal with this fabulous group of women. Have a great May.

Submitted by Shelli Dekker

Welcomed Into the Covenant Family



Gina Kutchek Is a new member of our Covenant family. She and Dale are the parents of Lily. Gina, her sister and her parents were raised in the Methodist Church. In fact, her ancestors were one of the founding fathers of the Methodist Church in Sun Prairie. Gina’s grandfather even has a road named after him.

Gina works at Knight Barry Title in Fond du Lac and is a paralegal by trade. She and Dale keep very busy with Lily’s many activities. They enjoy traveling and camping.

Submitted by Donna Miller

Sunday School News

May is our last month for Sunday School before the summer break. We hope the children will attend each Sunday in May as we are preparing for **Graduation Sunday on May 31**. Nancy Johnston is teaching the children several musical pieces to be played using the bells, which will be shared during the Graduation Sunday service. It is important that our children practice weekly during the class. There will be a **Saturday practice** announced in church prior to May 31.

Our Sunday School lessons this month include God Speaks to Samuel, God Gives His People a King, and Pentecost. Due to the practice with bells, there may not be time for a craft related to each Bible story in May.

Please plan to attend Graduation Sunday with your family on May 31, as our Sunday School and Youth will present most of the service! A reminder, **Miyeon will create a video** to present that day with the children speaking about what they like about Sunday School or have learned this year. Your short **video needs to be sent to Miyeon by May 13** so she has time to compile it before May 31. Thank you!

Reminder, on **May 3**, all families are invited to the Appleton trampoline park. We will leave at 10:30 AM from the church, jump from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. The **church will cover the jump cost** for all youth and children who attend, as well as snacks and pizza. No charge for adults who do not jump! There will also be a **Sunday School teacher's meeting** while at the trampoline park to discuss Graduation Sunday and **Covenant's One-Day VBS for August 1st**. Thank you for participating!

Submitted by Julie Tennie

May Sunday School Schedule

DATE	CALENDAR	SUNDAY SCHOOL	TEACHERS
5/03	5 th Sunday of Easter	- No Sunday School - Nursery - Fun Sunday: Trampoline Park	AnnaRose A.
5/10	Mother's Day	- Theme: "God Speaks to Samuel" - Bible: 1 Samuel 3:1-4:1	Miyeon / Mona
5/17	Confirmation Sunday	-Theme: "God Gives His People a King" - Bible: 1 Samuel 8:1-10:25	Donna / Kayla
5/24	Pentecost Sunday Memorial Day	-Theme: "Pentecost" - Bible: Acts 2:1-12	Laurel / Miyeon
5/31	Graduation Sunday	- No Sunday School: Children will join the whole service.	

Youth Group News

The Youth would like to thank everyone for their kind words after their Good Friday shadow play. Jeff and I were really proud of the work that they did.

We have a busy May coming up. On **May 3rd**, we will be joining the Sunday School kids to go to **Urban Air Trampoline Park**. We will **not meet on May 10th** due to Mother's Day. Sunday, **May 17th**, is **Confirmation Sunday** for Kyle Allickson, Brayden Aerbeck, and Lily Kutchek. Then, later that afternoon, Henry and Jacob Allickson will graduate from Campbellsport High School.

On Sunday, **May 31st** (Pastor Ho Lee's birthday), we will **celebrate our graduates, Henry and Jacob**. We are looking at doing a **mini Mission Trip on June 14-16** that will include a day at Lake Lucerne Camp, a day in Fond du Lac (possibly at church members' home), and a day in Milwaukee. For those hoping to get their car's interior detailed, we are looking at sometime in July for that.

Submitted by Diane Weider

- Here are highlights from our youth group's powerful shadow play on Good Friday -



May Youth Group & Confirmation Schedule

DATE	CALENDAR	YOUTH GROUP	CONFIRMATION
5/03	5 th Sunday of Easter	- No Class	- Final Evaluation at 6:00 PM
5/10	Mother's Day	- Youth Group Meeting: YM 360	- No Class
5/17	Confirmation Sunday	- No Class	- Confirmation at 9:00 AM
5/24	Pentecost Sunday Memorial Day	- Youth Group Meeting: YM 360	
5/31	Graduation Sunday	- Graduation	

Church Council

Church Council Highlights

The Church Council met to review upcoming events, staffing needs, and financial updates. An agenda addition was approved naming **Mona Averbek** as the lay member attending the Wisconsin Annual Conference, June 4–6, 2026. Minutes from the February meeting were also approved.

