

THE COVENANT CONNECTION

Volume XVII No. 9
February 1, 2012

Covenant United Methodist Church

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 cash 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.



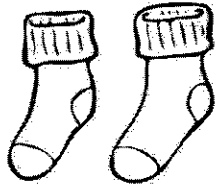
Barry McClinton
Family Promise
Coordinator

2012 Upper Room Disciplines

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

Cultivate your Relationship with God through daily prayer and devotions.

We still have 20 copies of the 2012 Daily Devotional book, *Disciplines*. Get yours before we are out!



Sock Drive

The United Methodist Women are having a Sock Drive during the month of **FEBRUARY**.

These socks will benefit the homeless youth of Spokane who visit Cup of Cool Water.

New warm socks are a blessing to those who have so little.

Please place your donations of new women's and men's socks in the "Sock Box" in the narthex during the month of February.

Thank you Covenant for your generosity.



2012 Church Campout August 17-19

Plan now to attend the All Church Campout this summer at the Two Rivers Resort & Campground, located 1 ½ hours west of Spokane, where the Spokane and Columbia Rivers join to form Lake Roosevelt.

We have reserved the 4 cabins and 7 RV sites for Friday and Saturday night (the 17th and 18th). Tent sites are also available. Tent sites are \$20 per night, RV sites are \$32 per night and include water, electricity and sewer hookups. The luxurious cabins are \$150 per night.

Come join in a great weekend of fellowship, water skiing, tubing, and songs and stories around the campfire. There will be a pancake breakfast Saturday morning, a potluck dinner on Saturday night, and a worship service Sunday morning.

Mark your calendars now! A first night deposit will be needed by the end of February to hold a spot. Please write your check to Two Rivers Resort and give it to Teresa Sherman or drop it off at the Church office. If you have questions please contact Teresa at 468-2452 or 324-3331 or tsherman@tshermanlaw.com.



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.



Thank you Covenant for the generous gifts to the staff at Christmas. We were humbled by your loving display of gratitude.

We are truly blessed to share in the ministry of this church by our work with all of you.

Thank you!

We give glory and honor to God for the privilege to serve in this place.

Worship Servants

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

February 5

Reader: Fleeta Holcomb

Greeters: Barry & Linda Karalfa

Ushers: Dave & Deanna Sommers

Welcome Table: Marty Erb

February 12

Reader: Fleeta Holcomb

Greeters: Marty & Jayce Keeling

Ushers: Nancy Foo & Elizabeth Williams

Welcome Table: Sheila Gray

February 19

Reader: Jackie Richardson

Greeters: Mike & Rhonda Greco

Ushers: Craig & Pam Tsuchida

Welcome Table: Dick & Teresa Heezen

2012 Sister Church Delegation Team to 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 14th and return July 20th. 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.

Adult Education

Sunday, February 5, 10:45 am

This is the last in a series on the Psalms of Lament. This week's title is "The Juice of Emancipation." The anchor for the study is a book entitled: Psalmist's Cry: Scripts for Embracing Lament by Walter Brueggemann and Steve Frost.

Frost says in the book: "Brueggemann acknowledges that our pain is temporary. Through death comes life, through tears come joy. But Brueggemann isn't describing happy optimism that insists everything will turn out rosy. Instead, we can live hopefully, knowing our stories are embedded within God's grand narrative....In the end love wins."

Sara Ferris will be the facilitator this week. There is a short DVD accompanying the book, which is basically an interview with Walter Brueggemann by Steve Frost

Don't miss it. Grab a cup of coffee and join us in room 13.

Preschool Corner

We just celebrated Chinese New Year!

The children enjoyed learning about a new culture and traditions. We made lanterns, dragon puppets and painted Chinese symbols. One of our preschool moms, Monica Teed, prepared dim sum treats for all to enjoy! Former preschooler, Riley Teed, read "My First Chinese New Year" to the class and the entire Teed family wore traditional clothing. Thank you Teed family!

In February, our preschoolers will be studying the letters Rr, Ss, Tt, Uu, and Vv.

We will be Recycling and studying the Solar System, Tigers & Turtles, painting the Universe and erupting Volcanoes! We will celebrate Ground Hog Day & Valentine's Day.

Our Tadpole class will take a field trip to the dentist's office.



Thank you to our Morning Mingle volunteers and our book order coordinators. The work you do is so appreciated!

