

Community Covenant Church
122 S Main Street
PO Box 278
Upsala, MN 56384

Phone: 320-573-2672

Email: covenant@upsalacov.org
www.upsalacov.org

Pastor Steve Weihsmann
Senior Pastor
blackandchrome@gmail.com
(218) 428-8010

Zach Klein
Youth Pastor
zach@upsalacov.org
763-242-7237



Community Covenant Church CHRONICLES

Publication of Community Covenant Church, Upsala, MN

September/October 2023

"The LORD is good
unto them that wait for Him,
to the soul that seeketh Him."

Lamentations 3:25



Wednesday Night Activities

Our Wednesday Night Activities are starting up again on Wednesday, September 20. Wednesday nights are all about fun and games and learning about Jesus for kids age infant - 12th grade.

- 6:00 PM Community Meal
- 6:20 PM Adventureland (infant- age 5)
- 6:20 PM J-Team (K-6th grade)
- 6:45 PM Ignite (7th-12th grade)

The Community Meal is open to the public. Watch the Information Center for the opportunity to sign up to bring food. We are also looking for volunteers willing to help with serving the meal as well as J-Team helpers or a registrar to check kids in. Contact Elizabeth Vandergon if you can help. 320-309-1764

**J TEAM
KICK OFF
CARNIVAL**

Wednesday, September 20 6:00—7:35 PM
Grades K-6 at Community Covenant Church

Starts with SUPPER! Adventure Land Kids welcome!
GAMES! BIG INFLATABLE! FUN!

What's inside?

- | | |
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| 2 From the Pastor's Desk | 6-7.....Upcoming Events |
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"CAN IT HAPPEN AGAIN HERE?"

Recently I watched "Jesus Revolution" on Netflix. I was looking for "The Blues Brothers," but got sidetracked. Kelsey Grammer gives an excellent portrayal of Pastor Chuck Smith, who took a risk and invited the hippies of the 1960s into Calvary Chapel in southern California. God moved in a tremendous way among young people who were searching for truth and discovered it was not coming through drugs or popular philosophy. Hundreds and thousands of people found salvation, deliverance, healing, and new life, and were baptized in Pirate's Cove at Newport Beach.

A similar move of God happened here in the early 2000s, among young people, searching for truth. Some of those who came to faith are now our church leaders, continuing to spread the good news and training up their children to know Jesus.

Can it happen again? Here? And is this the time? Or is the time near? If so, what would draw the people of our community together? Would it be a search for truth? Or a dissatisfaction with popular culture and values?

The Leadership Team will be considering these questions over the next few months. Your help would be greatly appreciated. A major evangelistic event is being contemplated, but we want to be sure it is of God and not just our own idea. We want to make sure it meets the needs of those who are desperate to find Him and not just for those who already know Him. Please share any insights you may have through observation or time spent in prayer.

Please consider requesting a FAITH BUILDERS pamphlet or taking the DISCIPLESHIP COURSE to prepare for helping new believers into Christian maturity. Interest in these two things may indicate whether or not this is the time for God to act.

And ask questions. Of God. Of the Leadership Team. Of community members. Of people who have had experience with a revival. (By the way, revival refers to the "coming to life" of church members who then help unbelievers into a relationship with Jesus. Revival always starts with prayer. And the one true sign of revival is repentance.)

Can it happen again here? What do you think?



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|---|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 1 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship | 2 1:00 & 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study | 3 | 4 6:00 PM - Meal 6:20 PM J Team/ Adventureland 6:30 PM Ignite | 5 6:00 PM Ladies Night Out @ Muddy Tailgate | 6 | 7 |
| NWC Ministerial Association Fall Retreat @ Sugar Lake Lodge in Grand Rapids | | | | | | |
| 8 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship | 9 1:00 & 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study | 10 7:00 PM Properties Team & CW Meeting | 11 6:00 PM - Meal 6:20 PM J Team Adventureland 6:30 PM Ignite | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship w/ Communion | 16 1:00 & 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study | 17 7:00 PM Worship Meting | 18 9pm 5th Quarter | Fall Youth Retreat @ Bluewater Bible Camp | | |
| 22 No Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship | 23 1:00 & 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study | 24 | 25 6:00 PM - Meal 6:20 PM J Team Adventureland 6:30 PM Ignite | 26 | 27 | 28 9am LBBC Annual Meeting |
| 29 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Harvest Fest Youth Meal to follow service | 30 1:00 & 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study | 31 | | | | |

