

THE COVENANT CONNECTION

Volume XVI No. 25
September 21, 2011

Covenant United Methodist Church

Covenant UMC Blood Drive!

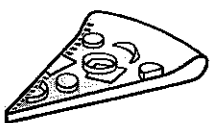
The Inland Northwest Blood Center will be at Covenant Sunday, September 25th 9:00am-11:00am

Sign up to save a life with the church office at 466-1768 or come Sunday morning and check in at the table in the narthex.

Pizza with the Pastor

Are you a newer guest to Covenant? We would like to invite you to an informal time to visit with the pastor on Sunday, Oct. 2nd at 2pm. This is a chance to get to know one another in a more relaxed setting, hear just a little about the church and ask any questions you might have.

If you would like to come to the Pastor's home for about an hour with pizza provided, please contact the church office to reserve your spot!
466-1768
info@covenantmethodist.org



SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE

Join us for our NEW service on Sunday nights at 5:00pm. **"Sunday Night Live"** is a new style of worship that is casual, comfortable and connecting;

- a "coffee house" format to facilitate conversation and relationships
- a worship service that helps us to explore our questions about God and faith
- incredible music that will help us effectively connect with each other and with God
- opportunities to engage, grow in our faith, and find places to serve

Children's church for kids ages 5-12 happens during the service time just down the hall in "The Cove". Nursery care is available for kids under 5.

Invite your friends!

Holiday Arts & Crafts Festival

November 5th - 9am-3pm.

Covenant's United Methodist Women are in the planning process for this year's Holiday Craft Show and we need lots of help - Your Help, to make this another successful outreach mission that showcases our wonderful church family. Please call Betty Newell (487-1370) or Pam Whorley (466-6723) if you are able to help.



We are currently reserving tables (\$20 per space) for vendors. A registration form is included in this newsletter for you to share with your friends.

Thank you for your continued support!

Thank You

For 5 days at the end of August, 45 men and women who suffer from HIV/AIDS were able to experience a retreat at Camp N-Sid-Sen on Lake Coeur d'Alene sponsored by the Methodist church. Members of Covenant were involved in working the retreat and supporting it through prayers and cards. This retreat, named Strength for the Journey, is intended to bring Christ's love and acceptance to people who have perhaps felt excluded and unwelcome by the general church. I, and the other staff who plan and work at the retreat, wish to express thanks for Covenant's support; but the gratitude can best be conveyed by this note to Covenant written by a participant:

*Thank you all so much for making the retreat experience possible. It is much more than the money provided. The gift that comes to us I appreciate with every fiber of my being. I found myself again. Since 2006 when diagnosed, I felt ashamed, dirty, couldn't ever get clean enough. I eventually realized I was stuck with this for life. You all have provided a safe place where I was able to cry and let it all out. I also made some awesome friends. And the best part is they are all so close by. I didn't know, and wouldn't have, if not for this precious holy place on the Lake. Again, Thank You,
Sincerely, Mark*

Thanks be to God that we at Covenant can be a part of Christ's hands and feet in this way.

Jayce Keeling

Book Review Group

Oct. 11th, 9:30am

Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay
Jeannie Peer Hostess

Nov. 8th, 9:30am

Shanghai Girls by Lisa See
Jackie Richardson Hostess/Reviewer

New members are welcome any time. For more information please call Jeannie Peer, 466-4623

Community Events:

Juan Melendez, has three scheduled events in Spokane to share his extraordinary faith journey as an innocent man on Florida's death row.

Juan's story is one of supreme injustice and a profoundly personal story of survival. Indeed his message is so powerful that it impacts people all across the political spectrum. He contends that he was saved from execution by miracles, and by the grace of God.

Melendez will speak on Sunday, September 25th, from 1-3 at Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 219 E Rockwood Blvd. He will also speak at Whitworth University (Weyerhaeuser Hall) on Sunday night, Sept. 25 at 7:00pm and at Gonzaga Law School (Barbieri Courtroom) on Monday night, Sept. 26 from 5:30-7:00pm.

**Let's go to:
"Thoroughly Modern Millie"
October 5, 2011**

Family Promise of Spokane's (former Interfaith Hospitality) 8th Annual Benefit Night at the Spokane Civic Theatre
Time: 7:30pm
Tickets \$30
To get your tickets call Jeanne Tomlinson, 464-3475

Our Preschool is off to a great start!

Classes began on Sept. 12. Both classes are full. There are twenty 3-year-olds who come on Tues/Thurs and twenty two 4-year-olds that attend Mon/Wed/Fri.



In September they begin with colors, shapes and counting, and start their introduction to the alphabet. Due to our warm weather, the children have already enjoyed playing on the playground!

Just a reminder to please leave the gym areas as you find them. There are many groups who use the gym each week, including preschool. It is helpful to have a clean and clutter free space for all the groups to use!

From your Pastor's Heart

Hello Friends,

It is just too bad that there is nothing going on in the life of our church right now (Ha!). We completed a fundraising drive that is extremely close to eclipsing our goal of \$11,200 for the new service and the new banners. Our new worship service launched with 62 people in attendance (By the way, a huge 'thank you' to all of you who either attended or helped it to happen the first week!). We have launched multiple new "Life Groups," and more are asking to be included each week. With all of this new energy and passion being poured out into these venues, many people have remarked to me lately that, "there seems to be a great energy here right now." With all of the new energy and momentum developing, I think it is an important reminder of WHY we are doing this... We are convinced that God is working through us to heal and transform our world! We are not doing any of this for institutional survival, for personal comfort or for checking off items on our pious "to-do" lists. We have a much bigger purpose.

