

# THE COVENANT CONNECTION

Volume XVII No. 8  
January 18, 2012

## Covenant United Methodist Church

### Coffee/Chocolate Sale Next Sunday

The Sister Church Ministry Team will offer Organic, Free Trade packaged coffee and chocolate for sale Sunday, January 22nd. There are three different blends of coffee to choose from in whole bean or ground form at \$9.00. In addition, there are several different chocolate bars - The chocolate bars are \$3.00 each. Your purchases support small farmers in developing countries and provide funds for our Sister Church Ministry in El Salvador.

### **Year End Statements**

The 2011 Individual Statements of Giving are ready to pick up in the narthex.

Statements not picked up will be mailed before the end of the month.

### **Inland Northwest Blood Center ~ Blood Drive** **Sunday, January 22nd ~ 9:00am-11:30am**

**We are excited for the increased participation in this winter's blood drive. If you didn't make an appointment yet, but would still like to donate, please come!**



**Inland Northwest  
Blood Center**

To be eligible to donate blood, donors must:

- Be at least 16 years old, (16 & 17 year olds need to complete a Minor Donor Consent form) there is no upper age limit.
- Be in general good health including free of any cold or flu virus symptoms
- Wait one year from the date they had a body tattoo or piercing
- Wait one day following the completion of their last dose of antibiotics
- Wait six weeks following pregnancy
- Not have participated in activities that would put them at risk for infectious diseases such as Hepatitis or HIV.

On the day of donation, have a good breakfast, drink plenty of liquids and bring your photo ID. Thank you for signing up to *Save a Life!*

### **Addictions & Grace**

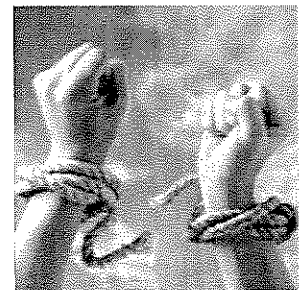
#### **A sermon series for January - February 2012**

Attachments - Cravings - Dependencies...  
We all have them! But how do we deal with them?  
Is there any hope? What is "Grace" anyway?

Join the conversation: As Christians, we don't always have the answers, but our journey together will help us rethink what being a Christian means - to ourselves, to others, to Jesus. Join us for a series of thought-provoking concepts in the hope that we will keep the conversation flowing.

#### **Message Topics for January through Mid-February, 2012:**

- Jan 22 "The Nature of Addiction"
- Feb 5 "Empowered to Overcome Addiction"
- Feb 12 "The Consecrated Life"



## Book Review Group

Feb. 14th, 9:30

### *A Dog's Purpose*

by W. Bruce Cameron

Barb Miscoi is the reviewer, Sharon Colman is the hostess.

No Meeting in March

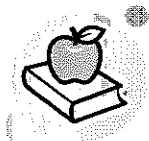
April 10, 9:30

### *State of Wonder*

by Ann Patchett

Diane Thomas is the reviewer, Barb Miscoi is the hostess.

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



## Marimbas begin next week.

You can join one of the TWO bands.

One band will meet on Mondays at 7pm, beginning Jan. 23.

The other band will meet on Wednesdays at 7pm, beginning Jan. 25.

No experience of any kind needed...**just a love of life.**

Contact Sarah for details and to sign up.

smarken@gmail.com, or 954-1107

## Worship Servants

Thank you for offering your gifts to the Covenant worship experience. You are appreciated!

### January 22

Reader: Ken Cogswell

Greeters: Jacquie Hilpert-Belzman, Jan Oman

Ushers: Kent & Jackie Richardson

Welcome Table: Ron & Cheryl Vaughan

### January 29

Reader: Nancy Morlock

Greeters: Wayne & Nancy Rau

Ushers: Lee & Doris Pennell

Welcome Table: Jane Clements

### February 5

Reader: Fleeta Holcomb

Greeters: Barry & Linda Karalfa

Ushers: Dave & Deanna Sommers

Welcome Table: Marty Erb

## SISTER CHURCH NEWS

The Sister Church team gives thanks to the Covenant community for its faithful and generous support of our ministry to our brothers & sisters in Buenas Nuevas Lutheran Church of El Paisnal, El Salvador. Thanks to your participation in our fund raising events (golf tournament, coffee/chocolate sales, etc.) and direct donations, we were able to provide funding for 80 children in the Buenas Nuevas community to attend school in 2012. Without this funding, most of these children would be unable to continue their education. God is truly working in our midst.

The following is a translated letter from the Sister Church community in El Salvador:



*Hello Dear Friends,*

*I hope you, along with others, are having a Happy New Year. Greetings to all our brother and sisters in your Covenant congregation. We received funding for the students in the amount of \$10,000. We thank you for your hard work and affection for us. We ask our God, with great joy, to bring many blessings to you and your families. We send blessings from the children, parents, and Pastor Chema.*

*Many hugs, kisses, and greetings to the whole church. We want to see you soon.*

*Iglesia Lutherana Buenas Nuevas  
El Paisnal, El Salvador*

Since the mid 1990's, Covenant has sent a delegation to visit our Sister Church approximately every two years. This year's delegation will travel to El Salvador July 14<sup>th</sup> and return July 20<sup>th</sup>. The delegation will consist of 7 to 12 individuals. You are invited and there are no requirements for participation other than a heart for mission. If you are interested, please contact Gary Proctor (325-6174) or Pastor Gregg.

