

# THE COVENANT CONNECTION

Volume XIV No. 24  
September 23, 2009

Covenant United Methodist Church

**Praise & Worship Night**  
Friday, October 9th  
7:00pm

Attend our first open night of led worship. Come, sing along, worship, & pray.

It's completely informal.  
**Bring a Friend!**

**Calling all 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders:**

The 5/6 Youth Group will meet for the first time this year on Sunday, Sept. 27 from 6:30-8:00 at Covenant in rooms 8 & 10. We will see old friends from last year and welcome new members with Ice Cream Sundays and games. Friends welcome. Questions, call Toni at 951-4715.

## **The Pirates of Penzance**



Interfaith Hospitality of Spokane's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Night at Spokane Civic Theatre

Wednesday, September 30  
Doors Open & Silent Auction begins at 6:30 p.m.  
Curtain Call at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$30 per person  
**Call Jeanne Tomlinson for your tickets 464-3475**

## **School Bells are Ringing... all over the world**



Our world's poorest children face a lifetime of hardship due to economic, political and social factors beyond their control. We know that for these children to overcome such barriers they must receive an education, though unlike the children here in the United States the children of El Salvador do not have access to free public education.

That is why CUMC has forged a relationship with the children of El Paisnal, El Salvador through our sister church, Buenas Nuevas Lutheran Church and has provided financial support for their education. This is done through the efforts of you the congregation.

For \$120 a year you can fund the education tuition, uniform, books and supplies for one child for one year. Your sponsorship not only funds a child's education but helps to create hope for the future of the entire village. If you feel at all moved to consider sponsorship of a child in El Salvador please contact me or any sister church ministry team member.

Thank you,  
Ronda Hain and the Sister Church Ministry Team

*Covenant's*



**WESTERN DANCE • GAMES • MUSIC**

**Save the Date!**

**Saturday, October 17 7:00-9:30pm**

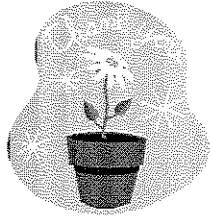
### **CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT**

To reach out to those around us, receive people with genuine warmth and hospitality, relate our lives to God and to one another, equip each other as Christian disciples through small group ministry, and to go out into the world to make it more loving and just in the name of Christ.

# Preschool Corner

We are off to another great school year. Both of our classes are full with 22 students in our Mon/Wed/Fri class and 20 students in our Tues/Thurs class. Both classes have a waiting list of other families that would like to enroll if we have an opening later in the year.

The preschool would like to thank the following people for helping us get ready for the new school year and for your support of the Preschool program. Sharon Colman, Lois Durheim, Diana Helmer, Karen King and Pastor Gregg for assisting in the Parent Orientation night in August. We thank Jack & Pam Whorley for weeding the playground. Jim Forkner for the additional shelving and coat hooks in our preschool room. George & Betty Newell for donating the mini fridge. Ron & Karen Dashiell, Stan Gray, Marty Keeling, Gary Proctor, & Kyle Smith for your on going support.



Hugs,  
Angie Canavan

## Needed: 1 Garage for the Winter!

I am wondering if someone in my Covenant family would have a garage they could lend or rent to me for the winter. I need a place to store my son, Braden's car while he is in college this year. If anyone could help me or knows someone who could help me, I would greatly appreciate it.

Please call Kyle Smith at 465-0999.  
Thanks!



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD!



We are still in need of teachers for the 3-5 year old class. We already have two teachers in this class who are willing to teach every-other Sunday, but need a couple of people for the alternate Sundays.

These are our littlest Covenant kids, and they are fun and eager to learn! We have the curriculum, we have the kids, we just need YOU! Share yourselves with our children. You will be glad you did. Please contact Rhonda Greco 465-1437 if you would like more details.

## Where Are We Going? How Are We Going to Get There?

We are at an incredibly key time in the history of this congregation! When I (Pastor Gregg) first arrived here at Covenant UMC, I became acutely aware that



I needed to accomplish two main tasks: First, I realized that I needed to build trust and rapport. Secondarily, I also knew that I need to lead this congregation into the future with hope, and it is impossible to do either one without the other... If I didn't build trust then no one would have any desire to follow my leadership, and if we just built and maintained a cozy relationship but we didn't ever go anywhere, then I would lose the trust of the congregation. I have continually invited leaders in the church to help me discern when the right time to move forward would be, and what follows is our process that we are outlining. Your Administrative Board is continuing to discern the way forward with me.

I am designing a process where the Administrative Board authorizes and assigns a small group (5-6 people with me) to do some of this deep discernment on their behalf. Right now, I am calling this the LEAD team ("Learning, Exploring, Asking and Discerning" team), and this smaller group will be made up of key leaders that represent the diversity of the congregation, are able to meet consistently throughout the next nine months, and are forward thinking individuals who will work well with me and others. This smaller group (LEAD team) will also meet monthly with the Administrative Board to help them engage our discernment process along the way, and a couple of those sessions will be longer to do some more in-depth work and receive feedback. These two groups will then convene a wider circle of leaders (and any other interested persons) twice over the course of this school year to more fully engage this deep process, to pass on our learning, and to get feedback on our future directions. Generally, we are planning to have this process extend over the course of this school year with a culminating event in May or June of 2010. My prayer is that we have much more clarity about where God is calling us, and we begin to have even more of a sense of common purpose.

I am certain that God has huge plans for us. Now we just have to figure out what those plans are! Feel free to ask me or anyone on the Administrative Board any questions you have or give us any feedback we need. Please also keep me and all of your fellow parishioners and leaders in your prayers as we discern our way forward. Grace and Peace to you all!

