



# COVENANT HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 2023

VOLUME 44, ISSUE 12



## PASTORS CORNER

In Luke 1, we read that Mary rejoiced when she thought about the coming of the Messiah. She was also amazed that she would be the woman who would give birth to him!

Luke 1:46-49

*46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord 47and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name.*

Mary was a very humble girl. She was not proud or arrogant even though she knew that all generations will call her blessed. She was given the highest honor of any mother in history but she did not lord it over other people. Instead, she recognized that God had done great things for her.

God has done great things for all of us. He has made a way through his son Jesus for us to be born again and adopted into his family. This is the highest honor anyone can have. Like Mary, we receive God's gift with humility and gratefulness.

This Advent and Christmas season, as you reflect on the wonder and joy of Christ's coming, may you be filled with joy like Mary was.

Pastor Dan

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

**CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE  
SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER  
24<sup>TH</sup>  
4:00 P.M.**



## CREW (Christians Ready Equipped & Willing)



CREW is our Jr & Sr High Students (gr 7-12).

*Joshua 24:15 But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors*

*served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."*

The holiday season is fully underway! With family gatherings, school programs, shopping, and of course delicious food, it's easy to become distracted with everything that isn't really all that important. It's easy to get caught up in the craziness of the holidays. My prayer for my family and for yours is to be able to slow down and step back to recognize that everything we have is from the Lord. Families are a blessing, even if everyone doesn't always get along. The talents we are given that are able to be shared at a performance or program are gifts given to us by God. The resources we are given that we are able to share through gifts and even meals really belong to Him, and we've been entrusted to use what we have wisely. We all have a choice to be slaves to the idols of the world and live for ourselves, or we can choose to serve the Lord. Blessings to everyone this Christmas season!

This High School Sunday School class is working their way through the Parables of Jesus this year, and Wednesday Nights at CREW we are journeying through the series Road Trip To Truth which is aimed at equipping Christians to understand why we can believe and trust the Bible and being able to answer "what is truth"?

If you are aware of any needs that the youth could help out with, we are looking to plan ahead for possible upcoming service project ideas. This is a great opportunity to show the love of Jesus with our neighbors and our community, and it blesses the youth to serve and for them to see the amazing impact they are able to have on others. Please talk to Josh Williamson with any suggestions you have.

*Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. 1 Peter 3:15*

## CREW EVENTS/PLANS

Here's what CREW (Jr/Sr High) will be planning on in December:

**December 6<sup>th</sup>** – CREW 6:00-8:00 pm (no supper)

**December 13<sup>th</sup>** - **NO CREW** (Christmas Caroling 6:00 pm)

**December 20<sup>th</sup>** - CREW Christmas Party- A fun night of gifts, games and treats! White elephant gift exchange and the return of the heavily taped CREW gift box!

**December 27<sup>th</sup>** - **NO CREW**

**\*\*No Youth Volunteer Day in December\*\***

## ISRAEL EXPERIENCE/INSIGHTS

### ISRAEL EXPERIENCE AND INSIGHTS

**Saturday, December 9th  
9:00 am**

Hear from Janelle Johnson & Shannon Cogbill

Bring a Breakfast dish to share!

## 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE CHRISTMAS SKIT

Our Pre-Confirmation Students (grade 6) will be sharing a skit "A Christmas to Believe In" with the congregation on Sunday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> during the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.



## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



### Sunday School Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17th  
10:00 am Worship Service

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

United Covenant Church collected over 100 boxes for the Samaritan's Purse program. Thank you to everyone who donated! Pray for the children who receive the boxes around the world!



Pictured: Wednesday Night CREW56 kids (gr 5 & 6). These kids spent an evening packing boxes to send!

## Christmas Dessert Theater

Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm  
Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 pm

Please join us for a great evening (or two)!  
Invite neighbors, co-workers, family & friends!  
Fun for all ages!



## ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING



Meet in the parking lot at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> to head into town to carol.