### Ecumenical Prayer Retreat Offered

Looking for some time "away from it all"? Are you ready to explore prayer more deeply? Join us at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center January 27-29, 2012 for a new ecumenical prayer retreat for men and women, **God Calling: Invitation to Prayer**. Presented by Dr. Nancy Copeland-Payton, M.Div., the retreat will explore different forms of prayer and spiritual practice. Cost for the weekend (2 nights plus 5 meals) is \$185 per person, \$280 a couple or \$100 for commuters. Retreat scholarships are available. The Retreat Center is located at 6910 S. Ben Burr Road, 20 minutes south of downtown Spokane. For more information or to register call 448-1224 or visit [www.ihrc.net](http://www.ihrc.net).

# From your Pastor's Heart

Hello Friends,

As some of you know, two times each year I take a week for "spiritual renewal leave" while also doing some advance sermon planning. For me, this means that I take 4-5 days as a silent retreat with much time spent in meditation, prayer, reading, walking, and listening to music. In addition, I spend some extra time with my family. As I get ready to embark on this journey next week I have two favors to ask of you:

1. Will you please hold me in prayer? I appreciate knowing that this community in which I serve also supports me (and all of our church leaders) with our thoughts and prayers. It helps to further cement the bond and connection between us.
2. Will you send me your thoughts and ideas for sermons (either ideas for a series, or sermon topics)? It might be a theological question you are wrestling with, a book of the Bible that you find intriguing or troublesome, or a question of how God relates to a specific situation or struggle in your life. The sermon series we are in the midst of right now ("Addiction & Grace") came out of conversations with several people over the past couple of years.

Feel free to submit your ideas in any way you are comfortable. This might be a telephone message, a handwritten note, an email ([pastor@covenantmethodist.org](mailto:pastor@covenantmethodist.org)), on Twitter ([@RevGreggSealey](https://twitter.com/RevGreggSealey)), or on Facebook ([facebook.com/gregg.sealey](https://facebook.com/gregg.sealey)). I would love to be inundated with tons of your ideas!

As we begin a new year, I pray that we all do whatever we need to do to experience God's renewing grace flowing into and through each of our lives.

My thoughts and prayers are with you all!

Peace,

*Gregg*

Pastor Gregg

## In our Prayers

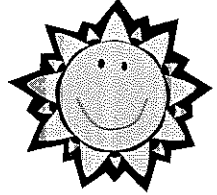


Bill & Rena Batt, Nancy Foo, Jim Forkner, Boosie Longmeier, Chuck Ruby, John Stuart, Jim Thrapp

## For your Summer Calendar

### Day Camp coming to YOU!

Mark your calendars for a week of summer fun at Covenant UMC. Twinlow Day Camp will be onsite with games, crafts, Bible stories, and outdoors activities for kids ages Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.



### June 25-29, 2012

Mon.-Thurs.: 9am-3pm for kids entering 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade  
9am-12pm for Pre-school-K

Fri.: 9am-12pm all ages

Snacks are provided for all ages, and lunch is provided for campers who stay all day.

### Looking to serve?

This is camp will supplement our VBS experience, but we still need people to make food, shepherd kids, and be over-night hosts for the Twinlow Camp leaders.

More info to come along with TONS of FUN!

Questions? Contact Sarah 954-1107 or [smarken@gmail.com](mailto:smarken@gmail.com)

## FAMILY PROMISE AND SOUPER BOWL

On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012 we will be participating in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" with churches around the community and the nation. We will collect donations to support our local chapter of Family Promise (formerly Interfaith). On that Sunday look for young people roaming around the entry area with soup pots to take your donations. If you would like to write a check please make it out to CUMC designating Family Promise on the memo line.

Barry McClinton  
Family Promise Coordinator



## Sunday Schedule

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

## Covenant Staff

Pastor .....Rev. 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, Jan. 31**

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## **Return Service Requested**

## **January Youth Events**

### **"Big G Time" Sundays at 10:45am**

This is our new name for Sunday school. It is a time where kids can gather together and learn more about what God is all about. Through the month of January we are continuing our study of the armor of God.

**High School Neon Bowling** - January 21st. The High school youth will go to Lilac lanes. Meet at the church at 8pm and go to Shari's for milkshakes. We will bowl from 9-11pm. Wear your best neon outfit! Bring a friend and \$10.

### **Weekly Youth Groups**

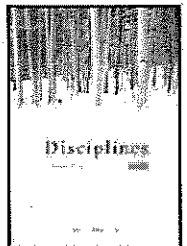
High School ~Wednesdays at 7:30, Jr. High ~ Wednesdays at 5:30

**4th-6th Grade Youth** - The 4-6th grade youth meet once or twice a month for projects and activities. Contact Pam Tsuchida (467-1089) or Jill Sparkes (276-1147) for information

## **2012 Upper Room Disciplines**

Purchase your copy of the 2012 Upper Room *Disciplines* for \$10.

We get a price break for buying in bulk, you save \$2 off the cover price!



Cultivate your Relationship with God through daily prayer and devotions.

We still have 25 copies of the 2012 Daily Devotional book, *Disciplines*. Get yours before we are out!