

THE FOURTH 25 YEARS, PART 3, (2011 –2021)

Covenant's response to this year's **Souper Bowl of Caring Ministry** was "heartwarming." The response was the largest in Covenant's 15-year history of supporting this program. Covenant donated \$1,306 and 1274 cans of soup to the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.

Lent Begins on March 9



ASH WEDNESDAY – MARCH 9

1:00 P.M. IN THE CHAPEL ROOM; 7:30 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

Ash Wednesday is the traditional beginning of the season of Lent. This day initiates the 40-day period of spiritual preparation and personal repentance that leads up to the celebration of the resurrection of Christ on Easter Day. At our services, we will mark the beginning of this somber season with the celebration of Holy Communion and the Invitation to observe a Holy Lent through the imposition of ashes.

LENTEN SPECIAL MUSIC – APRIL 10: 9:30 A.M.

The Chancel Choir will present John Rutter's *Requiem*, accompanied by a chamber orchestra.

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY – APRIL 17: 9:30 A.M.

Join us on this exciting day when we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into the City of Jerusalem with palm waving and singing, as we praise the Lord with our "Hosannas." The Children's and Junior Choirs will present a musical drama, *The Singing Bishop*. We will then move from the joy of the palms to the shouts of "Crucify Him," and prepare our hearts for Passion Week.

MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 21: 7:30 P.M. - SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION WITH TENEBRAE

We will move through the painful and tragic story of Jesus' journey to the cross and remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples by sharing Holy Communion together. The sanctuary will slowly be darkened and the mood will turn to deep grief as we hear of Jesus' broken body placed in the tomb.

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 22: 12 NOON TO 1 P.M.

First Presbyterian Church (Summit and Cascade) will host the Community Good Friday Service, sponsored by the Springfield Ministerium. Covenant's Sanctuary will be open for silent personal prayer beginning at 1 p.m.

PRAYER VIGIL: GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 22: 3 – 8 P.M.; HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 23: 8 A.M. – 12:00 NOON

In anticipation of the resurrection, come and bask in the silence of the sanctuary, reflect on the sorrowful story and deep meaning of Jesus' death, and share in the prayers of the community. (Watch for a sign-up sheet to be in Wesley Hall.)

EASTER DAY – APRIL 24

7:00 A.M. SUNRISE SERVICE IN WESLEY HALL; 8:45 AND 11 A.M. EASTER CELEBRATION IN THE SANCTUARY

STUDY ON RACISM

The Adult Education Team (Jim and Betty Batchelor, Patti Owens, Gail Hodge, Eric Hathaway and Robin Moore) invited members and friends of Covenant to participate in a 7-week conversation about Racism in the United States. Seminar leaders included Pastor Bergstresser, Gail Hodge and Carolyn Hathaway.



MYSTERY READER MONTH

AT COVENANT NURSERY SCHOOL

Members of the community were invited to come to the Nursery School to share their love of reading with the preschoolers. Rep. Bill Adolph, Dr. James Capolupo, CPO David Hentnick of the U. S. Coast Guard, Chief Joseph Daly, Pastor Mark, Pastor Larry, Sarah Batchelor, Dr. David Soslau, Capt. David Madonna of the Upper Darby Police Dept., Rob Mannix, Patti Owens and Frank McKnight stopped by. An invitation also was sent to President Obama. A surprise phone call from the White House was received although he was not available to read to the class at this time.

NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

8:30 – 9:00 -a short, informal worship service to be held in the Kingswood Chapel
9:00 – 10:00 -Sunday School for all ages
10:00- 10:30 -fellowship time in Wesley Hall
10:30 – 11:30 – worship in the Sanctuary, with fellowship time following in Wesley Hall

On June 12th, the following **confirmands** and their *mentors* affirmed their faith in the act of confirmation.

Julia Bingaman
Phoenix Corner
Julia Graham
Sydney Hagenbuch
Joanna Liscom

Beth Folkomer
Marcia Hickey
Robin Moore
Pam Townsend
Kathy Atkinson

Mary Kate Maher
Sam O'Hara
Claire Schneider
Paul Schneider

Barb Cadge
Don Cadge
Stacey Rosser
Glenn Bowman

STAFF CHANGE

After 10 years of service, **Kathy Preston** stepped down as Administrative Assistant. Her successor for the summer was Linda Hildebrandt. Beginning in September, these duties were handled by Barb Cadge, and Robin Moore.

2011 ASP TEAM

Chris Apostolu
Dan Apostolu
Nick Apostolu
Kathy Atkinson
Glenn Bowman
Laura Cadge
Greg Corner
Lexi DiGiovanni
Marcia Hickey
Kayla Howard

Mike Krezdorn
Dawn Liscom
Dan Maher
April Nercesian
Kelly O'Hara
Allison Ranck
Mike Trainor
Allyson Turner
Dan Wallin
Peter Weiss

Ye Olde Holly & Ivy Advent Celebration was held on Sunday, November 27th. Crafts for all ages, a family friendly service and a potluck dinner was enjoyed by all.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

The Chancel Choir presented “Hodie Apparuit: Today a King is Born” by Chester Alwes

CHRISTMAS EVE

7:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Service with Christmas Musical “A Shephard’s Story”
Presented by children and youth

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols
Music by the Chancel Choir and Covenant Ringers with meditation by Pastor Mark

CHRISTMAS DAY

Pastor Mark preaching

2012



Ken Prager

ADULT EDUCATION IN THE NEW YEAR

Beginning January 8th and continuing through February, a new short course entitled “*The Seven Deadly Sins (and Their Corresponding Virtues)*” was led by Ken Prager.

A letter from our District Superintendent

Dear Pastor Young and Members of
Covenant United Methodist Church,

I want to thank you for paying your Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Connectional Ministries Account in full! I know in this day and age every dollar counts for ministry in the local church, so I doubly thank you for your faithfulness in this, your first line mission giving.