Event Updates

- **Bible Trivia** will be held on **April 26 at 10 a.m.** Next year's event will return to a 9 a.m. start. A signup sheet will be posted, and potluck costs will be covered by Family Ministries.

Custodial Coverage

Custodian **Kristin Hraban** requested a two-month medical leave. **Martha Rincon** will cover custodial duties at 16 hours per week. SPRC will meet to discuss long-term planning.

Finance Report

- The church is **\$7,000 ahead** of last year's budget at this time.
- **Pacto de Gracia** disbursements will shift to a quarterly schedule.
- A disputed **\$12,206 insurance charge** from last year is being challenged; Pastor Ho Lee will send documentation to the Cabinet. Council approved moving funds from the Endowment Checking to the General Fund *only if needed*.

Trustees

Trustees are reviewing two estimates for upcoming computer upgrades and expect more information next month.

Thomas Retzleff, Church Council Chair

Care Committee

One of the responsibilities of the care committee is to **coordinate funeral luncheons**. This involves communicating with the family and also with the caterers. There are many questions that need to be answered when coordinating this event. A few of the questions we ask are: **How many people do you expect, what are the caterers going to provide, and will they be serving the food?** We then plan accordingly. Often, church members are asked to provide desserts.

I want to thank everyone who was able to help at the funeral luncheon for Joyce Kindschuh's family and friends. A big Thank You to the Trustees for setting up the tables in the Fellowship Hall.



Submitted by Jan Andrews

Missions

In May, we will have two projects for our loose offering and a collection as well. **May 3, 10, and 17**, the loose offering will go to our **Little Food Pantry**. With increased grocery prices, it is costing more every week to fill the Pantry. We put an average of 15 items in daily. Without donations from the congregation, it costs us \$100-\$150 a week. We always welcome donations in the form of non-perishable food items and cash.

Beginning May 3rd and running through May 31st, we will **collect items for Personal Dignity Kits for the Ingathering** at Annual Conference. Our Missions team will assemble the kits and get them to the Midwest Missions truck at the Annual Conference. Items needed for the kits include: washcloth, hand towel, toothbrush, bar soap (3-4 oz), shampoo (12-19 oz), deodorant (2-3 oz stick or roll-on), lotion (8-10 oz), one gallon resealable bag (all items must fit inside), \$2 donation for toothpaste.



May 24th and 31st, our loose offering will go toward **the Ingathering** at Annual Conference. Monetary donations are always needed at Midwest Missions. Midwest Missions sends tangible resources to those in need to make an intangible difference in their lives through hope and empowerment. Around the world and around the corner, people are lacking simple resources that could improve their circumstances. Midwest Missions provides these resources.

Submitted by Diane Weider

Loaves and Fishes

Our faithful Covenant Family once again served **167 carry-out meals** for those in need on Wednesday, April 8th, at Church of Peace on Military. We are fortunate to have a Church available for this mission work. Special thanks to all who helped serve, bake, donate, or cook. Without your generous help, this would not be possible. Blessings, Mona Averbeck and Nancy Johnston



Submitted by Mona Averbeck and Nancy Johnston

Trustees

Your Trustees want to thank those who have helped in the past to maintain our Church facility and parsonage. As we move forward to the mid-term of 2026, we do have a couple of projects that we are considering, which are **upgrading our office computer system** to Windows 11 and the addition of **2 fans in the Sanctuary** to utilize our heating and cooling more efficiently.

Also, **yard work** will be coming up shortly at the Parsonage and in the Covenant garden. If anyone is interested in helping Nancy Johnston with the garden, please let us know. Any questions/concerns, please talk to any one of our Trustees.



In God's name we praise, **Bill Averbeck**, Chair

United Methodist Men (UMM)

The Men's group, along with some of the youth, will be serving at the Mother/Other banquet on **May 7th**. We are also going to do something at **Father's Day service** and on **graduation Sunday**. We are again sponsoring a field trip for Parkside School students.

The Men's group is also selling **Covenant T-shirts** in burgundy color. Please let Tom Retzleff know if you are interested in purchasing one. They really are sharp. Keep us in mind if you have any suggestions for other interests we might want to take on.



Also, MEN, we have a great group of guys, so if you have the **2nd Saturday of the month** available, join us at **8 am** at Rolling Meadows Restaurant.

God be With You! **Bill Averbek**, President

UMM Cereal



This car is loaded with Cheerios. We will make **1100 boxes** of cereal delivered to the five schools from the United Methodist Men and other individuals in our community. I've done this, I'd like to surpass 1200 by the end of school year.

Submitted by **Darrell Jewson**

Game Night

This is a hard article to write because sometimes we have 10 people, and then there are times when it is just the committee.