After we are done caroling, we will come back to the

church to enjoy Hot Chocolate and treats together.  
*If you'd like, please bring some Christmas goodies to share!*

## THANK YOU!

Dear Covenant Church Family,  
We are so blessed to be in a church that cares so much about my family and I. I don't know what we would do without our church family. The Lord knew that we needed a Family that would build up our faith in Him. Thank you all for everything. We love you all with all of our hearts. We appreciate the wonderful gift of money so much.

Love,  
The Ramsey Clan

Thank you so much for the generous gifts you gave us for Pastor Appreciation Month. We feel very loved and are so blessed to serve here.

Pastor Dan & Leah  
Josh & Emma Williamson



## ANNUAL MEETING TIMELINE

**January 7<sup>th</sup>** - Annual Report information due to the church office.

**January 14<sup>th</sup>** - Annual Reports will be available to pick up at church.

**January 17<sup>th</sup>** - Budget Review meeting 7:30 pm

**January 21<sup>st</sup>** - Annual Meeting will be after the worship service.



For more information or to register go to [www.lbbc.com](http://www.lbbc.com)

**Mark your Calendars! 2024 Camp Dates:**

**Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner:** Saturday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Young Adult Retreat:** December 30<sup>th</sup>- January 1<sup>st</sup>

**Marriage Retreat:** February 9<sup>th</sup>- February 11<sup>th</sup>

**Memorial Day Family Camp:** May 24<sup>th</sup>- May 27<sup>th</sup>

**Jr. High Camp:** June 9<sup>th</sup>- June 14<sup>th</sup>

**Trailblazer Camp:** June 23<sup>rd</sup>- June 27<sup>th</sup>

**4<sup>th</sup> of July Family Camp:** June 28<sup>th</sup>- July 1<sup>st</sup>

**Frontier Kids:** July 3<sup>rd</sup>- July 5<sup>th</sup>

**Senior High Camp:** July 28<sup>th</sup>- August 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Labor Day Family Camp:** August 30<sup>th</sup>- September 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Women's Retreat:** September 27<sup>th</sup>- September 29<sup>th</sup>

**Fall Youth Retreat:** October 25<sup>th</sup>- October 27<sup>th</sup>

**2024 Theme:** The Greatest Show

"God's Wonderful Purpose Revealed"

**Theme Verse:** <sup>22</sup> "As surely as my new heavens and earth will remain, so will you always be my people, with a name that will never disappear," says the LORD. <sup>23</sup> "All humanity will come to worship me from week to week and from month to month." Isaiah 66:22-23 NLT

## YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY- COMMON GROUND



Common Ground will not be meeting in December- see you in January!

This is a young adult group for ages 18-35ish. ☺ See Emily Johnson 262-949-5052 with any questions!

## THANKSGIVING/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Our Kids Blast, CREW56 & Adult studies will have a break over Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**NOVEMBER 22ND-JANUARY 3RD:  
NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER OR CLASS\***

\*CREW will continue to meet in December.  
Check the weekly schedule on the church calendar!



**WE WILL RESUME JANUARY 10TH WITH OUR  
REGULAR WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE!**

## LIBRARY

If you're looking for books or resources to borrow:

Our children's books/resources can be found in the upstairs south-east classroom; Our adult books/resources are across the hall in the north-east classroom! Check it out!



## HOMESCHOOL CLUB

### HOMESCHOOL CLUB

Homeschool Club is open to all homeschool families - kids of all ages! They meet

at United Covenant the first and third Friday each month during the school year from 9:15-11:15 am.

This is an unstructured homeschool group time for moms that homeschool to be encouraged, have homeschool related discussions with other moms, pray for each other, share resources and material. For the students, they can make new friends, play games, and share in learning experiences.

**Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> Homeschool Club will meet at East Lincoln.**

## HEARING LOOP INSTALLED

The Hearing loop has been installed in the sanctuary!

A hearing loop shuts out the distractions so that users can hear the sounds they want directly through their hearing aids.

We also have headphones available for use- pick one up at the Connections Table!



## RIGHT NOW MEDIA

**rightnow MEDIA.** We're excited to share that our church has access to an extensive, new video library called RightNow Media! can the QR Code to get access—or go to our website and click the RightNow Media link!



