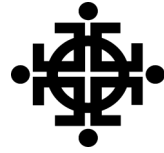


Community Covenant Church
 122 S Main Street
 PO Box 278
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 www.upsalacov.org



Pastor Steve Weihsmann
 Senior Pastor
 steve@upsalacov.org
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 Youth Ministries
 zach@upsalacov.org
 (763) 242-7237



COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH
CHRONICLES

Publication of Community Covenant Church, Upsala, MN

March/April 2024



LAKE BEAUTY
 BIBLE CAMP



2024 Church Motto:
LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD;
FED BY THE WORD OF GOD

Sunday Worship Service at



Lake Beauty Bible Camp

July 14
At 10:00am

Family Camping Weekend
 at
Lake Beauty Bible Camp
July 12-14

The Camping brochure will be in your church box in June.



What's Inside?

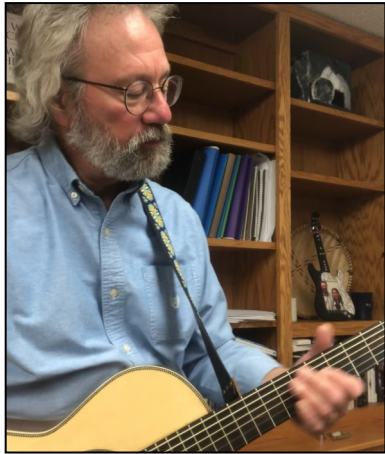
- 2From Pastor Steve's Desk
- 3Office Talk
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- 3Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 4-5.... .Jamaica Missions
- 6-7.... .Missionary Update
- 8..... .News to know
- 9..... .Youth News
- 10..... .March Calendar
- 11..... .April Calendar
- 12..... .LBBC Worship & Family Camp info

Easter Services at Community Covenant

Sunday, March 24
 10:15am Palm Sunday Service

Friday, March 29
 6:30pm The Chosen People Seder Service

Sunday, March 31
 8:30am Easter Sunrise Service
 9:00am Easter Breakfast
 10:15am Easter Worship Service



When our friends from Mokahum Ministries were here in February, Pastor Paul Mitchell made an interesting observation: most advances in the Christian life come through struggle. He went on to say that he welcomes adversity. He went so far as to say he welcomes interpersonal conflict. In a conversation we had, he said that if we worked together for any length of time, I would inevitably say something hurtful. Then he would get offended and pull away from me for a while. But after a cooling off period, and some time spent in prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit, he would come back to me, we would talk it out, and we would go forward stronger in our faith and better as friends. Conflict is a funny thing. We do not like it, but if we are followers of Jesus, it tests our mettle in a positive way. It drives us to pray and to rely

on God's help and strength. It takes a toll on us, but a toll we must pay if we wish to "cross the bridge" to maturity.

When I say conflict takes a toll on us, I mean that it breaks us down and breaks us in. Breaking down involves having to look at and admit our own pride and determining that pride will not determine our attitude. We are "brought down a notch." Some of us must come down quite a few notches before we are useful to God. Breaking in is getting used to humility. It is surrendering our own will and coming under the authority of God and His will, which we at some time must admit is better than ours. Brokenness is part of the Christian life.

Some things work better only when they are "broken." A horse cannot be ridden until it is broken. A fire alarm cannot be sounded until the glass bar under the lever is broken. A baseball glove is too stiff until it is broken in. At the 1996 Promise Keepers Pastor's Conference in Atlanta, GA, Chuck Swindoll was a featured speaker. He said, *"When God has an impossible task to accomplish, He takes an impossible man and crushes him."* When the man has faced struggle and adversity, when he has been in conflict with God, when he has learned humility, when he has been broken, then he is useful. God can build him up again and use him. The same holds true for a woman, although we all know there are far fewer impossible women than men!

Struggle, adversity, conflict, humility, brokenness...are not enjoyable. But they seem to be necessary to gain maturity and usefulness in the Kingdom of God.

PS

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|---|-------------------------------|--|-----|
| | 1 8 PM Men's Bible Study | 2 | 3 6 PM meal 6:20-7:35 PM JTeam/ALand 6:30 PM Ignite | 4 | 5 NWC Women Ministries Renewal 2024 at Grand Forks, ND | 6 |
| 7 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 6 PM CLG | 8 | 9 7 PM Worship Team Meeting 7:00 PM Properties Team Meeting | 10 6 PM meal 6:20-7:35 PM JTeam/ALand 6:30 PM Ignite | 11 7 PM Leadership Meeting | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 6 PM CLG | 15 May/June Newsletter Deadline 8 PM Men's Bible Study | 16 | 17 6 PM meal 6:20-7:35 PM JTeam/ALand 6:30 PM Ignite | 18 | 19 Confirmation Retreat at LBBC | 20 |
| 21 return 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship w/ Communion 6 PM CLG | 22 | 23 | 24 6 PM meal 6:20-7:35 PM JTeam/ALand 6:30 PM Ignite | 25 | 26 Northwest Conference Annual Meeting At Redeemer Covenant-Brooklyn Park | 27 |
| 28 9 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 6 PM CLG | 29 8 PM Men's Bible Study | 30 | | | | |

