

Community Covenant Church  
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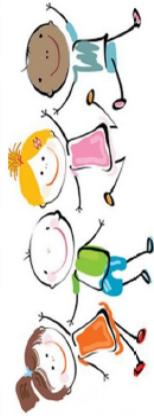
# COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH CHRONICLES

Publication of Community Covenant Church, Upsala, MN

January/February 2022

# J TEAM

2021  
2022



**Wednesdays 6:00–7:35 PM (6:00 Supper)**  
Grades K–6 at Community Covenant Church

**JANUARY**



**5 PAPER RIOT!!!**

Bring old newspapers...the more the funner!

**12 MUSIC NIGHT**

Bring an instrument for our J TEAM concert!

**14-16 MEGA FUN at Camp Lebanon**

2 Night Retreat for grades 3-6! See flyer for details.



**19 SBWBWARDS NIGHT**

Wear your clothes inside out, upside down, or backwards!

**26 FLASHLIGHT II**

Bring a flashlight for ROUND 2! New games!



NOTE: Items listed are always optional and are intended to add to the fun!  
J TEAM will be cancelled if there is no school or if school closes early due to weather.

## What's inside?

- 2 ..... From Pastor's Desk
- 3 ..... Office Talk
- 3 ..... Worship Server Schedule
- 3 ..... Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 4 ..... Youth News
- 5 ..... Christmas Program
- 6.....News to Know
- 7.....Winter Camp info
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- 9 ..... Missionary Update cont.
- 10 ..... January Calendar
- 11.....February Calendar
- 12..... J Team Flyer



Community Covenant Church  
Welcomes You!

**“COVID, SIN NO MORE”**

I’m thinking of the words of Jesus to the woman caught in adultery. After He found a way to release her from judgment and stoning, He told her to “Go, and sin no more” (see John 8:1-11). I’d like to say that to the virus which has plagued us for...long enough. Indiscriminate in its attack, it has injured and killed both the righteous and the unrighteous.

Of course, only God can halt a plague. But I wish there were something like a bronze serpent to mount on a pole, so that all who caught the virus could look at it and be healed (see numbers 21:6-9).

We pray; we wait. We pray more; we hope. We pray more; and we hold up the arms of family members and friends whose loved ones are only slowly getting well...the way Aaron and Hur held up the arms of Moses when the Israelites were fighting the Amalekites (see Exodus 17:8-13).

Perhaps there is a wager in heaven, as was true for Job (see Job 1:6-22). Perhaps Satan, whose name means “adversary,” has bet God that if enough trouble comes our way, we will lose our faith. Many who have struggled with Covid this season have sensed a spiritual battle taking place. If the Enemy is not behind the disease, he certainly is behind the hard feelings people have had for each other when opinions differed about how to respond to it.

We are not without resources. We have the armor of God (see Ephesians 6:10-18). The belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. Almost every piece is defensive, meant to withstand Satan’s assault. Only one piece, the sword, the word of God, is offensive. Our part, for the most part, is to stand and hold our ground. Roman soldiers were trained to defend a six-foot square plot of ground. Paul had this in mind when writing to the Ephesians. So must we defend ground, and let God fight for us. And we have this promise: “Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). We know about the armor. Perhaps we should take time to think about it, put it on while praying, be more serious about it.

We are not in the place of God to direct human affairs and know all that is transpiring in the invisible realm. But we are in position to remain steadfast and loyal, to persevere, to be watchful and hopeful, knowing that ultimately, we will not be disappointed. Even if the worst happens, and we are robbed of life, there is a resurrection coming. And our adversary cannot do a thing about that.



I.H.S., PS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6 PM meal 6:20 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	3	4	5
6 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 7PM CLG	7 7PM Women's Bible Study	8 7:00 PM Properties Team Meeting	9 6 PM meal 6:20 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	10	11	12 Camp Lebanon Annual Meeting here at church
13 NO Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 7PM CLG	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 7PM Women's Bible Study 8PM Men's Bible Study	15 <b>March/April Newsletter Deadline</b>	16 6 PM meal 6:20 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	17	18	19
20 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship with Communion 7PM CLG	21 7PM Women's Bible Study	22	23 6 PM meal 6:20 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	24	25	26
27 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 7PM CLG	28 7PM Women's Bible Study 8PM Men's Bible Study					