May these words from John Wesley encourage you in your faithfulness:

“You will have no reward in heaven for what you lay up; you will, for what you lay out! Every dollar you put into an earthly bank is sunk: it brings no interest above. But every dollar you give to the poor is put into the bank of heaven. And it will bring glorious interest; yea, and as such, will be accumulating to all eternity!”

Once again, Thank You!

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Thomas C. Haugh
Southeast District Superintendent

The **SOUPER BOWL of CARING** team announced that record-high donations were received: \$1,222 in cash and 2218 food items resulting in a 33% increase from last year.

STAFFING CHANGES

It was announced in January that effective June 30th, **Rev. Larry Bergstresser** decided to say “goodbye” as he wanted to step into another stage of his retirement.

In March, Bishop Peggy Johnson announced that effective July 1st, the **Rev. Mark Young** would be appointed to First United Methodist Church in Phoenixville.

The **First Annual Dinner and Auction** was a great success. More than 130 children, youths and adults attended. \$7,000 was raised to support Covenant's ministries

COVENANT'S 1ST ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION

Saturday, May 5, 2012



Covenant United Methodist Church of Springfield
212 West Springfield Road • Springfield, Pennsylvania 19064
610-544-1400 www.covumc.com



WELCOME TO COVENANT'S 1ST ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION

5:30 p.m. — Mix and Mingle

Assorted Hors d'oeuvres and
an invitation to view auction items.

You may place your bids on silent auction items at any time.

6:00 p.m. — Welcome

Opening Prayer

Buffet Dinner

Roasted Chicken, Hot Roasted Beef, Baked Ziti, Roasted Red Potatoes,
Roasted Mixed Vegetables, Tossed Garden Salad, and Dessert

7:30 p.m. — Live Auction



MRS. GLUCK'S LEAP DAY NURSERY SCHOOL CLASS

STEERING TEAM

Barbara Cadge
Alex Cole
Barbara Craven
Kip Craven
Mary Anne Galloway

Mark Hagenbuch
Bob Hick
Gail Hodge
John Hodge
Barbara Kenney
Eleanor Roberts

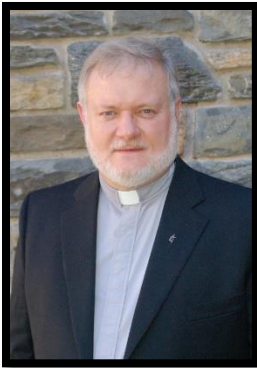
A BIG THANKS TO OTHERS WHO HELPED

Fran Ancone
Irene Atkinson
Bill Bingaman
Isabelle Bingaman
Laura Cadge
Greg Corner
Beth Folkmer
Colleen Hagenbuch
Sydney Hagenbuch
Dawn Hanrahan
Nancy Hansen
Dick Heintz
Julia Hodge
Carol Jean Kenney

Bob Leach
Linda Lyman
Robin Moore
Frank Nessel
Eleanor Nessel
Joe Organtini
Patti Owens
Tish Owens
Greg Plank
Roy Singley
Carol Smith
Rens Swan
Paige Waddington
Pete Weiss
Jack Woolfall

EMCEE AND AUCTIONEER: Larry Owens

120 Children between pre-school and 4th grade attended the **Vacation Bible School** "Operation Overboard" sessions, and 30 youth from grades 5 through 12 volunteered to either shepherd the younger kids around or to help each day at one of the many stations.



Rev. Anderman

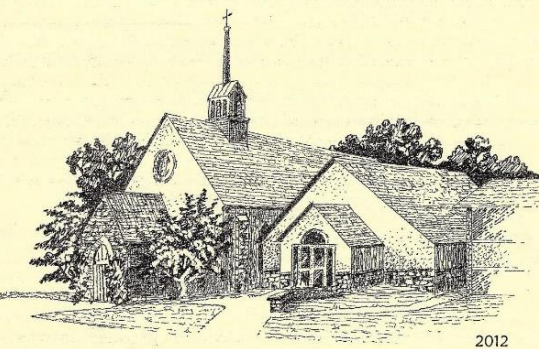
Effective July 1st, the **Rev. James D. Anderman** (2012-2019) was appointed to Covenant. He graduated from Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA with a B.A. in Business Administration and from Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, PA with a Master of Divinity Degree.



COVENANT'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

Covenant United Methodist Church celebrated its 90th Anniversary with a special worship service followed by a luncheon. The guest speaker was Rev. Robert Mongold whose ministry to Covenant spanned 16 years from 1988 to 2004.

90th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon
Sunday, November 11, 2012



2012

**COVENANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF SPRINGFIELD**
212 West Springfield Road
Springfield, Pennsylvania 19064-2402
610-544-1400 • www.covumc.com

James D. Anderman Rob Mannix Sarah E. Batchelor
Senior Pastor Director of Children & Family Ministries Director of Music

Cover drawing by Jim Ellis

90th Anniversary Luncheon

Welcome and Introductions The Rev. James Anderman
Senior Pastor (appointed 2012)

Reflections from the Decades
Alice Faries April 8, 1928
Nancy Hall April 18, 1943
Sally Macbeth November 2, 1947

Blessing The Rev. Robert Ziegler
Minister of Visitation (1995-2000)

Lunch (catered by Anthony's of Drexel Hill)

Reflections from the Decades
Joanne Bauman March 15, 1953
Fran Ancone April 7, 1963
Nan Armond February 20, 1972
Joe Organtini December 16, 1984

Dessert

Reflections from the Decades
Bob Bruce November 8, 1998
Allison Weiss May 21, 2000
Julia Bingaman June 12, 2011

An Update of the Mongold Family Dianne Mongold

Closing Remarks

Final Blessing The Rev. Dr. Dale Owens
Senior Pastor (1974-1979)
Visitation Pastor (2000-2005)
Pastor Emeritus (2005-present)

Sincere thanks to the many people who worked in varieties of ways to plan, organize and prepare for this celebration. A special thank you is extended to members of Mothers & More for assisting in the serving of the luncheon.

