

THE COVENANT CONNECTION

Volume XVII No. 3

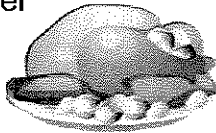
November 2, 2011

Covenant United Methodist Church

FAMILY PROMISE/ INTERFAITH

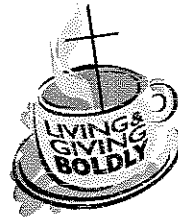
Families will be with us the week of Christmas to include Christmas Day. The plan is to have the families spend the day at CUMC and provide them with a Christmas Dinner that we can provide all the fixin's for and the families prepare or we prepare.

This requires that we provide day hosts, dinner prep/hosts on Christmas Day. We would like to have people bring in salads, side dishes, and pies/ desserts with the turkey/main dish being provided by the Family Promise budget.



We would ask that you all prayerfully consider this opportunity of service to the homeless during this special time in our church life. Perhaps groups such as Youth or Neighborhood groups would like to consider this time of sharing and serving as one of their activities during the holiday season.

Barry McClinton
475-5982
bamcc21@comcast.net



COVENANT
STEWARDSHIP
2011

STEWARDSHIP SEASON

Isn't it amazing how **bold** and beautiful the colors of this season have been? The trees have set the stage as we prayerfully consider our call as Christians to **Live and Give Boldly**. As you determine the financial

part of your giving to the church for the coming year, please feel free to turn in your Cards – in the “coffee cans” passed at offering time or to the church office at your convenience. (Extra cards are available at the church office if you need them.) If possible, please return your Cards by no later than Sunday, **November 20th** when we will rejoice and bless the commitments we make to **Live and Give Boldly**. As part of this celebration the Stewardship Committee will provide some special treats after the service, and you are invited to enjoy a complimentary Covenant Coffee (see coupon).

Thanks to all who are sharing their theatrical talents. Director *Rhonda Greco* and her cast of *Brandon Greco, Olivia Sealey and Lexi King*, who showed us how silly it is to want to hide our faith in “*The Coverup*”. *Sarah Marken* led an energetic cast of characters competing to be “*The Greatest*”. *Braiden & Camden Sparkes, and Caleb & Jared McDougall* taught us that our special “talents” don't mean a lot unless we use them to help others!

In the next few weeks there will be more sermons, skits, and “bold” definitions.

We hope these special offerings are a source of inspiration as each of us contemplate how we are called to share the resources God has blessed us with – **all for God's Glory**.

The Stewardship Committee: The DeFelices, Grays, Greens, Hahns, and Shermans.



Covenant
Coffee!

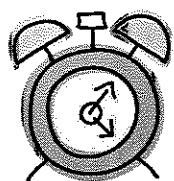
COVENANT
STEWARDSHIP 2011

With this coupon, enjoy one free specialty espresso drink (any size/any flavor) as our gift of living and giving boldly!



Covenant Coffee is a program by and for the High School and Junior High youth of Covenant.
Covenant United Methodist Church • 15515 N. Gleneden, Spokane WA
(509) 466-1758 • www.covenantmethodist.org

Turn the Clock Back!



Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 6. Be sure to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night, or you can come an hour early for church!

From your Pastor's Heart

- "All-Church Conference"

Hello Friends,

As fall continues to roll by, I wanted to let you know about our plans this year for our All-Church Conference. On **Sunday, December 11th at noon**, we will gather for a **potluck** in our multipurpose gym, and at **1 p.m.** we will meet in the sanctuary for our **conversation and meeting**. The past two years we were able to have the Conference in between our two services on Sunday mornings, but this fall we needed to change the schedule. Our hope is that it will provide a wonderful opportunity for conversation and fellowship whether we come to the morning or evening service, as well as provide a sense of hope and direction for our future. If I had to guess, I would say that we would be done before 2 p.m. that day.

Annually, we meet as a whole church to discuss the year gone by, as well as to set our sights on the year ahead. These are exciting times here at Covenant, and we want you to come hear about all of it. My focus on these meetings is making them an energizing time of reflection and planning for our future. I will briefly share some of our visions and dreams, and then we'll talk about goals that the leadership has set for the coming year to help us progress toward that big-picture dream that God has for us. I look forward to seeing you all there. Please put it in your calendars and join us!

My prayers are continually with you all, and I look forward to the time when I can see you again soon.

Peace,

Gregg

Pastor Gregg

Charge Conference
Sunday, December 11th
at 1:00pm
Potluck Lunch at 12:00pm.

In our Prayers

Bill & Rena Batt, Winifred Jacobsen, Christine Ramsey, Jackie Richardson, Rick Thomas, Jim Thrapp, Jeanne Tomlinson, Dave Wheat

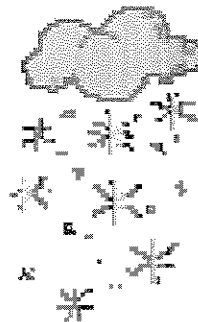


Did you get to use the new church snow blower last year?

Sign up now for your chance to try it out!

The temperatures are dipping lower and there's a chance for snow in the forecast.