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2 NO Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	3 7:00 PM Global Mission Meeting 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study	4	5 6 PM meal 6:20 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	6	7	8
9 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship with Communion 11:30 PM Baked Potato Fundraiser 1:30 JMT 7:00 PM CLG	10	11 7:00 PM Properties Team Meeting	12 6 PM -meal 6:20 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	13 7:00 PM CW Meeting	14 Mega Fun starts at 8pm	15 Mega Fun at Camp Lebanon thru Sunday am  <b>Annual Reports due today</b>
16 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship w/Communion 7:00 PM CLG	17 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study	18	19 6 PM meal 6:20 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	20 7:00 PM Worship Team Meeting 7:30 PM Leadership Team	21	22
23 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 7PM CLG	24 7PM Women's Bible Study	25	26 6 PM meal 6:20 PM JTeam & Avtl	27	28	29
30 9:00 AM SS 10:15 AM Worship 11:30 Potluck 12:20 Annual Meeting 7PM CLG	31 7PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM Men's					

<p><b>Office Hours</b></p> <p>Monday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM                  Tuesday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM                  Wednesday 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM                  Thursday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM                  Friday 8:00 AM - 1:00 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><b>January Worship Servers</b></p> <p><b>Ushers:</b> Ken &amp; Betty Olson</p> <p><b>Nursery Workers</b>                  2. Karen Hoffman &amp; Karlee Warga                  9. Michelle Aleckson &amp; Isabella Warga                  16. Laura Blonigen &amp; Evie Aleckson                  23. Elizabeth V &amp; Trygg Aleckson                  30. Cheryl Warga &amp; Anders Aleckson</p> <p><b>Prayer</b>                  2. Wanda Erickson                  9. Dave Pi                  16. Pastor Steve                  23. Anne Weihsmann                  30. Steve Woller</p> <p><b>Scripture</b>                  Joan Olson                  Linda Pi                  Suzi Johnson                  Tanya Olson                  Cyd Woller</p>	<p><b>February Worship Servers</b></p> <p><b>Ushers:</b> Kurt &amp; Tanya Olson</p> <p><b>Nursery Workers</b>                  6. Jesse Aleckson &amp; Aliah Warga                  13. Tim Peters &amp; Joseph Guthrie                  20. Richard Blonigen &amp; Karlee Warga                  27. Michelle Aleckson &amp; Lucy Aleckson</p> <p><b>Prayer</b>                  6. Pastor Steve                  13. Rudy King                  20. Ken Abrahamson                  27. Joan Olson</p> <p><b>Scripture</b>                  Sheila Brezinka                  Nancy King                  Wanda Erickson                  Anne Weihsmann</p>
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**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, October, December

**Jan Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 1 - Noah Vandergon
- 2 - Matthew Schneider
- 3 - Jesse & Michelle Aleckson
- 4 - Raquel Crowe
- 7 - Eli Johnson
- 9 - Bill & Amber Koopmeiners
- 11 - Joseph Guthrie
- 13 - Gillian Pundsack
- 14 - Michael & Rachel Pangrac
- 17 - Wendy Voronyak
- 22 - Dean Peterson
- 24 - Laura Blonigen  
Karen Hoffman
- 25 - Jeanne Peterson
- 26 - Mona Johnson
- 29 - Robin Block
- 30 - Micah Ripplinger
- 31 - Susie Ripplinger

**Feb Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 2 - Marilyn Woldstad
- 4 - Ryan Crowe
- 8 - Sheila Brezinka
- 8 - Tim & Patty Peterson
- 9 - Arlene Warga, Elizabeth Vandergon, Ron Guthrie
- 12 - Anders Aleckson
- 14 - Evie Aleckson
- 19 - Tony Cluka
- 26 - Amy Klug, Arrow Cluka





### **IGNITE Student Ministry**

Wednesday from 6:30—8:30pm

### **Confirmation & DLT**

Sundays from 9:00-10:00am

Youth Room & Classroom #5



### **SAVE THE DATE!**

March 11th & 12th will be our annual Confirmation Retreat at Lake Beauty Bible Camp. More info will be coming soon to families as the details are worked out with camp.

I can not believe that it is already the start of 2022! 2021 was filled with both blessings and challenges, but we were thankful to see God through all of it. The end of the year kept us busy with the Christmas party (there were many great gifts for the white elephant gift exchange), Christmas Advent readings, the Christmas Eve service, and our New Year's Eve Lock-In. We are so excited that Holdingford Community Country Church and Avon Community Church could join us for the Lock-In this year! Bringing youth groups together is such an awesome opportunity and we love the friendships that are brought together and are made through events like this! I want to give a huge shout out to the youth leaders at this church along with the leaders/Pastors from Avon and Holdingford who helped make this New Year's Eve party possible! We are also so glad to be able to spend time with the adults of the church during the New Year's Eve party as well. Your presence with the students means more than you know, so we are happy to join you! We look forward to what 2022 can bring and we love and appreciate your continued prayers for our youth, youth leaders, and community. May 2022 be a year that we can share Jesus boldly and strive to live like Him every day. Blessings to you in this new year!!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away: behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV).

