

Community Covenant Church
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COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH CHRONICLES

Publication of Community Covenant Church, Upsala, MN

January/February 2023

J TEAM

2022
2023



Wednesdays
6:00–7:35 PM
(6:00 Supper)

Grades K–6 at Community Covenant Church

JANUARY



4 PAPER RIOT!!!

Bring lots of old newspapers.



11 FORT NIGHT

Bring an old blanket and some pillows!

13-15 MEGA FUN at Camp Lebanon

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



18 LEGOS NIGHT

Bring a LEGO creation or build your own at J TEAM!

25 SQUIRT GUN NIGHT



Bring a squirt gun and a fun beach towel!

FEBRUARY

1 THOIM 20RAWX3AB

Wear your clothes backwards or inside out!



8 CAMO NIGHT

Wear or bring anything CAMO!



15 Quarters Night

Bring lots and lots of quarters for our special offering project!

22 ASH WEDNESDAY (No J Team)

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?

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For surely I know the plans I have for you,
says the Lord, plans for your welfare
and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

JEREMIAH 29:11



A NEW YEAR, A NEW MOTTO

Two years ago, we adopted the motto: “FORWARD!” It conveyed both a desire to let go of things in the past which might keep us spinning our wheels, and a desire to advance with God into the preferred future He was showing us. We experienced a measure of healing and growth.

Last year we lived with the motto: “Move 2^o in 2022.” It encouraged us to modify the compass bearing we were already traveling by just a little so as to make our church activities into community activities which would appeal to those who did not yet know Jesus. Again, we experienced growth and joy.

For this new year I propose a new motto: “Walk Through the Open Door.” Actually, our Chairman, Richard Blonigen, suggested it. Its purpose is to keep us alert to opportunities and to take advantage of them. The opportunities will be related to the three aspects of our mission as a church: TO EXALT CHRIST, TO EMBRACE THE COMMUNITY, AND TO EXTEND COMPASSION.

We are enjoying a time of peace and harmony (there are a few issues swirling around school curriculum which need to be resolved with grace and Christian love, but we are looking for a time of increased fruitfulness.) We are hoping to see a move of God’s Spirit, to see many people come to Christ, and to disciple those people into maturity.

To that end, with the support of the Leadership Team, I have prepared two booklets. One is a discipleship course which can be taken by any group in the church over eight or ten weeks. The other is a series of discipleship “steps,” called FAITH BUILDERS, similar to the course, but designed to be taken in any order at any comfortable pace by individuals or families. Both booklets can help those who use them to go on to disciple others.

One of the signs of biological life is reproduction. And it is also a sign of spiritual life. It is my hope that we will reproduce mature followers of Jesus through discipleship, Life Groups, Bible Studies, Sunday School classes, Confirmation, Youth Group, J-Team, Adventure Land, affinity groups, and one-on-one mentorships. All these provide support for growth and accountability. I hope too that we will take risks and try new things as God gives us ideas, courage, and strength.

PS



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6 PM meal 6:20 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	2	3	4
5 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 7PM CLG	6 7PM Women’s Bible Study	7	8 9-2 UHS Knowledge Bowl @ Church 6 PM meal 6:20 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	9	10 10pm The After Half	11
12 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 7PM CLG	13 7PM Women’s Bible Study 8PM Men’s Bible Study	14 1. Valentine’s Days March/April Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM Properties Team Meeting	15 6 PM meal 6:20 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	16	17	18
19 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship with Communion 7PM CLG	20 Presidents’s DAY	21	22 6 PM meal 6:20 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	23	24	25 Time TBD CW Connection “Enjoy the Cold”
26 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 7PM CLG	27 8PM Men’s Bible Study	28				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:15 AM Worship 	2 8PM Men's Bible Study	3	4 6 PM meal 6:20 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	5 3:15 PM UYC	6	7
8 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 7:00 PM CLG	9 7:30PM Leadership Team Meeting	10 7PM Properties Team Meeting	11 6 PM meal 6:20 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite @ Ripplinger's	12 3:15 PM UYC 7 PM CW Meeting	13 10pm The After Half <div>Mega Fun @ Camp Lebanon</div>	14
15 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship 7:00 PM CLG Annual Reports due today	16 7PM Women's Bible Study 8PM Men's Bible Study	17	18 6 PM -meal 6:20 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	19 3:15 PM UYC 7:00 PM CPR Training	20	21
22 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship w/Communion 7:00 PM CLG	23 7PM Women's Bible Study	24 <div>ECC Midwinter in Jacksonville FL</div>	25 6 PM meal 6:20 PM JTeam & Avtl 6:30 PM Ignite	26 5:30 PM CW Ladies Night Out @ Black & White	27	28
29 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 134th Annual Meeting 7PM CLG	30 12-6 PM Blood Drive 7PM Women's Bible Study 8PM Men's Bible Study	31				