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|-----------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 6 PM CLG | 4 1 PM Women's Bible Study 7 PM Women's Bible Study 8 PM Men's Bible Study | 5 7 PM 5Cs Meeting | 6 6 PM meal 6:20-7:35 PM JTeam/ALand 6:30 PM Ignite | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 6 PM CLG | 11 1 PM Women's Bible Study 7 PM Women's Bible Study | 12 7 PM Properties Team Meeting | 13 6 PM meal 6:20-7:35 PM JTeam/ALand 6:30 PM Ignite | 14 7 PM Leadership Meeting | 15 | 16 |
| 17 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship w/ Communion 6 PM CLG | 18 1 PM Women's Bible Study 7 PM Women's Bible Study 8 PM Men's Bible Study | 19 | 20 6 PM meal 6:20-7:35 PM JTeam/ALand 6:30 PM Ignite | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 31 Easter 8:30 Worship 9:00 Easter Breakfast 10:15 Worship | 25 1 PM Women's Bible Study 7 PM Women's Bible Study | 26 | 27 No Activities | 28 | 29 Good Friday 6:30 PM The Chosen People Seder Service | 30 |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Office Hours</p> <p>Monday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Tuesday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Wednesday 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM Thursday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Friday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM</p> <p>122 S. Main Street PO Box 278 Upsala, MN 56384 320-573-2672 covenant@upsalacov.org www.upsalacov.org</p> <p>Evangelical Covenant Church www.covchurch.org</p> | <p>March Worship Servers</p> <p>Ushers: Leif & Suzi Johnson</p> <p>Nursery Workers 3 Cheryl Warga & Nora Hollermann 10 Tim Peterson & Benjamin V 17 Michelle Aleckson & Matthew V 24 Elizabeth V. & Bella Warga 31 Jesse & Lucy Aleckson</p> <p>Prayer 3 Pastor Steve 10 Wanda Erickson 17 Rudy King 24 Cyd Woller 31 Anne Weihsmann</p> <p>Scripture Patty Groetsch Lucy Aleckson Nancy King Steve Woller Robin Block</p> | <p>April Worship Servers</p> <p>Ushers: Ken & Molly Abrahamson</p> <p>Nursery Workers 7 Karen Hoffman & Evie Aleckson 14 Richard Blonigen & Trygg Aleckson 21 Linda Pi & Benjamin V. 28 Cheryl Warga & Bella Warga</p> <p>Prayer 7 Pastor Steve 14 Sandi Soderberg 21 Karen Hoffman 28 Leif Johnson</p> <p>Scripture Michelle A Tina Yorek Sharen Gaebel Suzi Johnson</p> |
|--|--|--|

Staying Connected

We send out a Sunday bulletin and bi-monthly newsletter via email. If you aren't receiving them, call the church office at 320-573-2672, or send us an email: covenant@upsalacov.org

Publication Deadlines:

Sunday bulletin: 10pm Wednesday
 Monthly newsletter: 13th of February, 15th of April, June, August, October, & December

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4 - Andrew Hoffman
- 6 - Linda Pepin
- 8 - Richard Blonigen
- 13 - Dennis & Susie Olson
- 17 - Josie Phillippi
- 18 - Bill Abeler, Deb Schneider
- 20 - Dan & Patty Groetsch
- 23 - Nora Eichers
- 24 - Isabelle Klug
- 31 - Tim Peterson

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 - James Tang (missionary)
- 3 - Natalee Hoffman
- 6 - Isabella Warga
- 6 - Isaiah & Gillian Pundsack
- 9 - Melinda Hollenbeck
Ken & Betty Olson
- 13 - Sue Aleckson, Harrison Van Sloten
- 16 - Emmett Warga
- 20 - Dan Groetsch, Tina Yorek
- 22 - Micah Hollenbeck
- 25 - Amber Koopmeiners
- 27 - Michelle Aleckson, Dustin Hollermann
Bill & Lisa Abeler
- 28 - Michael Pangrac, Nick Klug
- 29 - Nora Hollermann