Arlene Warga, Youth Ministry Chair



### **OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH JAMAICA 2000-2021**

We have been partnering with ministries in Jamaica to share God's love with the people of Jamaica since 2000. Since we have not been down there in almost 2 years due to Covid restrictions we have been able to provide some prayer and financial support, following are a few examples.

Spring Village Training Center received funds to help meet with government required Covid safety precautions so they could resume classes. SVTC received funds to help with shipping a large amount of school supplies/furniture that had been donated from ministries in the states.

Omario Thorpe from Jamaica Christian Boys' Home received a monthly stipend to help with school costs and plans to graduate (3.5GPA) with his Masters in Financial Management in August 2022.

Stafford Brown from JCBH has received assistance with exam fees when the state fell short on their support. (students must pay to take their final exams each semester) Andrew Anglin from JCBH received assistance for supplies as he was building a small, one room home for his family.

Would you kindly help us replenish our funds? Join us for the annual Baked Potato Fundraiser Luncheon after church on Sunday, January 9.



### **A NEW PARTNERSHIP**

Have you heard? A new partnership by CCC is merging with a long term ministry. Dennis and Susie Olson served with Wycliffe in Peru from 1967-1981. While they left that country to serve elsewhere, others stepped in to serve, and the ministry continued. Now after many years there has been a fund established from an estate and we are partnering with Peruvians as we start learning about these indigenous people of Peru and assisting an established outreach.



- \*Books are being translated and provided to help students learn
- \*Teachers are being trained, libraries are being built
- \*Scholarships have been provided
- \*Medical assistance has been given
- \*Widows and orphans are being assisted with food and clothing items.



Want to learn more? Keep an eye out for future updates, check out the bulletin board by the upstairs drinking fountain, ask Dennis and Susie or any of the Global Missions team members.

**Learning, caring and praying together!**

# Missionary Update

## Will and MaryJo Ruck



Here are some updates from Will and MaryJo (Koopmeiners) Ruck who have been serving with Relevant Ministries in Nagoya, Japan at Christ Bible Institute since 2012. Children: Eddie, Nora & Judy

We are thankful for all of you who are praying for us as we serve here in Japan and for all of you who support us financially. We are thankful that God has brought people into our lives who see the need for the Gospel to be shared, and disciples to be made throughout the world and who sacrifice to make that happen. You are the answers to our prayers. Without people and churches who support us we would not be able to be here serving in Japan. Thank you. At CBI our mission is to equip Christians in Japan for the work of Gospel ministry. Our most recent project completed by CBI Press was 10,000 copies of The Gospel Centered Life translated into Japanese. This is the fourth book that we have translated into Japanese, printed, and then distributed throughout Japan.

Earlier this year we received a grant so that we could convert the guest room at CBI into a recording space where we can record promotional material for the seminary and record classes so that we can offer an online

degree program. The process has started and we've done a small trial recording.

Last fall we sponsored our third online seminar with Ed Welch who spoke about his book *Caring for One Another*. It has been exciting to see hundreds of people from all over Japan joining in on these seminars. My role has been to manage the Zoom webinar and make sure that all the slides and music work.

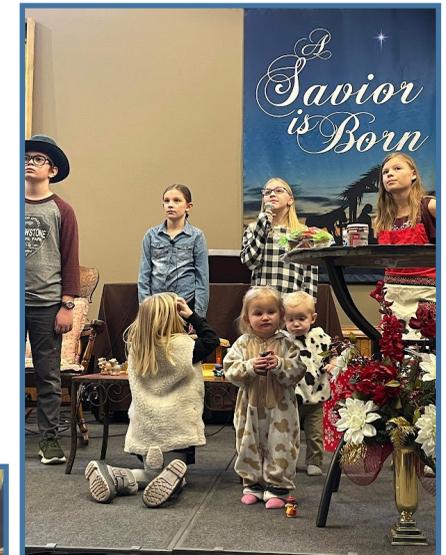
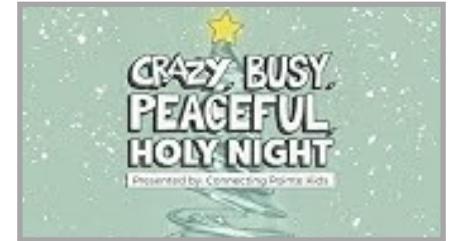
Please pray for us as we continue in these ministries to reach the people of Japan with the Gospel and for our witness and our neighbors this season? Pray for deepening relationships, for openness to come to church, to hear the gospel and to be in community with each other."