Sincerely, Pastor Gregg and your Administrative Board

## New Wineskins

A few weeks ago (September 13<sup>th</sup>) I preached a sermon about 'new wineskins,' which delved into the passage in Luke in which Jesus commands the religious folks of his day to not force new wine into old wineskins. This is because new wine continues to ferment and needs a wineskin that is supple and can allow for expansion, whereas older wineskins can become brittle and break when stretched. If we were to force new wine into old wineskins, the container will burst, the wine will end up on the ground and it won't be any good to anybody. The whole point of the sermon was NOT to say that old is bad; in fact, I have heard that old wine is even better than new wine. I did invite us to examine our *attachment* to the older forms and structures of our faith and to see how God might be calling us to establish new structures and places for new folks to belong (new "wineskins").

What will these "new wineskins" look like, you ask? I am not entirely sure yet, but we are starting to see some emerge. For instance, beginning Friday night, October ninth, we will be hosting a third worship service about once per month to try out some creative forms of worship. Sarah Marken, our Worship Arts Coordinator, has felt a nudge/call to try this out and I am extremely excited! If we sense the Holy Spirit really moving with one of these services, my preference would be to get even more involved to see what can develop from that. More details will undoubtedly follow, and we would love to have feedback about your experience of these events. Beyond worship, these new structures and forms may mean that we try some new ways of engaging in ministry in the world. I don't have all the answers about how this will show up here at Covenant UMC, but it may mean that we modify or change how we engage in some of our current ministries, or demonstrate an openness to beginning some new things as well. Let me know if you see the need for a particular "new wineskin," and especially if you are sensing a call to create a new wineskin of your own! This is an incredibly passionate and gifted congregation that has tremendous potential to do incredible things. If you are interested, you can also see the description of how our church is moving forward in its' discernment process by reading the article titled, "Where Are We Going? How Are We Going to Get There?"

I am excited and honored to be your pastor, and I look forward to seeing you all soon.  
See you in worship!  
Prayerfully,

*Gregg*

Rev. Gregg Sealey

## In Our Prayers



Gloria Murphy  
Betty Newell  
Patti Osebold  
Kevin Strait  
Jim & Eleanor Thrapp  
Cheryl Witherspoon

## Adult Education Fall 2009 Two Offerings

**Book Group:** Sara Ferris – facilitator

Please join us for an inspirational and reflective six-week study on the book *Wisdom Distilled for the Daily* by Joan Chittester.

## Living the Questions 2.0 Series:

This is a DVD series put together by two United Methodist ministers on some of the major questions we face in our faith today. It will be challenging. The series guarantees to make us think and look at these issues from a new perspective.

Come and join us Sundays at 9:45am.

Thank you Linda Hahn and the Hospitality Committee for a delicious brunch on Celebration Sunday. Due to popular request, Linda has shared the recipe for her Egg dish.

Egg Recipe  
10 eggs  
2 c. cottage cheese  
½ c. flour  
1 – 4oz. can green chilies  
1 tsp. salt  
4 c. shredded jack cheese  
½ c. melted cooled butter



Mix all ingredients into buttered 8 x 10 dish; bake at 350° for 35 min. until firm and golden.  
Serves 10

## Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 & 11:00am..... Worship Services  
9:45am..... Sunday School for adults, youth & children

### Covenant Staff

Pastor ..... Rev. Gregg Sealey  
Church Secretary ..... Karen King  
Worship Arts/Children's Ministry Coordinator .. Sarah Marken  
Pianist ..... Mac Merchant  
Custodian ..... Stan Gray  
Facilities Coordinator ..... Kyle Smith  
Youth Director ..... Bethany Pyle  
Nursery Supervisor ..... Shawna Viren  
Preschool Director ..... Angie Canavan

### **Office Hours:**

Mon.-Fri ..... 9:30am-3:00pm

"The Covenant Connection" is printed twice a month by Covenant United Methodist Church. **Deadline to turn in articles for the next newsletter is Tuesday, Oct. 6th.**

Covenant United Methodist Church  
15515 North Gleneden Drive  
Spokane, WA 99208-9743  
Phone (509) 466-1768  
Fax 466-0273  
Email: [info@covenantmethodist.org](mailto:info@covenantmethodist.org)  
Website: [www.covenantmethodist.org](http://www.covenantmethodist.org)

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### **Return Service Requested**

## Covenant Youth Happenings

We were a part of "See you at the Pole" this morning (nationally known day for high school students to pray together at the flag pole). Good things are happening in the youth of Spokane and I'm excited.

**SUPER TUESDAY!** Super Tuesday is a large gathering of Jr. high students from around Spokane. It's a good way for the youth in our church to meet other students from other churches and have a blast hanging out. It is happening at 6:30 on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October. We are going to do a canned food drive.

Deluge worship service at the service station on the 15<sup>th</sup> is also something we'll be attending. It is youth from Jr. high to college age getting together to worship and have an authentic experience with God. It's going to be awesome.

Last, but not least, David Crowder Band is coming to Spokane on the 19<sup>th</sup> and we have an opportunity to go for free! Let me know if you're interested. Thanks again for all you do; parents, youth, and the congregation here at Covenant. I hope you are blessed.

In Him,  
Bethany Pyle, youth director

**New Hope Resource Center** is starting to collect gently used coats and blankets for the coming winter.

Toiletry items they are short on are: size 5 diapers, baby wipes, dish soap, liquid hand soap, laundry softener, razors, and shower gel.

They are also collecting things to use as Christmas gifts for the client Christmas party. These gifts (for men and women) can be items that have been marked down in the stores such as perfume, candles, belts, socks, cologne, etc. They need not be expensive and do not need to be wrapped. Donated items may be put in the blue bin in the Narthex.