

Community Covenant Church
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Community Covenant Church CHRONICLES

Publication of Community Covenant Church, Upsala, MN

May / June 2023



Family Camp

Family Camp weekends are full of friends, family, and an incredible variety of fun activities for all ages. Family Camp at Lake Beauty has become a tradition for hundreds of people each year, many with 2 or 3 generations sharing the time together in the campground, cabin or retreat center. From inspiring Chapel worship to cozy evening campfires, here is a time and place to reconnect with the ones you love. You can click on the icon above to check out these camps and dates on the website.



**LAKE BEAUTY
 BIBLE CAMP**

Community Covenant Church Family Camping Weekend

Join us at Lake Beauty Bible Camp July 13-16 for our church Family Camping Weekend. Watch for the brochures in your church box in June. Those planning to camp for the weekend should call camp @320-732-3218. Rates are located at <https://www.lbbc.com/family-camps>.

Worship at Camp

On Sunday, July 16 at 10:00 AM, we will be having our worship service at Lake Beauty Bible Camp instead of at the church. Mark your calendars!

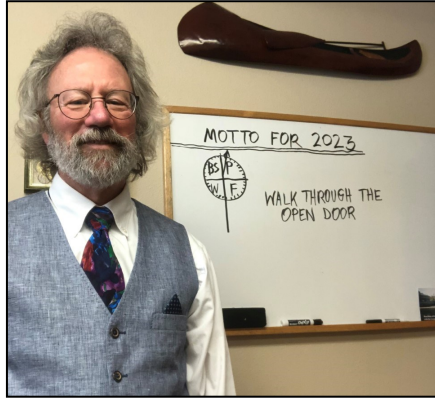


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From the Pastor's Desk

"IF YOU FIND YOURSELF A QUART LOW..."



One of the great pleasures in life for some of us is the marvelous elixir which comes from the coffee bean. My father-in-law liked to tell the story of its discovery, which upon research proves to be true, and involves some goats in the 9th century who munched the beans from a coffee bush in Ethiopia and then behaved in quite an animated way, to the wonder of their shepherds. Who then tried the beans for themselves.

Coffee is an acquired taste being bitter by nature, and I would never have started to like it, except that we had a coffee break in seminary after our first class,

and the campus kitchen sent over the most amazing doughnuts. Great for dunking in coffee. I liked the doughnuts, and soon I liked the coffee too.

Which brings me to the observation that some people like coffee so well that they are always "a quart low." They can drink it all day, and often carry with them thermal mugs, or if they are connoisseurs, legitimate thermoses.

Knowing this, the Adult Ministry Team has offered to the community, during the colder months a Saturday morning coffee and doughnut time. With the added incentive of cribbage. Certainly, it is a nice gesture. But there is a deeper purpose. There is an OPEN DOOR for us, if we care to walk through it. Fellowship times like these provide opportunities to interact with people who may not come to a church service but may be willing to talk about spiritual things in a relaxed setting. Not only are some people "a quart low" in coffee; they may also be a quart low in the Holy Spirit, who longs to fill them with Himself and transform them. Not to make them more animated, but to give them genuine life through faith in Jesus to Whom the Spirit points.

We need not be experts in the Bible to have spiritual conversations, although there are some good helps in this direction from the FAITH BUILDERS pamphlet and the DISCIPLESHIP COURSE. We just need to be able to tell our own story of meeting Jesus, or of how our life has changed over time because of placing confidence in Him. In the DISCIPLESHIP COURSE we learn to do this in two minutes, which is enough time to make a difference in someone's life.

Coffee and doughnuts, for people a quart low...one way to have meaningful conversations with people who need Jesus. The community garden is another way. I have been thinking about an art gallery. Others have suggested a front porch music jam. Perhaps you can think of a way too...