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|----------------------------------|---|-----|------------------------------|---|
| <p>Time Change Starting Sunday, September 10</p> <p>Sunday School for all ages at 9:00 AM</p> <p>Worship Service starts at 10:15 AM</p> | | | | | | |
| 3 9:30 AM Worship | 4 LABOR DAY | 5 | 6 6:00 PM Ignite | 7 | 8 10am-4pm Blood Drive | 9 |
| 10 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship | 11 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study | 12 7:00 PM Properties Team | 13 6:00 PM Ignite | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship w/ Communion | 18 | 19 | 20 6:00 PM - Meal 6:20 PM J Team/ Adventureland 6:30 PM Ignite | 21 | 22 | 23 6:30 PM CW Auction |
| 24 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship | 25 1:00 & 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study | 26 | 27 7:30am See you at the pole 6:00 PM - Meal 6:20 PM J Team/ Adventureland 6:30 PM Ignite | 28 | 29 9pm 5th Quarter | 30 Lake Beauty Women's Fall Retreat |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>Office Hours</p> <p>Monday 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM Tuesday 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM Wednesday 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Thursday 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM Friday 8:00 AM - 12:00 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>September Worship Servers</p> <p>Ushers: Ken & Betty Olson</p> <p>Nursery Workers</p> <p>3. Richard Blonigen & Matthew V 10. Linda Pi & Lucy Aleckson 17. Cheryl Warga & Trygg Aleckson 24. Karen Hoffman & Bella Warga</p> <p>Prayer</p> <p>3. Steve Weihsmann 10. Karen Hoffman 17. Wanda Erickson 24. Cyd Woller</p> | <p>October Worship Servers</p> <p>Ushers: Leif & Suzi Johnson</p> <p>Nursery Workers</p> <p>1. Elizabeth V & Evie Aleckson 8. Tim Peterson & Nora Hollermann 15. Michelle Aleckson & Benjamin V 22. Jesse Aleckson & Lucy Aleckson 29. Harvest Fest (No Nursery)</p> <p>Prayer</p> <p>1. Sandi Soderberg 8. Leif Johnson 15. Pastor Steve 22. Anne Weihsmann 29. Dan Voronyak</p> |
| | | <p>Scripture</p> <p>Anne Weihsmann Lucy Aleckson Robin Block Steve Woller</p> | |

Staying Connected

We send out a Weekly email Update, offer a bi-monthly newsletter, and print a Sunday bulletin each week. If you aren't receiving them and would like to, call or send us an email with your contact information.

Publication Deadlines:

Weekly Update: 8 am Wednesday
 Sunday Bulletin: 8 am Friday
 Monthly Newsletter:
 15th of February, April, June, August, October, December

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 - Kirt Olson
- 4 - Paul & Susie Ripplinger
- 5 - John Woldstad
- 6 - Mark Koopmeiners, Pat Groetsch
- 7 - Kennedy Van Sloten
- 8 - James Warga, Patty Peterson
- 10 - Karlee Warga
- 10 - Matthew & Karen Hoffman
- 14 - Dave Piasecki
- 17 - Sam & Tina Yorek
- 19 - Tim Johnson
- 26 - Joan Olson
- 28 - Todd Prout
- 29 - Erica Koopmeiners
- 29 - Bruce & Cheryl Warga
- 30 - Calvin Wolbeck