Office Hours	January Worship Servers	February Worship Servers
Monday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Tuesday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Wednesday 8:00 AM -12:00 PM Thursday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Friday 8:00 AM -12:00 PM 122 S. Main Street PO Box 278 Upsala, MN 56384 320-573-2672 covenant@upsalacov.org www.upsalacov.org Evangelical Covenant Church www.covchurch.org	Ushers: Kirt & Tanya Olson Nursery Workers 1. Laura Blonigen & Trygg Aleckson 8. Cheryl Warga & Evie Aleckson 15. Jesse Aleckson & Aliah Warga 22. Richard Blonigen & Benjamin V 29. Tim Peterson & Lucy Aleckson Prayer 1. Phil Johnson 8. Dave Pi 15. Wanda Erickson 22. Karen Hoffman 29. Cyd Woller Scripture Betty Olson Linda Pi Evan Yorek Sheila Brezinka Steve Woller	Ushers: Ken & Betty Olson Nursery Workers 5. Elizabeth V & Trygg Aleckson 12. Laura Blonigen & Nora Hollerman 19. Michelle Aleckson & Bella Warga 26. Karen Hoffman & Aliah Warga Prayer 5. Pastor Steve 12. Sandi Soderberg 19. Mokahum Ministry Center Guests 26. Leif Johnson Scripture Robin Block Tina Yorek Suzi Johnson

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
- 6 - Crew Van Sloten
- 8 - Sheila Brezinka, Tim & Patty Peterson
- 9 - Arlene Warga, Elizabeth Vandergon, Ron Guthrie
- 12 - Anders Aleckson, Aliah Warga
- 14 - Evie Aleckson
- 26 - Amy Klug



Youth Update



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IGNITE has had a great first semester this school year. We really had a great time with our series on Esther and even learned about having our own version of the Jewish holiday, Purim, based on the story of Esther. Basically you read the story of Esther, Dress Up funny, eat cookies, and BOO Heyman loudly whenever his name is read. It was fun. Then we had a 2 week series looking at the original coming of Christ as a baby, and then preparing ourselves for Christ coming again one day. That was a very interesting study which fit great going into Christmas.



Another interesting thing I (Zach) have been working on is coming up with a nice logo for Ignite Student Ministries. I was looking through some old files and found something I thought looked cool and changed up a few things and I think it turned out nicely. Looking forward to seeing this as the Ignite Student Ministry logo going forward.



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

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We have had a great honor this school year with having 4 students from Solid Rock School of Discipleship (pictured above), join us as leaders for Ignite on Wednesdays. It has been really wonderful to see them interacting with our students as they practice their leadership. We look forward to the rest of the school year with them as they continue to grow in their leadership and connect with all the students here. If you see them around church on Sunday or Wednesday I am sure they would be more than willing to talk and share about themselves.

Want to stay updated on IGNITE announcements?

For Texts

Enter this number

81010 ?

Text this message
@igniteccc ?

For Emails

Send an email to

zach@upsalacov.org



Jamaica Update

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Jamaica Short Term Missions

Please pray for Steve & Cyd Woller and Dave & Linda Piasecki as they prepare now and while they serve in Jamaica from January 29- February 16.

Linda & Dave will be in Kingston (Jan. 29- Feb 9) to serve at Hope Valley and Callaloo Mew Schools doing service projects, assisting with a house build and visiting young men from Jamaica Christian Boys Home. They will then go to Spring Village to work in the schools with after school programs, tutoring and teaching.



Cyd & Steve will be in Spring Village (Feb.2-16) to help with projects to finish the Midwife Birth-ing Center at the Medical Center. We will be partnering with Dr. Gail and Randy Finnikin.

Items to donate: The team will be taking down a variety of tools to use and donate to the shop program at the SV Training Center. Allen wrenches, screw driver set, hack saw, pvc cutter, prong testers, solder iron and combination linesman pliers are items that are needed.

Another item that has been requested by the Kingston ministry is adult diapers for the severely disabled adults/children at West Haven. If you have an elderly friend or family member who no longer needs these items, please consider donating them.