## Update From Our Overseas Workers

Terry and Sara are thankful for each of you and the Church for making it possible for us to complete checking the book of Psalms, as well as Acts, for two teams during the past year. Terry is now working on the Minor Prophets and preparing to begin teaching translation theory and method at Dallas International University beginning next fall.

# Christmas Program

What a wonderful experience we all shared during the children's Christmas program! The kids did a great job singing and being in the nativity scene! Thanks to all the parents for bringing their kids and to the leaders that helped make this a special Sunday we will not soon forget! If you happened to miss the program and still wanted to see it, you can contact Elizabeth Vandergon at (320) 309-1764. We recorded it so you can get a DVD to check out from the church.



## 133rd Annual Meeting

All members and friends are welcome to attend the **133<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 30, 2022**. Members are able to vote on motions, friends are not. The meeting will be held immediately following the All-Church Potluck. Please have all **Annual Meeting reports** turned into the office by Friday, **January 15<sup>th</sup>**. Email is preferred.



## Women's Bible Study

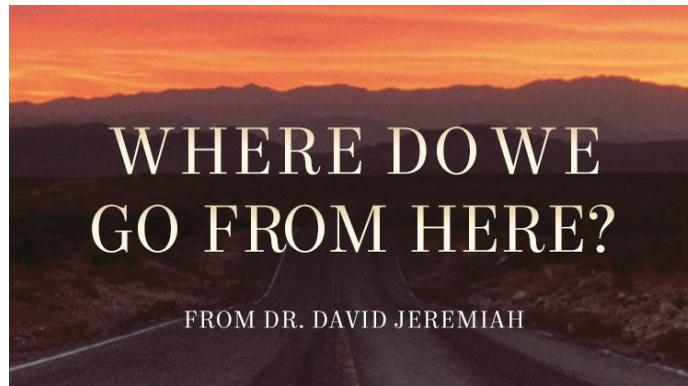


All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you — unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life. A devoted, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you: your heart, your mind, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your

resilience, your dreams, your destiny. But his battle plan depends on catching you unaware and unarmed. If you're tired of being pushed around and caught with your guard down, this study is for you. The enemy always fails miserably when he meets a woman dressed for the occasion. The Armor of God, more than merely a biblical description of the believer's inventory, is an action plan for putting it on and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory. All women are encouraged to join us for this study - Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 pm, beginning January 24. Watch for a Sign Up Sheet so we can make sure we have enough books (\$8.50 each). Contact Cyd Woller if you have any questions - 763-350-0292.

## CW Secret Pals

Starting January 1, Covenant Women can become Secret Pals! Pick up a participation card from Wanda Erickson (or in the church office), fill out and return to Wanda by January 16. Any woman in the church, post high school, can participate. Pals will be assigned that week. Secret Pals will be connected after that. A small box of potential gifts will be available for those wanting to give items. Secret Pal greeting cards will be available for all Pals to use. The first round will run from January—March with a Big Reveal Gathering in April. Make a friend. Get to know someone more fully. Have fun!



The more we look around today, the more it seems our modern world and contemporary way of life are hanging by a thread. We're emerging from the pangs of a pandemic, yet society remains haunted by the specters of socialism, globalism, and cancel culture. The economy is in flux, the church is in decline, and Jerusalem once again sits atop the powder keg of global politics. What

should we do now? How can we move forward as citizens of God's kingdom even as the world teeters on the brink? In **Where Do We Go from Here?** Dr. David Jeremiah shows us that the colliding crises in our culture are not isolated incidents or random misfortunes. They are as connected as a spider's web. With each passing day, tectonic forces are pushing us closer to the end of history. Yet this is not a time for despair! Instead, this is a time to examine ever more closely the calm assurance of God's prophetic plan. These videos will help you do just that by exploring ten current moments and movements in light of that plan. Each one highlights what's happening, what Scripture says, and where we can go from here. In the end, you'll be reminded once again that our exalted Lord, the risen Christ, knows the way forward. Join the **Sunday evening Community Life Group**, starting January 9th at 7:00pm. Contact Bruce Warga if you have any questions (320) 493-0672

# Camp News

## MEGA FUN

JANUARY 14-16, 2022

Camp Lebanon's Mega Fun Overnight winter camp weekend are for **boys and girls in grades 3-6!**



## TRAILBLAZER WINTER RETREAT

FEBRUARY 5-6, 2022

Lake Beauty's Trailblazer Winter Retreat is for **boys and girls currently in 3rd-5th grades**