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 - Roger & Sharon Johnson
- 2 - Lisa Abeler, Susie Olson,
- 3 - Evan Yorek
- 3 - Larry & Lana Bartells
- 5 - Steve Sundquist
- 6 - Debbie Sundquist, Dennis Olson
- 8 - Steve Woller
- 9 - Dustin Eichers
- 10 - Shelly Schumer
- 12 - Steve & Debbie Sundquist, Dustin & Angela Hollermann
- 13 - Sandi Soderberg
- 14 - Ken Abrahamson
- 15 - Tammie Taylor
- 17 - Annette Guthrie
- 18 - Randy Peter, Olivia Peterson

- 21 - Steve & Sheri Johnson
- 22 - Nina Prout
- 23 - Mark & Ginny Koopmeiners
- 24 - Nicholas Guthrie
- 25 - Luanne Cluka, Pastor Steve Weihsmann
- 25 - Jim & Sam Warga, Dustin & Anna Eichers
- 26 - Craig Erickson
- 26 - David & Diane Brezinka
- 28 - Halsey Stocker
- 31 - Matthew Hoffman



Youth News



SUMMER Gone By TOO Fast! :(Ignite's summer was BUSY to say the least, but it was a good one. We met almost every Wednesday throughout the summer and had a good time hanging out and doing things like swimming, fishing, boating, volleyball, etc. We continued to go through devotionals from our book "Curiosities & (un)common sense from the Bible" by Anthony Russo.

We also had many students either go to camp as a camper or as a junior staff/D3, which is a great opportunity for them to learn about God and leadership.



- MUUUCE was AWESOME!

We sent 7 students and 3 leaders to MUUUCE and it was so great to see the students have fun, but also really take away good things from the sessions with speakers Craig and Molly Sanborn. Big thanks to Jim Warga and Arlene Warga for leading our group while Zach was also a part of the MUUUCE Planning team so he had some extra responsibilities.



COMING UP THIS FALL

Here are some dates to know about.

- **IGNITE will start back up Sept. 6th, 6-9pm**
- **Sunday School will start back up Sept. 10th, 9am**
- **Fall Retreat @ Bluewater Bible Camp Oct. 19th-21st**

As always 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 ?



Continued...

Mokahum Update

Community Covenant Church continues to develop a ministry with Mokahum in Cass Lake, MN. This summer a number of our congregation gave their time to help build a garage and get the campus ready for school to start. Thank you to all of you.

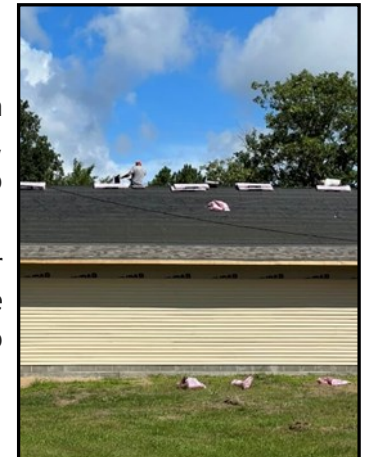
In the fall Pastor Steve will be doing a class on reconciliation. At some point this winter we will have the Mokahum students come back to Community Covenant to minister to us.

In July: Steve & Cyd Woller, Andy Ripplinger, Richard Blonigen, Matt Hoffman, Pastor Steve, Bob Lemond, Dave Piasecki and John Mellberg assisted in building a 4 door garage at Mokahum.



In August: Delores Hoffman and her niece Candace, Angela Hollerman, Bob Lemond, Phil Johnson, Dave & Linda Piasecki, went to Mokahum to do some cleaning/ maintenance tasks to prepare the buildings for the 2023/24 school year.

Paul Jorgenson and Paul Mitchell both thanked us for our assistance! They hope to continue to partner with us for more activities in the future. The program is making a name change to better describe their program, Mokahum Discipleship Ministry.



JAMAICA



A team of 11 is beginning preparations for their construction project of a small dormitory building in Spring Village Jamaica in March of 2024. They have received a donation from the Upsala Lions Club and been offered Matching Funds of \$2000. Any funds donated will be used to help build a dorm for students who have no other housing options while they attend the vocational training center. If you would like to

donate to help build the dorm, write checks out to Community Covenant with Jamaica fund in the memo.