SING NOEL

Sunday, December 16th

At the 10:30 a.m. service, the Chancel Choir presented Hal Hopson's carol service SING NOEL with accompanists Jennifer Lee, Carlos Rubio (violin), Renee Warwick (viola), Glenn Fischbach (cello), and Rob Upton (organ). Covenant's instrumentalists were Josh Miller (drum), Colleen Hagenbuch (percussion and handbells), and Donald Cadge (handbells). Vocal soloists included Eric Hathaway, Meg King, and Joan Clarke.



"The Angels Remember"

Adapted by Dawn Liscom from the book Bright Christmas, An Angel Remembers, written by Andrew Clements, Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin Company, © 1996

CAST

Angels Claire Schneider, Mairin Gallagher, Keri Hagenbuch,
Rebecca Hurlock, Beth Myers, Susan Warwick,
Abby Toledo, Alyssa Hanrahan, Ashley Pascal,
Chloe Gwaku, Alexandra Gwaku,
Jaelyn King, Aidan Gallagher, Anna Mannix,
Danielle Hathaway, Morgan Hagenbuch,
Rachel Hurlock, Sydney Hagenbuch
Moses Noah Mannix
David Kieran Gallagher
Isaiah Paul Schneider
Joseph Joseph Dieterle
Mary Betsy Warwick
Shepherds . . . Emma Toledo, Teddy Celikay,

Christmas Eve Pageant

2013

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Again, Covenant by their generosity collected 2098 cans of food and \$1,740 to help alleviate hunger in Delaware County. This was another all-time record.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

The 2012 "Gifts from the Heart" project was a wonderful success. As a result of the generosity of many, a total of \$3,061 was distributed to: ASP, Nutrition Promotion Consultancy Service in Nepal, Life Center, Interfaith Hospitality Network, and Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.

Bishop Peggy Johnson preached at both services of worship on Sunday, April 7th. The late service was followed by a luncheon and an organ recital by Carol Weldy Portice who was on a sabbatical from her position as Organist-Director of Music at University Presbyterian Church in Michigan. She had been active in Covenant's youth and music programs during her time in Springfield.

Holy Week and Easter Services and Activities

March 24 ~ Palm / Passion Sunday

8:30 a.m. – Worship Service in the Chapel
9:00 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt (see related article)
9:00 a.m. Sunday School youth and adults
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service in the Sanctuary
We will celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and then we will ponder the tragic events as the week unfolded. Come to reflect on Jesus' Passion at the heart of the Christian faith.

March 28 ~ Holy Thursday

7:30 p.m. Service of Holy Communion with Tenebrae

We will gather together to recall the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples before his death, followed by the events of his trial and condemnation. Our service of tenebrae (Latin for "shadows") moves us from light into darkness as we remember the events and experience the sadness of that night.



March 29 ~ Good Friday

Princeton Presbyterian Church (933 Baltimore Pike) will host the Community Good Friday Service sponsored by the Springfield Ministerium. The service will be held from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Prayer Vigil

Good Friday ~ March 29 from 3 – 8 p.m.

Holy Saturday ~ March 30 from 8 a.m. – 12:00 noon

The sanctuary will be open for reflection on the meaning of Jesus' death and an opportunity to share in prayer for our church, community, and the world as we anticipate the resurrection on Easter.

March 31 ~ Easter Day

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

7 a.m. – Son Rise Service in Wesley Hall

8:30 and 10:30 a.m. –

Easter Celebration with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Identical Worship Services in the Sanctuary. Pastor Jim preaching. Music provided by the Chancel Choir, Covenant Ringers, brass quartet, timpani, and organ.

You are invited to Covenant's 2nd Annual Dinner and Auction

DINNER MENU	DINNER TICKETS
Appetizers	\$25
Hot Roast Pork	
Chicken	
Stuffed Shells	
Hot & Cold Sides	
Dessert	
Beverages	

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!
Saturday, April 20th
in Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m. - Mix & Mingle
6:00 p.m. - Catered Dinner
7:00 p.m. - Auction

LIVE AND SILENT AUCTIONS	CHILDREN'S PROGRAM
Themed Baskets	for the evening will be held in Room 2/3K and will include a kid-friendly meal and supervised activities. \$5.00/child
Sports Tickets	
Gourmet Dinners	
Lancaster B & B	
Museum Tickets	

"SMALL THINGS with GREAT LOVE"

Beth and Tim Folkomer were asked by the Adult Education Team to lead a class revisiting the book, which was presented last fall, during the spring season.

"Dear friends at Covenant UMC,

I am writing to thank you for the gift we recently received via the Advance for our "Nutrition for Urban Communities" project. At present, our work is focused on two slum communities but after four years we are looking to downgrade our activities in one slum and look for a new community to start working with next year.

"The goal of this project is to help families provide better nutrition to their women and children through training and awareness-raising. Apart from the salary of our nutrition in-charge Rita Shakya, who manages and runs all the activities, your money is used directly for the training of mothers, pregnant and newly-delivered ladies, for the monthly weighing of under-5 children to monitor their growth, and for the visiting and support of families of malnourished children, including the provision of small amounts of charity in the form of a nutritious flour for porridge.

"We would appreciate your prayers for this work - many of the families are transient and live life 'on the edge' with little time, energy or money for making changes that could benefit their children's long-term future. We also appreciate your prayers as we begin the process of selecting our new working area - probably in a poor part of the city with a lot of migrant workers living in tenements.