I also want to remind us of something I wrote some time ago. As we develop positive, forward-moving energy, it can feel a little bit like we are coasting downhill on a bicycle. I want to encourage us, not to coast, but instead to "Pedal Downhill!" You may have seen motivational t-shirts with that slogan imprinted. We must not "coast," but rather continue to discern how and when we are being called by God to action – pushing forward. This is only the beginning. I am convinced that God has huge plans for us, but will require us to be faithful and continue to "pedal downhill."

I am grateful to be your pastor, and I am excited to see where this journey will take us!

Prayerfully,

Gregg

Pastor Gregg

In our Prayers

Bill & Rena Batt
Jim Thrapp
Rick Thomas



Adult Education

WHY? Making Sense of God's Will

September 25, 2011

10:45 am

Room 13

This week's theme:

Why Can't I See God's Will For My Life?

Does God have a plan for my life but doesn't give me the script or hides it so I can't see it clearly? How specific is God's will? Are the ten commandments part of God's will for our lives? Is our happiness directly connected with following God's will? Do we write the story of our lives or does God write it? These are some of the questions we will be addressing in the adult education hour this week.

One of the terrific advantages we have as participants in the Covenant community is to meet with fellow seekers who want to learn more about God and connect with each other in the process.

Come join the class and take a look at your assumptions about God's will for your life and learn from Pastor Adam Hamilton as well as our facilitators and fellow travelers.

The author of the series is Adam Hamilton, pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS.

Our facilitators for this class are Pastor Linda and Barry Karalfa.

Books are \$8.00, purchase optional.

Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship.....9:30am
Sunday School for all ages.....10:45am
Sunday Night Live Service..... 5:00pm

Covenant Staff

PastorRev. Gregg Sealey
Church SecretaryKaren King
Worship Arts/Children's Ministry Coordinator .. Sarah Marken
Pianist.....Laura Everett
Custodian..... Stan Gray
Assistant Custodian Kyle Smith
Youth Director..... Bethany Pyle
Nursery Supervisor..... Marcy Hansen
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 4th.**

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Website: www.covenantmethodist.org

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Worship Helper Reminders

Oct. 2nd

Reader: Ken Cogswell
Ushers: Les & Linda Foster
Greeters: Tom & Jessie Latimer
Welcome Table: Diane Thomas

Debbie Strait from **Group 14** will be the coordinator for Oct. 9.

When you get "the call" from your group coordinator, please be prompt in getting back to them with your willingness to help. You will make their day!

Youth Groups Are Meeting Again

We hope you all had a fun summer ~ We missed YOU, Come join us for youth groups!

Jr. High youth group is on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00pm.

High School youth group meets on Wednesdays from 7:30-9:00pm.

Contact Bethany Pyle for information, 499-3083.

~ ~ ~ ~

Our 5th-6th grade youth group will meet once or twice per month. On Sunday, Sept 25 we will make dinner for Family Promise (formerly Interfaith). Meet at the church at 3:30 to make dinner. After we eat with the families, we will attend the 5pm *Sunday Night Live* service together! Contact Jill Sparkes, 276-1147 or Pam Tsuchida, 467-1089 for more information.



Holiday Arts and Crafts Festival
Covenant United Methodist Church
15515 N Gleneden Drive and Wandermere Drive Spokane
Saturday, November 5, 2011

9AM – 3PM

Welcome to the annual Covenant UMC arts and craft festival.

Set up:

Friday, November 4th - 6PM to 9 PM – west entrance to multi-purpose room.

Please check in for space # location – Someone will be available to assist you with finding your space.

Doors will open for crafters at 8:00 AM on Saturday, November 5th -Show will end at 3:00 PM
 no early take-downs please.

We will do our best to accommodate your needs to display your crafts. We cannot guarantee electricity or other such amenities at each booth. Fire regulations do not permit open flame.

For your convenience:

- We will provide complimentary coffee and water throughout the day
- Youth group baristas will be selling lattes and specialty coffee drinks throughout the day
- Food concessions will be open throughout the day...you are welcome to take the food to your booth...please be sure to clean up your space at the end of the day.

Spaces for rent:

Space (8' x 8'), \$20/space

One 6' table available per space at no charge.

2 chairs/per space provided

Registration Deadline: October 27, 2011

We hope that you will consider joining us for worship if you do not already have a church home. Our Sunday service is at 9:30 AM Nursery care provided. Sunday school for all ages at 9:45 AM. Senior High Youth – Wednesday evenings; Junior High Youth – Sunday evenings. For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.covenantmethodist.org> or call our church office (509)466-1768

_____ Space (8' x 8'), \$20/space (please indicate # of spaces needed)

_____ One 6' table available per space at no charge. (Additional \$10 each, please indicate # tables needed)

I agree to follow rules set forth by CUMC as a participant in the Covenant UMC Arts and Craft festival.

Signed: _____

Name: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

(please print)

Address: _____ City: _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone:(_____) _____ - _____ Craft: _____

Mail to: Covenant United Methodist Church 15515 N Gleneden Drive Spokane WA 99208

Make Checks payable to: Covenant United Methodist Women

Betty Newell, Chairperson, (509) 487-1370.