Missionary Updates

Gary & Pauline Carlson, Covenant missionaries to Japan

We have been supporting Gary & Pauline Carlson for several decades. They are retiring so we will be supporting Carlson's through the end of December.

Gary and Pauline have shared how important it is to have the support of their home churches over the last 40 years as well as other supporting churches. Nancy & Rudy actually got to know them at North Park Seminary when they were preparing to be missionaries to Japan. They have been involved in a number of ministries there over the years.

As they have closed their ministry time in Japan, Gary, who taught at the seminary there, has been writing a curriculum in Japanese to help churches that are transitioning to new pastoral leadership.

Please pray for them as they transition to retirement.

Our new Covenant missionaries starting in January, 2024 will be Karl & Sue Peterson, of Mexico. More information on Karl & Sue will be coming later.

Colin Welch

In 1905 the French government passed a law called laïcité. This was the beginning of the official separation of church and state. Though it was first presented as a "neutral position" on religion, it has resulted in an anti-religious mindset, growing to the point that part of the French identity is to be nonreligious. Currently, France is ranked the 7th most atheistic country in the world.

It has a total population of 64.5 million, yet out of that only 1.2% claim to be Evangelical Christians. Being that Paris is the capital of France and France is the capital of the Francophone world, ministry in Paris is not only strategic for the rest of France but also an entry point for global impact.

Generally, the French are very suspicious of anything religious yet warmly embrace quality art and good artists, be they Christians or not. I am serving in Paris, France with EFCA ReachGlobal in arts ministry, focusing on using art as a bridge to share the Gospel through relationships with artists. My vision is to see the healing of the disconnect between Christ and culture through the lives and work of artists. Imagine the impact that will happen once these influential artists are transformed by the hope and the healing power of Christ! People who write, paint, and sing about brokenness can create pieces about forgiveness and hope. These artists really can, through their new lives in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, change the cultural perspective to be more open to Christ.

Please pray for continual smooth cultural adjustment and adaptation. Pray for Colin who is at language school at this time. Please pray for the political unrest in France that has resulted in protests and riots.

Fall Camp Events

LAKE BEAUTY'S WOMEN'S RETREAT: September 29– October 1



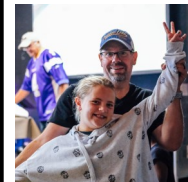
This is a great opportunity to get away with friends and family during one of Lake Beauty's most beautiful times of the year. During your stay, you will be encouraged and refreshed with chapel services, interesting seminars, outdoor activities, fun crafts, and even massages. Check out the details at lbbc.com, then register online or give Camp a call at 320-732-3218.



SENIOR ADULT DAY: Tuesday, September 19

Spend a relaxing day at Lake Beauty taking in the fall colors and enjoying the company of others. Reconnect with friends, tour the grounds and catch up on all that is going on at Lake Beauty Bible Camp. Look forward to a wonderful meal and entertainment by Allen & Kyrsten Carlson. Arrive at 9:30 and depart at 2:00. Free of charge! Please make advanced reservations for yourself or for a group by contacting Camp by September 6th. 320-732-3218 or lbbc@lbbc.com

Dads 'N' Daughters September 8-10, 2023



and encouraged!

Join us at Camp Lebanon for a great father-daughter weekend and invest in one of the most important relationships in your family's life! The bond between father and daughter is so important in our world today, and this retreat provides opportunity for that relationship to be strengthened

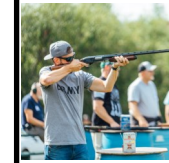
Fall Young At Heart Retreat September 18-21, 2023



Our Fall Young At Heart Retreat comes right on the end of our exciting Summer Camp season. Head up for your own taste of summer at Camp Lebanon – ride the zipline, take a nature walk, or sit by the fire and roast some s'mores! And, as always, enjoy daily hymn singing, solid teaching from God's Word, and dear fellowship with your old and new friends. We can't wait to welcome you to Camp Lebanon this Fall!