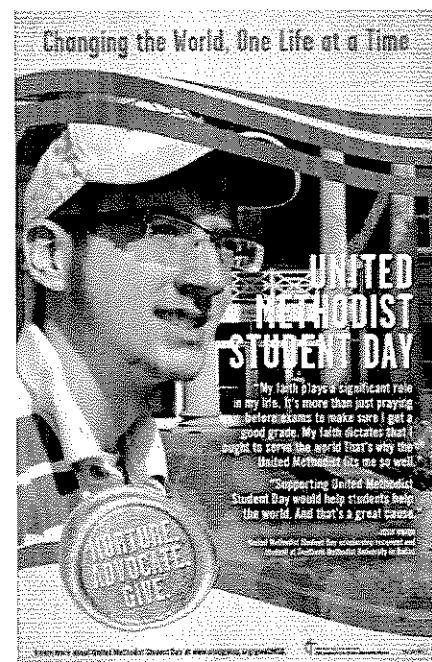
The snow removal sign up sheet is in the narthex, but don't all rush at once...there will be plenty of snow to go around!



United Methodist Student Day provides scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities.

Scholarships and loans funded through United Methodist Student Day prepare leaders for The United Methodist Church and the world. The financial support students receive helps keep them in school and focused on their studies.

Please consider a gift to this special offering on November 27, 2011.



Children's Christmas Program

Christmas is coming; the goose is getting fat. Please bring your angel wings and wise-man's hat.

I'm calling all kids (Preschool-8th grade) to strap on shepherd's cloak to round up Christmas. This season the Christmas pageant will be presented on Sat. Dec 24 at the 5pm service. I will be introducing the kids to the play and their involvement during Sunday school on Nov. 6th.



The production is comprised of a bunch of little skits so rehearsal time and lots of lines are at a minimal. The fun will abound no matter your role because I have speaking and non-speaking roles.

Rehearsals will occur at various times depending on the schedule of actors in a particular skit. Some short rehearsals will be during Sunday School and others will occur before the Sunday Night Live service at 5pm. Due to Thanksgiving and busy holidays, I want to begin the rehearsal process in the next two weeks.

Please contact Sarah, or she'll be calling your agent!

P.S. Anyone in the props or set-design union: I'll need your input, too. Please let me know if you can make costumes, gather props or decorate the stage. Thanks!

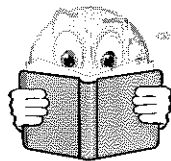
Book Review Group

Nov. 8th, 9:30am

Sarah's Key

by Tatiana de Rosnay

Jeannie Peer Hostess/Reviewer



Dec. 13th, 9:30am

Shanghai Girls by Lisa See

Jackie Richardson Hostess/Reviewer

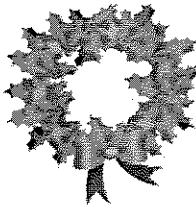
Jan. 10th, 9:30am

Room by Emma Donoghue

Cheryl Vaughan/Reviewer

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

New Hope Wreaths



Christmas Wreath sales benefit New Hope Resource Center - \$16 each.

Orders will be taken before and after first service, and before second service on November 6. The wreaths will be available for pick up the first Sunday in December (the 3rd). These wreaths are made fresh for our fundraiser and sport a red bow. The proceeds go to New Hope to assist clients with rent, utilities, gas, and medical needs. Current needs at New Hope are toilet paper, paper towels, and size 4 diapers.

Thank you for supporting this important community service organization.

Get Tickets to see Austin Ferris in "Annie"

Get your advanced tickets now to see Austin Ferris in several great roles in Christian Youth Theater's production of "Annie". Show dates and times include: Nov. 4th, 5th, 11th, 12th at 7pm. And Nov. 5th, 12th & 13th at 3pm. All performances will be held at the Bing Crosby Theater, 901 W Sprague. Tickets are \$11 for adults, \$10 for children 12 & under/seniors 65 & over. Purchase tickets at www.cytspokane.com/shows/ and don't forget to select Austin Ferris as the student in which to give credit!

Preschool Corner

Fun times were had by all at our Fall Festival/Halloween Parties. This month we are working on letters G, H, I, J & K. We'll have discussions about God, Jesus, and the first Thanksgiving of the Pilgrims.

The Preschool will be closed for Veteran's Day, Friday Nov. 11 and on Nov. 24 & 25 for Thanksgiving.

Our Christmas Concert is on December 8 & 9 at 11am. Cookies and refreshments will be in the gym after the singing.

DATE NIGHT

Need a date night or a few hours to Christmas shop without your kids? The Covenant Youth Group under leadership of Youth Director Bethany Pyle, and Mrs. Canavan will be providing activities for your children on December 10 from 6-9pm. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to spoil yourself during the rush of the holidays, while your kids have a terrific time playing in our safe environment while you are out.

Sponsor a Child Today

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. Not without our support.

This is why your sponsorship is so important. For **\$120 a year** you can fund the education tuition, uniform, books and supplies for one child for one year. Covenant United Methodist church has forged a relationship with Buenas Nuevas Lutheran Church in El Paisnal, El Salvador where the need is great. For more than ten years we have come to know the families who live in this village who desperately want for their children what we often take for granted. Your sponsorship not only funds a child's education but helps to create hope for the future of the entire village.