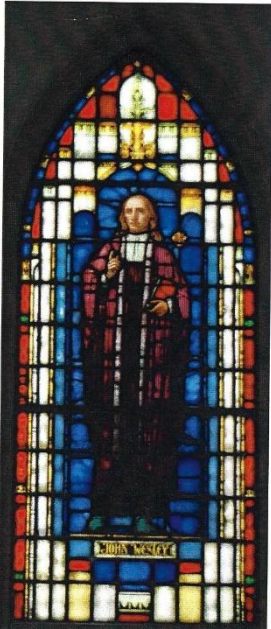
"We do appreciate your faithful support to this project. On behalf of everyone at Nutrition Promotion Consultancy Service (NPCS),"

Sincerely,
Deirdre Zimmerman

CONFIRMED AND RECEIVED AS PROFESSING MEMBERS

Pentecost – Sunday, May 19, 2013

† Georgia Kathleen Apostolu	† Noah James Kampmeyer Mannix
† David Aaron Bingaman	† Karlei Elizabeth Mullen
† Kieran Wade Gallagher	† Nathan Ridgley
† Jaelynn Louise King	† Rachel Christine Smith



The Staff-Parish Relations Team announced the hiring of **Lori Henning** as a part-time administrative assistant in the church office.

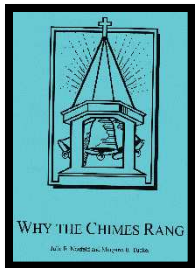


New landscaping on the Springfield Road Hill

On Friday, October 4th a special **Blessing of the Animals Service** took place in the courtyard between Epworth and Kingswood Buildings.

WALKING FOR HUNGER

On Sunday, October 13th, eight Covenant Members participated in the Swarthmore-Wallingford **CROP WALK** to fight hunger around the world. Thanks to the support of the congregation, \$1,800 was raised for Church World Service



On Christmas Eve at the 7 p.m. service, the Children's Choir presented the musical **"Why the Chimes Rang"** by Julia Neufeld and Margaret Tucker.

**91st ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF COVENANT CHURCH**

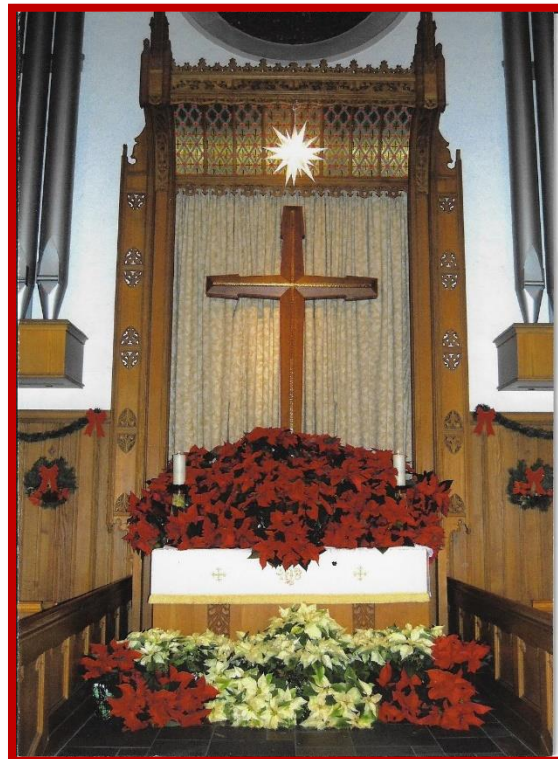
On October 20th a special service was held at both worship services with guest speaker Pastor Emeritus, the Reverend Dr. Dale E. Owens.

Cast

Narrator	Michelle Owens
Little Sister	Alyssa Hanrahan
Sara	Claire Schneider
Town Crier	Eric Hathaway
Old Woman	Nan Armond
Minister	Paul Schneider
Peddlers	Eric Hathaway, Karen Kampmeyer Mannix
	Danielle Hathaway, Morgan Hagenbuch, Anna Mannix
	Sydney Hagenbuch, Kirk Schneider, Barb Ellixson, Barb Plank
Rich Woman	Danielle Hathaway
Rich Man	Josiah Yaidoo
Knights	Owen O'Lynn, Morgan Hagenbuch
Artists	Jonathan Huston, James Huston, Anna Mannix
Writers	Grace Corner, Keri Hagenbuch, Abby Toledo
Musicians	Teddy Celikay, Beth Myers, Betsy Warwick
Baker	Emma Toledo
Woodcarvers	Kylie Groux, Susan Warwick
Travelers (Tall Black Mountains)	Barb Ellixson
	Kirk Schneider, Theodora Yaidoo
Travelers (Shining Rivers)	Sydney Hagenbuch
	Eric Hathaway, Karen Kampmeyer Mannix
Travelers (Flowering Meadows)	Noah Mannix, Barb Plank, Paul Schneider
King	Joseph Yaidoo
Flute	Beth Folkmer
Handbells/Orff Instruments	Julia Bingaman, Colleen Hagenbuch
	Brian Huston, Carrie Kaysen, Ruth von Minden
Director/Keyboard	Sarah Batchelor
Staging	Mary Goetz
Costumes & Props	Mary Goetz, Colleen Hagenbuch
	Dawn Hanrahan, Melissa Toledo

*Sincere thanks to everyone who has helped in the production of **WHY THE CHIMES RANG**. I appreciate your giving of time and talent. I certainly couldn't have done it without you!*

- Sarah Batchelor



Cover of Covenant Christmas Card

2014

WESLEYAN COVENANT SERVICE

On Sunday, January 5th, the *Wesleyan Covenant Service* was used which offers a chance to renew the promises made to God. Familiar elements of the service included the “Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition” and Charles Wesley’s hymn “Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine” which was specifically written for this service.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

The Wired Word: Living as a Christian in Today’s World

Each week a news story was discussed from a Christian worldview.