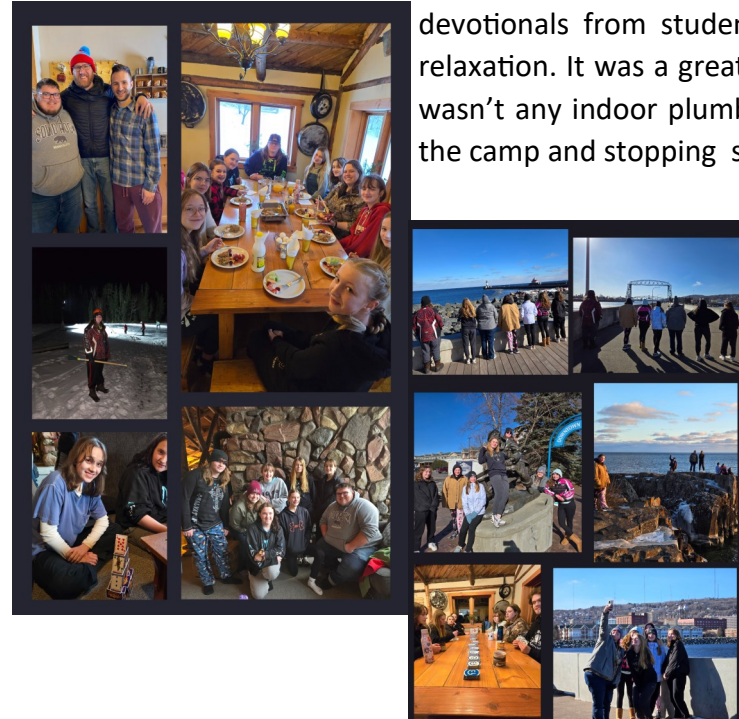


Jabode Family 2024 -
bottom left & right picture



Winter Retreat was **WONDERFUL!**

During Presidents Day Weekend, 6 Ignite students and 2 leaders went up to Adventurous Christians in Grand Marais, MN for a weekend of getting away in God's creation and fellowshiping with 2 other youth groups. They had opportunities to hike, jump in the frozen lake, sit in a sauna, play games, sing worship songs, hear devotionals from students and adults, and/or just enjoy some relaxation. It was a great time for our entire group, even if there wasn't any indoor plumbing. We had a good time driving up to the camp and stopping several time for hikes and sight-seeing.



On Wednesdays, we have been going through a very fun series on the Fruit of the Spirit. It has come with more small group time and I think the students are really learning a lot. I appreciate all the time our Ignite adult leaders have spent with our students throughout the year. It is so great for our students and me.

UPCOMING UP EVENTS:

- *Easter Breakfast - March 31*
- *Confirmation Retreat - April 19-21*
- *Confirmation Sunday - May 5*
- *Graduation Sunday - May 19*

I highly encourage anyone with a student in IGNITE to join our Remind text chain,

Want to stay updated on IGNITE announcements?

For Texts Enter this number **81010**

For Emails Send an email to **zach@upsalacov.org**

Text this message @igniteccc



Minnesota FoodShare

March Campaign

The [Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign](#) brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help keep 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over \$18 million to March Campaign participating food shelves via the Minnesota FoodShare FoodFund. 100% of donations received by Minnesota FoodShare during the March Campaign go into the FoodFund. *Please give.*



Our Church 2024 March Campaign will run February 26th – April 6th

In Morrison County, the average number of clients served per month was 665, or 154 clients per week. *Thank you for your support.*



Covenant Women Spring Renewal 2024 - Joyful in Hope

Attention all women of the church. [The Joyful in Hope CW conference](#) is April 5-6 in Grand Forks, ND. Please contact Anne Weihsmann at 218-341-2790 for more information. Covenant Women will pay the registration fee for those who are interested. Let's carpool.

Send your child, grandchild, or a sponsored child to camp to hear God's truth for a week!

Camp Lebanon 2024

- June 9-13 Super Kids (3-6)
- June 16-21 Junior High 1 (7-9)
- June 30-July 2 Adventurers (1-3)
- July 7-12 Junior High 2 (7-9)
- July 14-18 Super Kids 2 (3-6)
- July 21-26 Senior High (10-grads)
- July 28-Aug 1 Super Kids 3 (3-6)
- August 4-9 Junior High (7-9)
- August 11-15 Super Kids 4 (3-6)

Lake Beauty Bible Camp 2024

- June 9-14 Junior High 1 (6-8)
- June 16-20 Trailblazer 1 (3-5)
- June 23-27 Trailblazer 2 (3-5)
- July 3-5 Frontier Kids (1-3)
- July 7-12 Junior High 2 (6-8)
- July 14-18 Trailblazer 3 (3-5)
- July 28- Aug 2 Senior High (9-12)

Early Bird Discount
Pay by 4/2/24



***Please contact the church office for the camp scholarship code.**

We appreciate your prayers for our mission trips. This is the 24th year that Community Covenant Church has sent teams to serve in Jamaica.