PS

June 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:30 AM Worship with Blessing of the Bikes	5 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study	6	7 6pm-9pm Summer Youth @ Church Fire Pit	Sr. High Service Trip @ Joni & Friends		
11 9:30 AM Worship CW Dessert Potluck	12	13 7:00 PM Properties Meeting	14 July/August Newsletter deadline 6pm-9pm Summer Youth @ Upsala Park	15	16	17
Sr. High Service Trip @ Joni & Friends						
18 Father's Day 9:30 AM Worship with communion	19 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study	20 7:00 PM Congregational care meeting	21 6pm-9pm Summer Youth @ Jim & Sam Warga's	22	23	24
25 9:30 AM Worship	26	27	28 6pm-9pm Summer Youth @ Leif & Suzi Johnson's	136th ECC Annual Meeting -Garden Grove, CA		

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 PM CW & 5 C's Team Meeting	2	3 6:00 PM Meal 6:30-7:30 PM J Team & Adventureland 6:30 PM Ignite	4 7:00 AM National Day Of Prayer 1pm Cribbage	5	6 8:00 AM Spring Cleanup & Outreach Day Solid Rock Graduation
7 Confirmation Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	8 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study	9 7:00 PM Worship Team Meeting	10 6:00 PM Meal 6:30-7:30 PM J Team & Adventureland Finale 6:30 PM Ignite	11 1pm Cribbage	12	13 8:00am Coffee, Donuts & Cribbage Lake Beauty Clean-Up Day
14 Mother's Day 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	15	16 5-8pm CW Spring Biking Event 6:30 PM Congregational care Meeting	17 6:30 PM Ignite End of Year Party!	18 1pm Cribbage	19	20
21 Graduation Sunday 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship w/ Communion 7pm Baccalaureate	22 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study	23	24 Youth Wifflepalooza @ Lebanon 6-9pm	25 1pm Cribbage	26 7:00 PM UHS Graduation	27
28 NOTE WORSHIP TIME CHANGE 9:30 AM Worship	29 Memorial Day REMEMBER AND HONOR	30	31			

Office Hours

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

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Evangelical Covenant Church
 www.covchurch.org

May Worship Servers

Ushers: Paul & Susie Ripplinger

Nursery Workers

- 7. Jesse Aleckson & Trygg Aleckson
- 14. Richard B & Nora Hollermann
- 21. Cheryl Warga & Bella Aleckson
- 28. Michelle Aleckson & Evie Aleckson

Prayer

- 7. Steve Weihsmann
- 14. Anne Weihsmann
- 21. Karen Hoffman
- 28. Dan Voronyak

Scripture

- Randy Peter
- Tanya Olson
- Paulie Panek
- Wendy Voronyak

June Worship Servers

Ushers: Steve & Cyd Woller

Nursery Workers

- 4. Karen Hoffman & Lucy Aleckson
- 11. Elizabeth V & Trygg Aleckson
- 18. Laura Blonigen & Benjamin V
- 25. Tim Peterson & Bella Warga

Prayer

- 4. Steve Weihsmann
- 11. Leif Johnson
- 18. Phil Johnson
- 25. Steve Woller

Scripture

- Evan Yorek
- Suzi Johnson
- Betty Olson
- Cyd Woller

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:
 14th of February, April, June, October, December

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 - Randy Pepin, Roger & Sue Aleckson
- 2 - Gabe Hollenbeck
- 4 - Zac Piasecki, Cyd Woller
- 5 - Gustave & Delores Hoffman
- 9 - Bruce Warga
- 10 - Audrey Thomas
- 11 - Nancy King
- 12 - Trygg Aleckson, Gabriel Hoffman, Josh & Brooke Knudtson
- 13 - Brad Halloran
- 14 - Matthew Vandergon, Emil Pundsack
- 20 - Josie Hollermann, Tara Prout, Zach Klein
- 21 - Karlee Peterson
- 22 - Micah Hollenbeck
- 23 - Sheri Johnson
- 25 - Lydia Prout, Aden Warga
- 29 - Andrew Ripplinger, Declan Knudtson, Bob & Pam Lemonds
- 30 - Randy & Peggy Peter
- 31 - Yasmine Crowe, Jolene Pundsack

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 - Charlie Wolbeck
- 4 - Craig & Wanda Erickson
- 5 - Linda Temp
- 6 - Bill Koopmeiners
- 7 - Gustave Hoffman, Ken Olson, Shane & Melinda Hollenbeck, Pastor Steve & Anne Weihsmann
- 9 - Molly Abrahamson, Dylan Warga
- 10 - Nick & Amy Klug
- 13 - Adeline Hollermann
- 15 - Monica Halloran
- 16 - Sophie Blonigen
- 18 - Dwayne & Jolene Pundsack
- 21 - Sarah Thomas
- 23 - Sharon Rohde
- 24 - Phil Johnson
- 25 - Delores Hoffman, Eldon & Sandi Soderberg
- 26 - Dan Voronyak, Todd & Tara Prout
- 28 - Phil & Mona Johnson
- 29 - Samuel Blonigen





Hello Everyone!