Uncovering Jesus, Past and Present

“Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary” by Marcus Borg was the Kingwood Sunday Adult Education short course for 10 weeks.

Alpha Course

A basic course in Christianity answering simple questions like, “Who is Jesus?” The goal was to create a safe place where nothing is assumed, but everything is explained.

CHESTER CHILDREN’S CHORUS AT COVENANT

On Saturday, March 1st, the Chester Children’s Chorus presented a free concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This amazing choir is made up of boys and girls from 8 to 18 years old who live and attend school in the Chester-Upland School District. John Alston, the Director, also came to Covenant on Sunday, February 16th to sing a solo and to talk about the upcoming concert. He also spoke at the “The Wired Word” Sunday School Class.

My Name is Hunger and I'm Knocking at your Door

My name is Hunger and am living down the street
Your neighbors are struggling to have enough to eat.
The medical bills wiped out their savings
and they can't make ends meet,
They are relying on the Food Bank
so their family can eat.

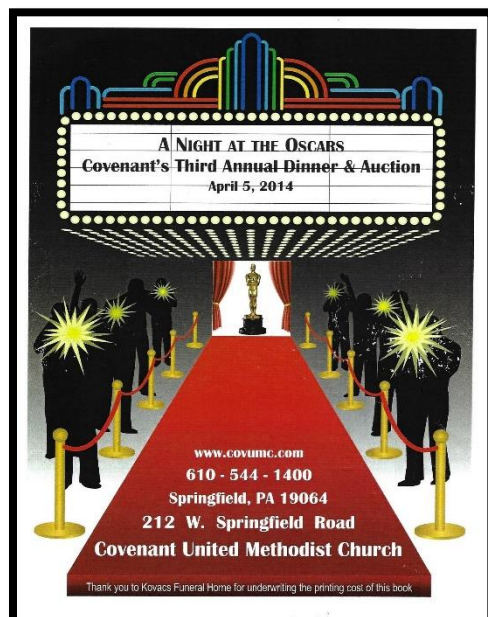
My name is Hunger, and I am living down the block.
That sweet single mom is working around the clock.
Two jobs at minimum wage barely pay the rent,
by mid-month her money and food stamps are spent.

My name is Hunger, and I'm moving in next door.
That well-educated couple is feeling very poor.
Lay-offs and cut-backs took both their jobs away
Their benefits ran out
and they have too many bills to pay.

My name is Hunger and I'm in your backyard.
Making ends meet on Social Security
is really very hard.
Bills are sometimes late, and the cupboards are bare,
And food banks don't always have enough to share.

My name is Suzie and I'm hungry every day
I get free lunch at school but that's all I eat each day.
We go to the food bank, but sometimes
the shelves are bare
Please support Souper Bowl of Caring
to show you really care!

*Written by:
The Senior High Sunday School Class
of Covenant Church*



1922 – 2022 ABRIDGED HISTORY

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Workshop of Wonders



2014 Confirmants: Christabel Anukam, Theodora Yaidoo, Anna Graham, Amanda Petz, and Steven Klaus Gabel



Covenant United Methodist Choir premieres commissioned anthem

The Choir of Covenant United Methodist Church, Springfield, will premiere the anthem *Let the Peace of Christ* by Molly Ijames at the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, Oct. 19. This work was commissioned in 2013 by the Chancel Choir and congregation of Covenant Church in honor of the 25th Anniversary of Sarah Batchelor, Music Director and Organist.

Joining the Chancel Choir will be 17 former choir members, many of whom participated in the Children's and Junior choirs under the direction of Sarah during her 25 years of service. The current Children's Choir will also perform.

Kirsten Olson will accompany the anthems (piano and organ) and perform duets with Sarah. She met Sarah when the two sang next to each other in the touring choir at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J.

Cello accompaniment will be provided by Sarah's daughter, Claire Schneider.

Sarah has been Music Director at Covenant Church since 1988. She is a graduate of Westminster Choir College, with a bachelor's degree in Church Music, and a Master's Degree in Choral Conducting and Organ.

She also holds a bachelor's degree in religion from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Sarah is a member of the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists and teaches piano.

Ijames, a resident of Davison, MI, is a nationally recognized sacred choral writer, arranger and teacher. She frequently travels to national conferences and local churches to teach congregational and choral accompanying and to assist in corporate worship. She holds a B.S. in Music Education from Bob Jones University.

Covenant UMC is at 212 W. Springfield Road, (the corner of Springfield Road and Saxer Avenue). Parking is available in the lot adjacent to the church, entered from



Sarah Batchelor to be honored on Oct. 19 for 25 years at Covenant Church.

Saxer Avenue, and on Saxer Avenue.

The church is handicapped accessible and assistive hearing devices are available. For directions or more information, contact the church office at 610-544-1400 or visit www.covumc.com.

Don Cadge was seeking volunteers for a new **Weeding and Watering Team** at Covenant. This idea was to gather volunteers who were willing to help keep Covenant's grounds weeded and watered. Don has faithfully tended Covenant's gardens for many years. The rose garden in the Memorial Garden is spectacular.



MEMORIAL GARDEN EXPANSION

The Board of Trustees approved the expansion of the Memorial Garden located between the Sanctuary, Wesley Hall, and Kingswood Buildings. The work was made possible by a gift from Rens Swan in loving memory of his wife, Jane, long time members of Covenant. The project included expanding the number of spaces available for interments, construction of new garden walls, a new sidewalk arrangement, and an etching on the glass doors leading out to the Garden from Kingswood indicating "Memorial Garden." A Consecration Service was held on All Saint's Sunday, November 2nd.



ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2014 12:00 NOON	THE COVENANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MEMORIAL GARDEN IS PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD.
GREETING Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord People: and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation. Leader: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving, People: singing joyful songs of praise.	We give thanks for: the vision and foundational gift for the expansion project given by Rens Swan in loving memory of Jane Spear Swan the new door from the Kingswood Building (to be installed by the end November) given by Joyce and Jack Schreffler the walkway railings given by Betty Brown in loving memory of Frank J. Brown the bronze Memorial Garden plaque at the garden entrance given by friends and the Stettler and Cadge families in loving memory of Doris W. Stettler and in honor of Arthur W. Stettler the flowers, pachysandra, and shrubs given by Barb and Greg Plank and funding from several others which made the completion of the project possible.
HYMN "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" (see insert)	
DECLARATION OF PURPOSE	
PRESENTATION OF THE GARDEN Carolyn Casey Gabel Board of Trustees President	
NAMING THE GARDEN	
SCRIPTURE Genesis 49:28-33 Psalm 23 (unison) (see insert) John 14:1-4	
PRAYER FOR CONSECRATION	
HYMN "Hymn of Promise" (see insert)	
BENEDICTION † † †	Our sincere gratitude goes to Greg Plank for his careful oversight and generous gifts of time and talent to the expansion project.

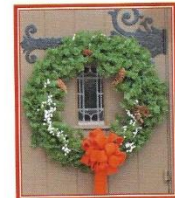
CELEBRATING COVENANT'S 92ND ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, November 23rd, Covenant held a 92nd Anniversary celebration with the Rev. Russell Atkinson (son of Jim and Irene Atkinson) returning to his home church and preaching at both services. Following the 10:30 a.m. service, all were invited to attend a luncheon in Fellowship Hall.



The 2014 *"Gifts from the Heart"* project was again a wonderful success. A total of \$1,885 was distributed to ASP (\$447), Life Center (\$468), Nutrition Promotion Consultancy in Nepal (\$501), and Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry (\$469).

*Celebrating
Advent
and
Christmas
at
Covenant Church*



SUNDAYS OF ADVENT

November 30, December 7, 14, and 21

8:30am – Worship Service in the Sanctuary
9:15am – Sunday School for all ages
10:30am – Worship Service in the Sanctuary

ADVENT SPECIAL MUSIC

at the 10:30 service on December 14

Savior of the Nations, Come, an Advent/Christmas Hymn Festival presented by the Chancel Choir, accompanied by organ and brass quartet.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00pm – Candlelight Communion Service
7:00pm – Family Service with Pageant
10:00pm – Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols
11:30pm – Ring in Christmas Day with Communion

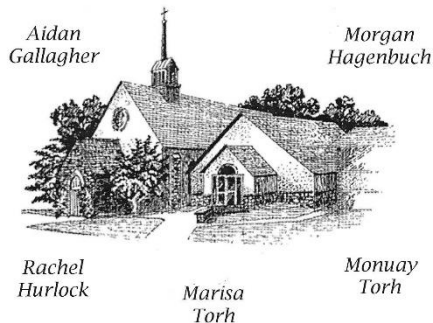
2015

The **Souper Bowl of Caring Team** thanked the members and friends of Covenant who donated 2031 cans of food and \$1,778 to the Loaves & Fishes Pantry.

A **Ministry Grant Fund** was established which was designed to stimulate creativity. The fund offered a chance for members of the congregation to propose new ministries that were keeping with the mission and vision of the church and which were designed to open new opportunities for ministry and mission.

CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION AS PROFESSING MEMBERS

Pentecost
Sunday, May 24, 2015



CARIBBEAN NIGHTS

April 18, 2015

Covenant's 4th Annual Dinner and Auction was a huge success thanks to 98 guests who shared the evening with good company, good food and lots of spirited bidding. Just under \$12,000 (before expenses) was donated to support the mission and ministries of Covenant.

**SUNDAY - MAY 31, 2015
10:30 AM**



Craig Courtney

internationally renowned choral composer and arranger, will lead a musical journey through the church year during the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, May 31, at Covenant United Methodist Church, Springfield.

The Chancel Choir will sing ten of his anthems, interspersed with scripture readings, hymns and comments by the composer.

Music Director, Sarah Batchelor and Mr. Courtney will share the anthem accompaniments, several of which feature string instrumentalists.

Craig Courtney has written over 300 anthems and is in constant demand as a choral clinician and featured composer. We are delighted he will be here to share in worship. A reception will follow with an opportunity to meet the composer. We hope you will join us!

COVENANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
212 W. Springfield Road • Springfield, PA 19064
610-544-1400 www.covumc.com



TROOP 512

Boy Scout Troop 512 meets in Fellowship Hall on Monday nights. This troop is one of two troops in Springfield and the largest troop in the area, having been in existence for over 50 years. 58 Scouts and 34 registered adult leaders comprise the troop.

PRAYER MINISTRY

The Prayer Chain Ministry has recently been strengthened with the addition of new prayer warriors and the option to send and receive prayer requests by email. Lee Windle and Barb Cadge headed up this ministry.

The 2015 ASP Team

Greg Corner	Todd Gallagher
Pam Townsend	Andrea Ridgley
Zack Hoffinan	Noah Mannix
Jared Plank	Sadeeq Carpenter
Aaron Hill	Mike Hagendorf
Kristen Applegate	Amanda Petz
	Julia Bingaman
Lori Corner	Dave Petz
Glenn Bowman	Pete Weiss
Ahmadi Carpenter	Sam O'Hara
Jake Plank	Nathan Ridgley
Kieran Gallagher	Laura Grubb
Lisa Panczner	Erin Gamble

*"The one who says he abides in Him
ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked."*
1 John 2:6 (NASB)



Ken Garton, (third from left) surrounded by his family at a tribute ceremony hosted by Boy Scout Troop 512 to celebrate Ken's 40 years of service to Scouting.