Men's Retreat September 22-24, 2023



Schedule a weekend away to unplug, retreat with other guys, and experience God away from the busyness of life. Join with a room full of men singing loudly in worship, enjoy fellowship with other men, and dive deep into God's Word together.

Women's Retreat September 29-October 1 & 6-8, 2023



Cedar Lake, during one of the most beautiful times of the year.

Our Fall Women's Retreats at Camp Lebanon are refreshing and inspiring, offering incredible opportunities for fellowship, instruction, and worship. Treat yourself to this delightful experience on the north shores of

Upcoming Events

Operation Christmas Child

Now is a good time to find school supplies for your boxes! Again this year, you can fill a box/boxes yourself and bring them to church or you can give a monetary donation towards filling boxes. Checks should be written to Community Covenant Church with Operation Christmas Child in the memo. Free Cardboard boxes and labels will be available at church or you can provide your own shoebox. Nancy King has some plastic boxes as well. Those are \$4.00 each. We are asked to give \$10 per box for shipping. This can go in the boxes or you can go online to give the \$10 shipping. Some ideas for your boxes: playing cards, school supplies, batteries (in original packaging or with both ends taped), wet wipes or plain alcohol wipes, toy spiders/bugs/snakes, superheroes or other licensed characters, items with company logos, all types of scissors, squirt guns (that don't look like real guns), glow sticks, compact mirrors, lip balm (non-medicated), playdough (store bought), solid stick deodorant, makeup (non-liquid, adhesive bandages (non-medicated), disposable or reusable feminine hygiene products, eating utensils, marbles, balls, Bibles or other religious literature or symbols. Collection date at church is by November 15th. You can bring your boxes anytime before November 15th to the office or the narthex.



CW Auction September 23

The annual Covenant Women Auction is coming up soon! The auction will be held on Saturday, September 23 at 6:30 PM. Mark your calendar now you so don't miss it. If you have special items that you want listed on the Auction Bill, please contact Wanda Erickson by September 3 at bookreader777@gmail.com. The CW auction raises funds for activities our church women support. In the past, funds have gone to missionaries, Wednesday night meals, camp fund and youth initiatives. Items donated should be new, like new or handmade such as woodworking or



embroidered or baked. We LOVE those baked goods! Each family will be asked to bring a snack to share that night. Come join the fun!

Women's Bible Study

This fall we will be studying "Discerning the Voice of God" by Priscilla Shirer. We will meet on Mondays from 1:00pm-3:00pm & 7:00pm-9:00pm running from September 25-November 6. Through 7 sessions, discover the root to clear and daily communication with God - humble obedience. Learn how surrender unlocks His many blessings intended for us, centers us in His will, and helps us discern His voice in everyday life. Sign Up at the Information Center and make sure to mark which time slot works best for you. We'd love to have the women of our church join us, and bring a friend!



Ladies Night Out

October 5 at Muddy Tailgate in Grey Eagle. Car Pool will leave church at 5:30 PM or meet at Muddy Tailgate at 6:00 PM. Sign up at the information center, please make sure you check off your options for your choice of food. Cost is \$16 per person



MOKAHUM
MINISTRY CENTER

Mokahum Ministry Center is having a Vision Banquet on Friday, October 27, at Evangelical Free Church, Bemidji, MN. If anyone is interested in going, we could carpool. Registration is required.

Save The Date



The CW Christmas banquet will be on Thursday, December 7 and will feature Toni Schwabe.

The Christmas Cookie Sale will be Saturday, December 16. From 8:00am-11:00am



Harvest Fest Sunday October 29, 2022 10:15 AM

Mark your calendars as you won't want to miss this Celebration Sunday with **Higher Call**. The youth will be providing a meal after the service. We ask that you bring a pie to share for the dessert.



Higher Call is a men's quartet based out of the Twin Cities of Minnesota that shares God's gift of music to the surrounding community. Their sound encompasses a full range of rich, resonant harmonies which will ignite your spirit and uplift your soul!