### Upcoming Dates to Know:

**December 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>: Christmas Dessert Theater**

**December 10<sup>th</sup>: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Skit during Worship Service**

**December 9<sup>th</sup>: Israel Experience & Breakfast Potluck 9 am**

**December 10<sup>th</sup>: NO POTLUCK**

**December 13<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Caroling**

**December 17<sup>th</sup>: Children's Christmas Program**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve Service, 4 pm**

**January 10<sup>th</sup>: Regular Wednesday Schedule returns**

**January 14<sup>th</sup>: Potluck after church**

## MISSION STITCHERS

In December, Mission Stitches will meet December 7<sup>th</sup>, but will not meet December 21<sup>st</sup>.



Mission Stitches meets the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at church at 9:00 am. Join us to cut, sew, match up fabrics or just for fellowship!

Mission Stitches is looking for new cotton-blend fabric for making pillowcases for local organization's needs. T-Shirts and Fabric donations are always needed and welcomed!

## PRAYER TIME

### Prayer Time

**Tuesdays 8:00 a.m. at church**

Everyone is invited and welcome to come. Prayer cards are prayed over during these meetings.

Please write your prayers (with or without your name) on the prayer cards provided in the chairs. Place them in the offering box in the sanctuary.

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Men's opportunities for Bible Study during the week:

- **7:00 a.m.** on Saturday mornings at Jason Sigsworth's garage
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday** of the month at **7:00 a.m.** Men's Prayer breakfast at church (bring a dish to share!)
- **6:30 p.m.** on Thursday Nights at church



## ZOOM DAILY PRAYER MEETINGS



**Morning Zoom Prayer group** meets on Zoom Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 7:00 am to 7:10 am.

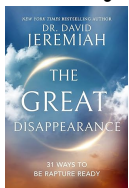
We would love to have you join us!

If you would like to join, please contact Sarah Enslin at 612-723-2714 to get the zoom link!

## WOMEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

**Monday Night Women's Bible Study will meet:**

**December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>  
6:30-8:00 p.m.**

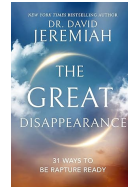


← **New Study!**  
(See description of this study under Tuesday Morning Bible Study heading)

All ladies are invited and welcome to come!  
We meet in the East Classroom at church

Hebrews 10:24-25: *"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."*

## WOMEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY



**We will not be meeting December 26<sup>th</sup>.**

The Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study is "The Great Disappearance" by Dr. David Jeremiah.

The rapture is the central event in biblical prophecy. But what does it mean for us today? How can this crucial end times event draw us nearer to God in a world that is seemingly on the brink of chaos? Political turmoil, economic uncertainty, an ideological divide that feels increasingly impassable—the signs of the times point us toward the end, and that can be disconcerting.

This Bible study meets in the upstairs, east classroom at church each Tuesday at 9:15 a.m. **All ladies are invited and welcome to come anytime!**

## Christmas for Children

Collecting items through December 10, 2023

We will again partner with the community "Christmas for Children" drive to provide gifts for area children who otherwise may not receive gifts at Christmas time.

There is a barrel in the foyer & hallway to collect unwrapped gifts for children ages 0-18! Suggestions are: toys, games, art supplies, body wash sets, lotion, tools, books, jewelry, blankets, etc...

The need is great for older children, 7th grade through 12th grade. Suggestions for this age group: good art supplies (Acrylic paints, painting canvases, paint brush sets etc.); Bath and Body sets; Legos; beginning tools (screwdriver sets, work gloves, wrenches etc.)

If you are in need of gifts for your children or if you know of other families in the Clear Lake school District area who are in need of Christmas gifts for their children, please call Debi Ahrens 715-441-5477 or Diane Blanchard 715-263-2690 (if no answer, please leave a message.) All names will be kept strictly confidential.