SPECIAL SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES

September 6th – a new schedule began which moved the early service to 8:15am and the later service to 10:45am

September 13th – Special thanks and recognition was given to the Springfield Fire Company, and a Rally Day breakfast during the Sunday School hour was held.

September 20th – Sunday School teachers and Nursery School Staff were commissioned.

September 27 – Bible Sunday was celebrated by providing a copy of the Bible to first grade students.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Covenant United Methodist Men's Breakfast met for their monthly meeting and program on Saturday, September 12th. Eric Hofberg gave a talk and demonstration on model airplanes. Mark Hagenbuch prepared the breakfast.



Nursery School Class

CROP WALK

On Sunday, October 11th, 26 members and friends of Covenant participated in the Swarthmore-Wallingford CROP WALK to fight hunger around the world. There was a significant increase in the number of walkers this year and thanks to the support of Covenant, they were able to raise almost \$2,200 for Church World Service.

CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL

Hand in Hand, Children of Chernobyl, brings children from the contaminated region of Belarus to the US every summer to help them with various medical conditions. Shoes were collected in November in an effort to fundraise money to help bring more children to the US next summer. Shoes were going to an organization that pays us for them.

We're throwin' an
Apple-at-cha
Fun Fest
• Saturday, November 21st •

In Concert



Clinton Collins and the Creekboys
An award winning singer/songwriter from the heart of the Appalachian Mountains. Blends of rock, country, blues, folk, gospel, and mountain music are creatively woven into a sound that retains the fingerprints of his own personality. Clinton & the Creekboys offer a unique mix of original songs about people & places that seem familiar & stories that resonate with us all.

with Appalachian Storyteller



Pam Holcomb
has entertained and delighted audiences of all ages for more than 30 years with her humorous tales of mountain adventures, folklore, and Appalachian stories.

Activities • Learn Square Dancing with **Club Sashay**
• Quilt show • Appalachian crafts for all ages • Games

Dinner • Appalachian bbq pulled pork / chicken dinner
(with chicken nuggets and macaroni & cheese for children)

Activities start at 4:30, dinner at 6:00, & concert at 7:00pm.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 13th, 10:45 a.m. Service

This service featured the Chancel Choir with guest instrumentalists Janet Witman (harp) and Susan Ritter (oboe). Anthems and carol arrangements by Craig Courtney, Neil Harmon and Stephen Paulus were sung.

CHRISTMAS EVE MUSICAL

At the 7 p.m. service, the Children's Choir and adults presented the musical, *Shobi Shares a Christmas Miracle*.



2016UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

United Methodist Women began in 1869 as the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society to send a doctor and an educator to India to aid the women and children affected negatively by cultural and societal practices of the day. Now, more than 146 years later, this group has evolved into the United Methodist Women with primary focus to improve the lives of disadvantage women, youth and children, both locally and globally, by supporting programs which work with this segment of the population who are affected by such issues as immigration and refugee status, illiteracy and poverty, among many others. Circles are small groups within the local church that meet to carry out the mission of UMW.

The **Elizabeth Circle**, formed in 1987, consisted of 23 women from Covenant who met every month. They have been involved in helping domestic abuse victims, making and sending birthing kits for third world countries, adopting an underprivileged school in Philadelphia supplying them with needed paper and school supplies and holding a book drive where members of the congregation donated books for the children in this school. For the past two years, the Elizabeth Circle cooked, served and cleaned up for many Keenager Dinners.

The **Joanna and Esther Circles** joined together last year and met once each month. They shared a time of fellowship and opened each meeting with a devotion. All are members of the prayer chain. They have contributed to the Heifer project and made 20 gift bags for the folks at Harlee Manor. In December they took boxes of small useful items to former members of the circle who could no longer come to meetings.

Saturday Sisters was a new circle meeting on one Saturday each month for fellowship and sustenance and to grow their faith.

NEW STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

After thoughtful consideration, the Vision Team selected the words **"Changing Lives with Jesus"** to encapsulate what we believe God is calling our church to be and do.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The Souper Bowl of Caring Team thanked the members and friends of Covenant who donated 1835 cans of soup and \$1,981 to the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry. The community wide weekend food drive resulted in donations of cash and food totaling 35,316 units which was the best that had been done, 26% more than the previous year.

ADULT EDUCATION COURSE

Rabbi Shelly Barnathan discussed the scriptural basis, history, and insights from her own family's traditions. This was part of a short course around Rabbi Evan Moffic's Book, "Passover: What Every Christian Needs to Know." Rabbi Barnathan returned another Sunday to discuss the importance of storytelling, singing, and praising during the Passover celebration.

The Staff Parish Relations Team announced that effective April 15th, **Rob Mannix** was released early from his duties as Director of Children and Family Ministries so that he could begin his next journey in ministry.



Girl Scout troops 5783 (above) and 5737 (below) thank Covenant Church for its very generous support by providing a meeting place for our troop. As the Girl Scout promise says, "On our honor we will try to serve God and our country, help people at all times and live by the Girl Scout Law."



Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following workers who have given their time and effort to make *Springtime in Paris* a success.

Host and Auctioneer – Dick Heintz

Dinner Steering Team

The Steering Team began its planning and preparations in September 2015.

Barbara Cadge	Peg Holberg
Alex Cole	Barbara Kenney
Mary Anne Galloway	Robin Moore
Dick Heintz	Ruth Nikish
Gail Hodge, Co-Chair	John Strayer
John Hodge, Co-Chair	Pastor Jim Anderman

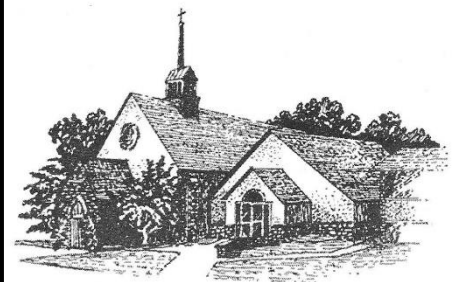
Support Workers

These individuals and teams helped with the final preparations or assisted tonight.