Angie Canavan, preschool director

From your Pastor's Heart

"The Power of a Story"

Hello Friends,

Everyone loves a good story. That's why stories are so effective for engaging an audience, and inspiring action. Perhaps that is the primary reason that Jesus chose to teach using parables. For Jesus, a parable was a way to communicate and translate complex issues, goals, and ideas through a good story.

As a preacher, I am always looking for a way to tell a compelling story. Sometimes the stories I tell are factually true (i.e. they actually happened to myself or someone I know), but I never tell a story that doesn't communicate the deeper truth I am trying to convey. Perhaps because I am your pastor, many of you share your stories with me... Stories of how you experience the Holy Spirit at work in your life, stories about where your struggles lie, etc. As I hear the stories of what God is doing in our midst, I often think about how we might be able to better communicate these stories throughout the community of faith.

I believe stories (or "narratives") have the power to encourage and build up the faith of others. With a story we get an expansive picture of God's intention for us. One of our primary goals this year is to facilitate a culture in which we are much better at sharing our stories. We all want to hear what is going on in the lives of each other, and how God is present and active in our world. Sometimes the stories are spectacular, but often we can see God's power and presence in our lives in less dramatic stories.

What would it be like to hear those stories in worship (either with personal sharing or videotaped storytelling)? Wouldn't it be powerful to share those stories in our newsletter, on our website, on Facebook, or YouTube?

Since "everyone loves a good story," we need to find several folks that are passionate about this project and can help facilitate communication of our stories. Do you feel a tug on your heart about being involved in this ministry? If so, please let me know. I don't think a ministry this important should necessarily fall on one person's shoulders, so please prayerfully consider how you might be involved!

I am sincerely grateful to be your pastor. Have courage in sharing your story, and let us know if we can assist you in your journey of faith!

Prayerfully,
Gregg
Pastor Gregg

In our Prayers



family

Bill & Rena Batt, Karen Dashiell, Jim Forkner, Ronda Hain & family, Boosie Longmeier, Tom Lux, Gordon & Barb Miscoi & Lauri, Chuck Ruby, John Stuart, Jim Thrapp, David & Trudi Wakefield and

Partners International - **Volunteers Needed!**

Donor Engagement (2 positions): For those who care deeply about helping donors feel appreciated, involved and moving toward life-long partnerships. Need to be comfortable with computer work. Approximately 20 hours each position.

Sponsor A Child: Help children in need by facilitating relationships between them and their sponsors. Mailings, answering donor questions, computer data entry. Approximately 20 hours per week, mornings or afternoons. Could be filled by one or more people.

We help churches to partner with local ministries in the hard places of the world.

For more information contact: Bob Savage •
bobs@partnersintl.org

For your Summer Calendar



Day Camp coming to YOU!

Did 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 6th grade. Don't Miss It!

June 25-29, 2012

Mon.-Thurs.: 9am-3pm for kids entering 1st -7th 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 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

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, Feb. 14**

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

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Mead, WA
Permit No. 20

Return Service Requested

Shakey's Pizza Night!!

Fundraiser for Youth Group Summer Mission to LA
Thursday, February 23rd 5:30 – 8:30 pm



Have we got a deal for you and your family!! Come enjoy great pizza with our Youth Group and other friends at Shakey's Pizza Parlor, 9602 N. Newport Hwy, on Thursday, February 23rd from 5:30 to 8:30 pm AND **25%** of the group sales for regular menu priced food will go to support our Summer Mission Trip. What could be better?

We have a group of 13 who will be going to South Los Angeles July 22nd -28th with Sierra Service Project. The focus of the mission will be on repairing homes, building faith and serving others. The prayers and support of the church are so important as our Youth reach out to serve others in this faith building, urban immersion experience.

The members of the LA Mission Team are: Connor Tsuchida, Mark Gilliam, Skyler Lamberd, Gregory Sealey, Laurel Gilliam, Jilly Greco, Hannah Anderson, Kendra Sherman, Bethany Pyle, Zack Burdick and our brave chaperones, Toni Gilliam, Craig Tsuchida and Kirk Foo.

Please be in prayer for this team, the mission work and people who will be served. And Please join us at Shakey's Pizza!! Be sure to tell them you are there for the Covenant Youth Group when you order your pizza. Take-out pizza ordered during this time frame will also support our cause.

Thank you Covenant Family!