I am open to suggestions as to how to get more people, or should we discontinue this event? Those of us who come do have a great time, and if Tom's delicious treats don't draw people, I don't know what to do.

Please let me know if you have any ideas.



Submitted by **Shelli Dekker**

UWF: United Women in Faith

Mother Other Banquet

The Mother/Other Banquet will be held on **May 7** from **5:30 to 7:00 PM**. Enjoy a meal of hot beef sandwiches, salads, and dessert including rainbow cake, as we gather for an evening of fellowship. Tickets will be available on April 26 and May 3.

For more details, please see the information below.

Tickets will be available for purchase on Sunday, April 26 and May 3 only.
Please plan to purchase on one of these dates.

Celebrate the Women in Your Life

At Covenant United Methodist Church's

Mother/Other Banquet

Spinning Into Summer



When: Thursday, May 7th

Punch begins at 5:30 PM

Dinner at 6:00 PM

Entertainment at 7:00 PM

Tickets

Adults \$10.00

Children (4-10) \$ 5.00

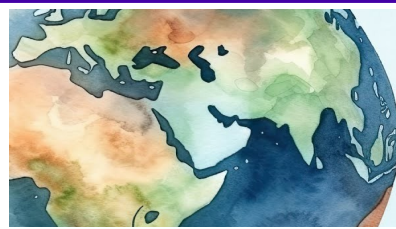
Children 3 and under: Free

Featuring: Bake Sale, Flowers, and Bazaar



May Birthday

- 5-1 Trevor Hernandez
- 5-2 David Olson,
- 5-2 Tom Retzleff
- 5-7 Nina Krueger
- 5-17 Dorene Gellings
- 5-23 Mary Libertine
- 5-24 Courtney Allickson
- 5-26 Lenita Ehrhardt
- 5-31 Pastor Ho Lee



Missions MOMENT

5/3	Little Food Pantry
5/10	Little Food Pantry
5/17	Little Food Pantry
5/24	In-Gathering
5/31	In-Gathering




5-1 Pastor Ho & Miyeon Lee.

2026 May Worship Volunteers

2026	Liturgist	Children's Time	Acolyte	Live Streaming	PPT/Sound	Ushers
5/3	Donna M.	Pastor Ho L.	Memphis A.	Penny W.	Diane W.	Jeff S. (Head) Jan A./ Sandy T.
5/10	Debbie C.	Diane W.	Ivy T.	Ava A.	Tom R.	Bill A. (Head) Art A. / Sandy T.
5/17	Bill D.	Shelli D.	Abigail G.	Penny W.	Diane W.	Bill A. (Head) Sandy T.
5/24	Denise T.	Denise S.	Tay L.	Lily K.	Tom R.	Bill A. (Head) Sandy T.
5/31	Darrell J.	Diane W.	Ha-el L.	Mona A.	Diane W.	Bill A. (Head) Sandy T.

MAY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5/31 9am Worship Service Graduation Sunday 10:15am Choir Practice	 11:45am Staff mtg.				1 4 pm Funeral for Arlene S. at Zacherl	2 Pastor's Day Off
3 9am Worship Service Communion Sunday 10:15am Choir Practice 10:30am Family Fun Sunday-Trampoline Park 6pm Confirmation class	4 11:45am Staff mtg.	5 10am Trustee Mtg.	6 10am Sara Circle	7 Pastoral Visitations 5:30—7pm Mother Other Banquet	8 Pastor Sabbath	9 Pastor's Day Off 8am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Rummage Sale Pacto de Gracia
10 Mother's Day 9am Worship Service 10:15am Choir Practice	11 10am Community Worship Service at Lake House 11:45am Staff mtg.	12 4:45 pm SPRC mtg.	13 9:30am Bible Study 1 pm—2 pm Trillium indoor Mtg.	14 Pastoral Visitations	15 Pastor Sabbath	16 Pastor's Day Off
17 9am Worship Service Confirmation Sunday 10:15am Choir Practice	18 11:45am Staff mtg.	19 Food & Fellowship gathering day	20 9:30am Bible Study 5:30-8pm Champions Bingo	21 Pastoral Visitations	22 Pastor Sabbath	23 Pastor's Day Off
24 9am Worship Service 10:15am Choir Practice 10:30am Youth G. mtg.	25 11:45am Staff mtg. 6:30-7:30 pm Church Council Mtg.	26	27 8am Women's Breakfast 9:30am Bible Study	28 Pastoral Visitations	29	30 Pastor's Day Off 9am Sunday School & Youth G. Rehearsal



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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

The 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.