As the school year comes to a close and summer is about here, it is fun to think about all the wonderful things that happened this school year. I did my best to create a youth environment that was inclusive of the students who joined us, as well as fun, and also had Biblical truth being taught. I think we accomplished that this year.

We learned about Esther and how God is in control of everything and puts things in place for such a time as this. We learned about our Identity in Christ and that His thoughts about who we are matter more than what the world thinks we should be. We also talked about the Church from the very start and we discussed what the church is **NOT** as well as what the church **IS**. At Ignite we want to create a space that models the first church. A place where believers can come and be supportive of each other, can laugh, cry, celebrate, and mourn with each other, but ultimately a place that worships the one true God who created all of us and loves us so much. I hope that along with Ignite, we as Community Covenant Church will strive to be a congregation like that of the first church in Acts 2.

- Pastor Zach



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 2023

This winter Community Covenant Church sent Steve & Cyd Woller and Dave & Linda Piasecki down to Jamaica to continue our partnership with ministries that began 20+ years ago. In Kingston we helped with a JaBode build for a young woman with 3 children who lost her home to fire. Although she lives in a community with high poverty she has every desire to provide a safe place to care for her children. Through Jamaica Missions she now has 4 secure walls and a roof on her home that is 16x21 feet, giving her an opportunity to help her family be safe.



Our evenings were spent reconnecting with 5 young men from the orphanage where we used to serve until it closed. Each young man shared their desires to succeed, improve their skills, provide for their families and the challenges they face. Each are grateful for the opportunities that teams over the years have given them to learn and feel cared for.

In Spring Village, we helped work on finishing a Midwife Center. Mothers desire to carry a baby to full term and have a healthy delivery with a healthy baby. Frequently their only option is an unsanitary clinic or a home birth without water or electricity which makes having a healthy baby much more challenging. Dr. Gail has taken a shipping container, and with the help of mission teams, turned it into a birthing center with running water and electricity. She hopes to give midwives an opportunity to become certified and mothers the opportunity to deliver in a safe setting.



Children have a desire to explore, learn and be creative, we provided some opportunities. In typical classrooms of 30+ students, those with learning challenges are easily left behind. Cyd and Linda were able to work with 3 small groups of struggling readers who tried hard and felt joy at little successes they had with our "simplified" lessons. The team was also able to provide some funds to help get some of those children evaluated for their learning needs.

After school, we provided an after school program, youth ages 5-13 enjoyed relays, devotions and craft time. Other donations from the church were used to help the voc-tech program improve their programs, assisted with supplies for a home for the disabled, and provided tools & supplies for the Midwife Center. Thank You!

2024 seems far off but we've already begun planning. We hope you will consider joining us in Jamaica to serve, love and share the Good News. Ask Linda or Dave Piasecki about this opportunity.



James Tang

This past summer the ECCSSE, Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan and Ethiopia, celebrated their 25th Anniversary as a part of the Evangelical Covenant Church. The President, Rev. Matthew Jock Moses led the celebration at Gambella. Gambella is the headquarters for the denomination. Rev. Jerry Rice from our



own Northwest Conference is the person who helped establish the ECCSSE. Through our partnership with them a school was also established, the Jerry Rice Bible School where they can train pastors. It has been a very challenging road along the way due in large part to the civil conflict in South Sudan that has displaced the population of the South Sudanese peoples. They are working on church plant

growth, collecting the data for the history of ECCSSE, development of congregations, and developing training in education. At this time James Tang is ministering in Nairobi, Kenya.



Colin Welch with EFCA Reach Global ministry, has raised the support needed for him to head to Paris, France. On April 17 Colin flew to France. The Lord provided for him to get his Visa quickly which was a real answer to prayer.

Prayer requests for Colin: *Please pray for safety and provision during travels to the field. *From culture shock to learning the French way of life. *For wisdom and guidance throughout this transition onto the field. *Please continue to pray for my grandmother's battle with cancer. She is doing better and better, but the fight is not over.