Last year Covenant families sponsored over 70 children, allowing them to attend school for the year. Our goal this year is to raise funds to sponsor 80 children during the new school year beginning January of 2012. Our timeline is to raise the necessary funds by the end of November so they can be sent to El Salvador in early December. Please consider this important ministry in your giving.

Thank you,
Ronda Hain and the Sister Church Ministry Team

Adult Education

This week we will begin a series by John Dominic Crossan titled The Challenge of Jesus. This is a new series that was published in August, 2011, on the life and times of Jesus. What was the world like when Jesus was born? What was his life like in those days? What is the significance of his death? What about Christ's resurrection from the dead? This series will cover all of those topics.

The DVD lectures are about 15 to 18 minutes long and provide ample time for the class members to grapple with the information provided in the lecture.

This week's session is titled: "The World of Jesus: Peace Through Victory."

Dave Erb will be the facilitator this week.

Grab a cup of coffee or tea from the cart in the foyer or from the high school folks in the kitchen and join us in room 13 on Sunday at 10:45am.

Holiday Arts and Crafts Festival

in Covenant's Multi-Purpose Room
Saturday, November 5 9am-3pm



Join us for Covenant's Annual Arts & Crafts Festival featuring regional crafters exhibiting homemade arts and crafts.

This event is open to all and is perfect for holiday shopping!

Food concessions and espresso will be offered — so spend your Saturday with us!



The Beautiful Hope

by Sarah Marken

Perseverance leads to endurance
To steady one on the way
To hope, the next consequence
Or rather the gift of the day.

Friends brought the man to the gate
A ritual questioned no more
They meagerly assisted him
But still left abruptly, he to beg as before

But Beautiful kept no prisoners
No captives of rude impair
For like its name of joy and light
The man the gate did spare.

So rejoicing in surprise and ecstasy
For any other response he didn't know.
What can a man with forty years of decay
Do with a miracle but the miracle show?

The brothers of similar purpose and belief
Understood the power of His name.
For one day they were fearful, now bold
This day healing freed the hearts and bodies of the lame.

Yet, the wise and learn-ed wanted quiet,
No more proclamations should be spoken,
(Though a healing like this couldn't be hidden)
So their secrets, lies and spirits weren't broken.

With all conviction of their faith,
That which seemed to be strengthened by the hour,
The ordinary men stood fast with praise
Never wavering from God's saving power.

The lame walked the next day,
A wonderment lived on a new morn again.
And the toil or new responsibilities of life
Did not weather his spirit and Amen!

I rest at a gate similar to his
Beautiful, I guess, but at times a cage

And so oft I cry out with anguish
For struggle and pain to assuage.

Yet my greatest advantage to the former man
If I looked beyond the rugged ground
Is this God I love and know
And his promises *today* resound.

So why not be carried by Him
Like a sturdy ship in stormy seas?
For the light and peace found at Beautiful
Are mine to claim with grace-filled ease.

The formula from perseverance to hope
Requires no theorem or figured proof.
It's a promise simply offered
To the seeking soul and temporarily aloof.

Sunday Schedule

Worship9:30am
Sunday School for all ages10:45am
Sunday Night Live Service 5:00pm

Covenant Staff

PastorRev. Gregg Sealey
Church Secretary Karen 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, Nov. 15**

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November Youth Events

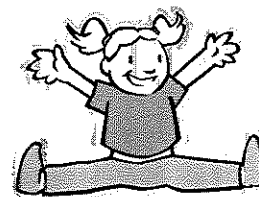
Sunday school 10:45am in the youth room for all youth grades 7th-12th.
Youth Groups: Jr. High Youth Wednesdays 5:30-7:00pm
Sr. High Youth Wednesdays 7:30-9:00pm

Jr. High Super Tuesday, Nov. 8th 6-9pm. This month we are going to Pattison's skating rink and have ROLLER DISCO NIGHT! Wear your best disco attire, bring \$5 and a friend.

Sr. High FAST KART, Friday, Nov. 18. 7-9pm. Permission slips must be signed. Bring \$25 and a friend.

4-6 GRADE YOUTH GROUP TOYS FOR TOTS FUNDRAISER

On Saturday, **November 5th**, the 456 Youth Group will be selling both their Friendship Soup Mix and Brownies in a Jar Mix at the Covenant Craft Fair. Then on the following 2 Sundays, **November 13th and 20th**, the kids will sell the soup and brownie mixes before and after church service. The mixes are beautifully packaged and ready to get and give as gifts - perfect for everyone on your list! Whether it is for your neighbor, secretary, friends or family or yourself...warm them with some delicious soup. The brownies are worth every bite!



Worship Helper Reminders

Dave & Marty Erb from **Group 6** are the coordinators for November 13.

Dave & Sharon McDougall from **Group 7** are the coordinators for November 20.

Rex & Marcy Doggett from **Group 8** are the coordinators for November 27.

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!