**You can access United Covenant Church online in many ways:**



**Website:**  
[www.unitedcovchurch.org](http://www.unitedcovchurch.org)

United Covenant Church -  
Clear Lake, WI

**facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/UnitedCov>



United Cov Church

<https://www.instagram.com/unitedcovchurch/>

United Covenant Church **YouTube**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC81D\\_Us6XPI3YXI964q806Q/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC81D_Us6XPI3YXI964q806Q/featured)

## LEADERSHIP MEETING

### Leadership Team Meeting November 13, 2023

Those present were Pastor Dan Pearson, Terry Silverberg, Brenda Cogbill, Lucas Carlson, Burt Beebe, Tim Jurisch, Scott Carnine, Josh Williamson, Susie Thayer, Mike Pickard and Cindee McBride.

The meeting was called to order by Lucas. Katie Jurisch shared that there is a need for additional space during service for children ages five to ten as the nursery is full as we continue to grow. Katie left after she shared about the need. Leadership team agreed to explore options and welcome any suggestions as God continues to bless United Covenant Church with growth.

Terry led in devotions focused on leadership. There are four O's: Opportunities, Opposition (which can be from the world, flesh or the devil), Obedience and Outcome. Terry shared from 1 Corinthians. Shared was the fact that we often equate a leading from God based on how easy things go but we don't often experience "easy." We should continue to ask God for wisdom in all things. Terry prayed.

The youth report was provided by Josh Williamson. Currently the youth are on a modified schedule due to holidays. Discussed was upcoming family caroling on December 13th and, weather permitting, a youth Christmas party December 20th. Josh shared that the church is looking ahead toward UNITE to obtain a pulse on who may desire to go. UNITE is scheduled to be in Bowling Green, OH. Also discussed a possible winter retreat. Josh shared that the Safe seminar was very insightful and helpful.

Financial Report was reviewed and accepted (motioned by Brenda, seconded by Mike).

Old Business: Building growth team reported that the two projects (adding additional parking and improved handicap parking along with overflow space in foyer) net \$4300 over budget which will come from the future planning/building fund (motioned by Mike and seconded by Burt).

Community Growth reported that the connection team is doing well. The team will present for consideration to be included in the 2024 funds to help facilitate connection of new and old by possibly adding some additional counter space, so resources are readily available to share. It was also stated that small groups were of interest according to the survey, but the team has put that on hold until next year.

The leadership team discussed possible having a stage two to continue work identified by the initial teams. The goal is to continue the good work started and to coordinate additional activities. Terry recommended that both the building and connections team present future needs that may have budget impact in time for the annual meeting.

New Business: Burt shared that there is a need for a speaker in the foyer and a need for an additional TV along with required cables. Mike moved and Terry seconded that this come from the music budget. Motion passed. If possible, this will be set up in time for dessert theater.

The annual meeting will be held January 21st. Budget meeting is scheduled for January 17th. Next leadership team meeting is scheduled for December 12th.

Brenda shared that she attended the Ridgeview Board meeting (representing the leadership team of UCCC).

The nominating committee will be seeking to present two people to fill spots on the leadership team as Mike Pickard and Scott Carnine will be completing their terms at the end of this year.

Terry reported that the mutual ministry committee will be having a meeting on the 28th.

Terry also shared that there is a church in Phoenix that is willing to share their security policy and procedures for free to help other churches. The leadership team agreed this should be pursued.

Pastor Dan brought forth that we have an opportunity to hear from Janelle Johnson. A possible date is December 9th. Pastor also reported that a team visiting crossroads church in Forest Lake and that was interesting.

Mike Pickard made a motion to adjourn. Cindee seconded. Lucas will provide devotions for the next meeting. Lucas closed the meeting in prayer.

### Senior Holiday Luncheon Comes to Community Center!

The Clear Lake Area Community Center (CLACC) invites all local seniors to a festive **Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, December 14, at noon** in the CLACC Dining Room.

**If you plan to attend, please register no later than Monday, December 11.** To register, call the CLACC office at 715-263-2233, and leave a message with your name and phone number. A free-will donation is being collected at the door.

For to us  
a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called

★

Wonderful Counselor,  
**MIGHTY GOD,**  
Everlasting Father,  
**Prince of Peace.**

Isaiah 9:6

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