Praises: *Praise God for his sacrifice - taking on sin and death in our stead! *Praise God for his provision in building up this partnership team! I am so blessed and honored to be serving the Lord alongside you. *Praise God for his provision in the visa process.



2023 IGNITE

SUMMER CALENDAR

ALL WEDNESDAY NIGHT EVENTS RUN FROM 6-9PM. RIDES WILL BE PROVIDED FROM CHURCH.

- MAY 24TH - WIFFLEPALOOZA 2 - AT CAMP LEBANON 6-9PM
MEET AT CHURCH FOR A RIDE AT 5:45PM

- JUNE 7TH - @ CHURCH FIRE PIT
- JUNE 8-13TH - JONI AND FRIENDS RETREAT - SERVICE TRIP
- JUNE 14TH - @ UPSALA PARK
- JUNE 21ST - @ JIM AND SAM WARGA'S
- JUNE 28TH - @ LEIF AND SUZI JOHNSON'S

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2 3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- JULY 5TH - @ PAUL AND SUSIE RIPPLINGER'S
- JULY 12TH - @ VORONYAK'S
- JULY 19TH - @ TIM AND PATTY PETERSON'S
- JULY 26TH - @ CEDAR LAKE PARK

- AUGUST 2ND - @ DEAN & JEANNE PETERSON'S
- AUGUST 6-9 - VBS
- AUGUST 10-12 - MUUCE FOR JR. HIGHERS
- AUGUST 16TH - @ ARLENE WARGA'S
- AUGUST 23RD - @ PASTOR STEVE'S

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Events & Happenings



Covenant Women's Outdoor Spring Event

Join us for a bike ride on the Wobegon Trail on Tuesday, May 16 from 5–8pm. Invite a friend and sign up at the Information Center.

June Time of Connection

Everyone in the church is welcome to participate in Covenant Women's June Time of Connection. After the church service on June 11, we will have a dessert potluck. Bring your favorite dessert and the recipe to share. We would like to have copies of the recipes available that day, please give your recipe to Karen Hoffman by June 4.



God's Girls Bible Study

Girls going into 3-7 grade in the fall are invited to attend God's Girls bible study on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. starting June 7. If the weather is nice, we will meet under the trees in front of church. If poor, we will meet in church or across the street at the community center. We will be studying the book of Mark. Contact Karen Hoffman at 320-808-6678 or at k_remer@hotmail.com if you have a child or know someone who is interested.



Blessing Of the Bikes

Please join us on Sunday, June 4, for our Blessing of the Bikes. We will have our worship service at 9:30am followed by a blessing and ride at 10:45am. We will stop for lunch at Stone Hill Bar and Grill west of Randall.



Starting May 28th at 9:30am



Global Mission Updates

Mokahum Ministry Opportunity



MOKAHUM
MINISTRY CENTER

We have received a request for help from Paul Jorgenson at Mokahum. This summer the Mokahum ministry needs to build a large garage up at their Cass Lake campus. They will be needing concrete people, framers, and carpenters. It will be a large 2 car+ garage plus workshop. It will be a Menard's kit garage. They will need several work parties over the course of June, July, and August. They can feed and possibly house us or we can bring RV's.

We don't have set dates at this point but we will put out information as it comes available. If you would be interested in possibly helping, please let Nancy King or Pastor Steve know.



Covenant Kids Congo powered by World Vision is the first partnership of its kind between World Vision and a denomination. With the Covenant's 80 years in DR Congo coupled with World Vision's 40 years, we bring expertise, relationships, and over a century of combined experience, as we work with our friends on the ground to bring about sustainable community development. Many sponsorship programs focus only on helping select children rather than working toward long-term community development. What makes the World Vision sponsorship program unique is that your donations go to bless the lives of all children in the community where your sponsored child lives, through long-lasting sustainable development. Your financial support builds infrastructure for water, health, education, agriculture, economic development, and advocacy. Your sponsored child benefits greatly, and so does their family and their community. This child sponsorship program is about community transformation over a 15-20 year period. Partnerships are key to this effort.

May 20, 2023 The Evangelical Covenant Denomination is asking churches to sponsor a 6K for water for the Congo. We are looking into whether our church should do this. Would you be willing to help run a 6K here in Upsala? Let Nancy King or Pastor Steve know if you would be willing to help out with this.