Jamaica Potato Bake

Join us to raise funds for our Jamaica Ministry Partners. Come eat on Sunday, March 5 at our baked potato luncheon.



Will and MaryJo Ruck



William and MaryJo Ruck have been on the mission field in Japan since 2013. MaryJo grew up in our church and we have been one of their supporting churches since they started in ministry.

Here is a brief summary of their recent work:

Over the last year we have been working on launching a new website for Christ Bible Institute. One of the primary reasons for creating the new website is to provide a hub for sharing and releasing new resources in Japanese. We have been hard at work translating articles, writing original ones and putting together videos to post on the site. Our hope is to create an easy space where Japanese Christians can find encouraging and educational material.

This fall we hosted an intensive counseling course at CBI. My job is to live stream the entire class for students that are unable to join in person. In previous years this class might have been limited to people who could join here in Nagoya but being able to utilize technology we are reaching further and further.

If you'd like more information about CBI check out their website at: <https://cbijapan.org/>

As we move forward please pray:

- * that God would give us, as a team, the wisdom to work together well and efficiently
- * that we would choose good resources to translate into Japanese.
- * that we would continue to expand our reach so that more and more Christians in Japan may be equipped for the work of Gospel ministry.
- * for Jo and I to be wise in how we raise our children here in Japan.

- The Upsala Youth Center is still meeting on Thursdays in the youth room here at the church after school. This is still open to all 7th–12th graders . We have a good variety of activities to do here between, video games, board games, card games, and many more games of different types. Even Swat occasionally.

- This winter we will be having a few times of The After Half which is a hang out time after a home basketball game from 10 to Midnight. Here are a few of the upcoming dates. **January 13th & February 10th.**

- If you would like to be put on the list of Volunteers to help at the Youth Center or if you would like to volunteer to bring/ make treats for the students, please let Zach know so he can make a list of those helping out.

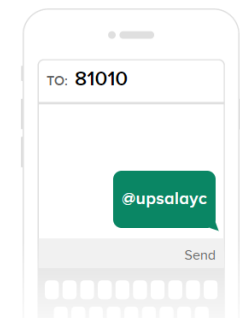
To get Remind update texts on the Youth Center please text @upsalayc to 81010 ----->



Tell people to text @upsalayc to the number 81010

They'll receive a welcome text from Remind.

If anyone has trouble with 81010, they can try texting @upsalayc to (757) 337-4602.



News to Know

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134th Annual Meeting

All members and friends are welcome to attend the **134th Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2023**. Members are able to vote on motions, friends are not. The meeting will be held immediately following the meal after church. Please have all **Annual Meeting reports** turned into the office by Sunday, **January 15th**. Email is preferred.

ANNUAL MEETING

Women's Bible Study



A new 6 week Women's Bible Study will be Jan. 16 - Feb. 20, from 7:00pm-9:00pm. We will be looking at Jesus as a Jewish Rabbi and Theologian. As we understand Jesus' teaching from his perspective it helps our understanding of what He taught and how it speaks to us. Please sign up for this study in the entry area so that we know how many copies we need to have on hand. Nancy King will be leading with Cyd Woller helping with logistics.

CPR Class

January 19th at 7:00 pm at Community Covenant Church there will be a CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) class for those interested. There will be no charge unless you want a certification card. AED (automatic external defibrillator) will also be include. A sign up sheet will be at the Information Center. See Linda Pepin with any questions.



CW Connection



Ladies, feel adventurous? How about challenging yourself to ENJOY THE COLD? On the afternoon of Saturday, February 25 join us for a walk, or try cross country skiing, or maybe even try out a pair of snowshoes (activity will be determined by the amount of snow). We'll move around to stay warm and also have some snacks around a campfire. Come join us for a time of fellowship and connection. Watch for the sign up sheet, and further details in the bulletin after the new year.



Continued...

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Blood Drive

Monday, January 30 Noon to 6pm American Red Cross Blood Drive at Community Covenant Church. After a successful blood drive last September, you have another opportunity to help save lives. Please consider signing up on the chart at the information counter or if you prefer, sign up online at redcrossblood.org



Craft with Peggy



Peggy Peter will be holding a craft event mid January. You will be making a wood burned cutting board. She has stencils to pick from or you can bring your own. The limited spots have been filled so you will be contacted on when we can get your group a date and time to meet! A \$15 suggested donation is appreciated. Please pay as you are able. Sign up at the Information Center.

Camp News

MEGA FUN

JANUARY 13-15, 2022

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