All flights and customs went very smoothly for us in January. We joined a team of 30 other people from Fargo, ND and Mahtomedi, MN for a beautiful week of ministry in a rough part of Kingston where our service was warmly received. As we worked on painting boards for the house we were building, a family walked by with their 3 children headed to the community shower/toilet. Another woman, who appeared to be in her 50-60's, walked up the path 3 times with a 5 gallon bucket on her head carrying water to her home. *Do we appreciate all the conveniences of our homes?*

Our evenings in Kingston were spent visiting with a few of the young men who grew up at the orphanage we served from 2000-2017. Stafford has recently become an RA at the university; this provides housing for him as he studies. Michael and Omario have both found stable work in banks and are moving up the ladder. Andrew, who was never able to get his high school diploma, is struggling to find work that pays enough to help his family. His wife makes \$90 per week and they live in a shack/home the size of an American bedroom, without running water or electricity. These young men travel to see us because they cherish the relationship with Minnesota that started when they were young. *Do we include people in Minnesota who need a support network? Are we praying for the homeless, migrants, and persecuted?*

Our days were spent building a one room house for a family of 5 who appreciated a door to lock, protective roof, and walls to keep them from harm and bad weather. Others on the team did maintenance at a school in the same area where children need to skip school if they are unable to afford a new uniform to replace an outgrow or damaged. *Have we ever had to sacrifice care for our children due to lack of funds?*

From **March 16-23** a team of 10 will be in Jamaica to build a 12' x 21' dorm room with 5 bunk beds at Spring Village Tech School. In the late afternoons, we will have a time of devotions, games, and crafts with the local children. Your donations have funded the March projects.

THANK YOU!

Please pray for the team that they may share the love of Jesus with many. (Kari & Erik Olson, Emma Sagle, Hannah Hauschild, Kyle, Kelsey, & Ethan Bergem, Dave, Linda, & Zac Piasecki)

Please pray for the Jamaican people that they may find and grow in their hope of the Lord.





Operation Christmas Child

This past Christmas Community Covenant sent off 62 Operation Christmas Child boxes. The following is part of a letter from Franklin Graham.

As I write this, more than 11 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts are just beginning their journey—crossing oceans, mountains, and deserts - to delight children in more than 100 countries around the world. We thank God for everyone who prayerfully packed these gifts, and we praise Him for using each box to His glory.

But as these children receive their gifts, another journey is about to begin. In the coming year, many of them will be enrolling in The Greatest Journey - our discipleship classes designed especially for children who have just received Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts.

Over the past 30 years, more than 50 million children have been reached through these discipleship lessons, including 25 million who have prayed to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Samaritan's Purse trains volunteer teachers and provides materials in 91 languages. We also provide a New Testament for each child who completes the course. So far, over 36 million New Testaments have been given to graduates through our local church partners. Join us in asking God to raise up an army of *young evangelists* who are prepared and eager to share the Gospel with their friends and family members. ~Franklin Graham

Mokahum

We had a great time with the group from Mokahum School of Discipleship on February 4. The students shared with children during Sunday School and Paul Mitchell shared with the adults. Paul Mitchell and the team shared during worship. Thank you to all who provided food for the church potluck after worship.

New Life Radio: **Sharing the Light of the Gospel in a time of Darkness**

2 Corinthians 4:6 *"For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."*

TWO YEARS OF WAR and many opportunities to share the GOSPEL

Odessa, Ukraine: Every morning, New Life Radio staff make their daily walk to the Christian University building. The entrances are locked up and a caretaker is called to open the many doors leading to the top of the building where NLR's studios are located. There are no longer students at the college, the building has little heat; and winter creates a gloomy environment with air raid sirens going off daily. Every day they are on the air is a miracle. For the residents of this city, there is much uncertainty as people shrug off the threats faced by war, along with enduring power, water, heat, and other disruptions. Life is much different compared to January 2022; a sense of hopelessness is a common theme among many. Everyone wonders when the war will end. They need a ray of light in this darkness.

"In thy light, we see light" is the message of Psalm 36, providing a backdrop for the role of Christian radio and its challenge to bring the light of the Gospel and understanding of the faith to those God has called to listen to our signal. This is what New Life Radio delivers through its 24/7 program schedule, featuring insightful expository teaching by our small group of outstanding Bible teachers. Station manager Ivan Zhurakovski reports constant listener requests across Russia and Ukraine, asking to replay or send them sermons they just heard so they can share them with friends and family. What is clear, is that are hearing biblical explanations on Christian doctrine and the Gospel, often for the first time. There is a hunger for delving deep into the Word and for the light, hope, and joy that Christ provides. Radio is nourishing them with meat in this task of discipling and maturing the believer. God's plan is being clearly revealed.

The programming on both New Life Radio and our Ukrainian language Radio Nove Zhitya station is well positioned to shine Gospel light into thousands of communities via satellite and internet radio, and we thank the Lord for His provision and protection as we work to continue this critical broadcast service to nations at war. Thanks to our CRFRU partners!

LISTEN to us at www.NLRadio.net and www.NoveZhitya.net