Fran Ancone	Sam Harrison
Mike Ancone	Joanne Holenstein
ASP Team	April Huston
Don Cadge	Carol Jean Kenney
Greg Corner	Martha Murphy
Cindy Cutrufello	Scott Neumann
Kate Driesbaugh	Joe Organtini
Jason Driesbaugh	Eleanor Roberts
Beth Folkomer	Sherman Roberts
Tim Folkomer	Pat Owens
Steven Gluck	Smitty Smith
Jim Hamill	Wednesday Willing Workers

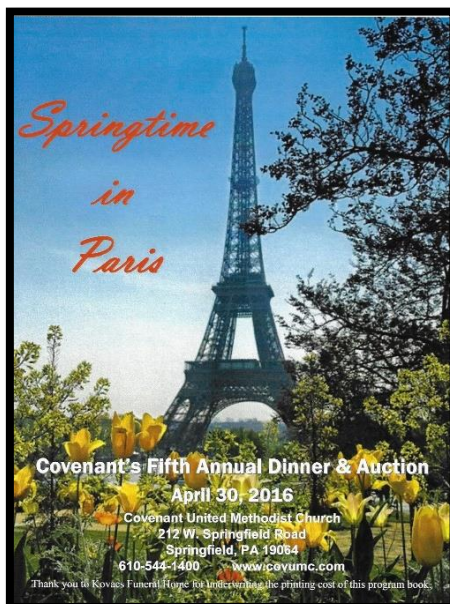
CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION AS PROFESSING MEMBERS

Pentecost
Sunday, May 15, 2016



Thomas Vincent Gabel

Rowan Troy Salla



A MUSIC SERVICE
FEATURING SPIRITUALS



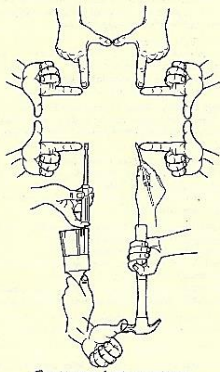
Art work by Timothy Botts, *Bound for Glory*, 2011. Used by permission.

Covenant United Methodist Church
Springfield Road and Saxer Avenue
Springfield, PA 19064
www.covumc.com

SUNDAY, MAY 22nd
10:45 a.m.

Presented by the Chancel Choir

ASP 2016
"Handiwork: Created to Serve"



FOR THE ASP 2016 HANDIWORKS
CREATED IN CHURCH TEAMS FOR GOOD WORKS
- EPHRAIM 2:10 -

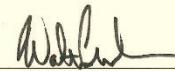
2016 ASP TEAM

Mary Kate Abbot	Zack Hoffman
Dan Apostolu	Colin Hook
David Bingaman	Catherine Looby
Julia Bingaman	Dorey Looby
Glenn Bowman	Karlei Mullen
Ahmadi Carpenter	Sam O'Hara
Sadeeq Carpenter	Lisa Panczner
Greg Corner	Amanda Petz
Lori Corner	David Petz
Kieran Gallagher	Jacob Plank
Todd Gallagher	Jared Plank
Laura Grubb	Nathan Ridgley
Mike Hagendorf	Peter Weiss
Aaron Hill	



Certificate of Appreciation
To
Covenant United Methodist Church
Springfield, PA

In Recognition of
35 Years of Dedicated Service
To Families of Central Appalachia



Walter B. Crouch, President/CEO
Summer 2016

"God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them." Hebrews 6:10 (NIV)

During an amazing week in Johnson County Tennessee making homes warmer, safer, & drier for some wonderful families with the Appalachia Service Project, Walter Crouch, president & CEO of ASP presented Covenant United Methodist Church with a 35th anniversary certificate because we've been doing this since 1982!



Walter Crouch
July 7, 2016

Covenant UMC, Springfield, Pennsylvania celebrates 35 years of serving low-income families through ASP in central Appalachia at Trade, Tennessee tonight!
#changetheworld #asphome

The Board of Trustees reported that the fund-raising appeal to replace the 30-year-old roof on the **Kingswood Building** was successfully completed. The goal was to raise \$60,000 by Palm Sunday. Through the generosity of Covenant's faithful, \$67,840.19 was raised in just under 8 weeks. The entire cost of the new roof was paid and enough money was left over to cover the cost of repainting the spire that sits atop the building.



Rev. Rutledge



On behalf of Bishop Peggy Johnson, Covenant United Methodist Church announced the appointment of **Rev. Kevin M. Rutledge** (2016-2022) to the position of Associate Pastor effective July 1, 2016. Rev. Rutledge graduated from Elizabethtown College with a degree in psychology and religious studies, and from Vanderbilt Divinity School.

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVELINESS

30 to 40 youth and adults from Covenant, First Presbyterian, and the Church of the Redeemer gathered together at First Presbyterian to try out a new community youth social gathering. They enjoyed fellowship, good food and drinks and played all sorts of games.

COMMUNION SUPPORT TEAM

Team members, Fran Ancone (Leader), Sherryl Feliciani, Lois Hodge, Karen Maher, Patti Owens, and Barb Trakimas, prepare the elements on Saturday before each month's first Sunday communion. After the service, they clean up and store the communion trays for the next service.

Covenant also had a ministry called

EXTENDING THE TABLE which had been created if health concerns, mobility challenges or Sunday work commitments forced a member to miss communion on Sunday morning. A team of members – Rich Pacitti, Mark Hagenbuch, Martha Murphy and Karen Kampmeyer-Mannix - were trained and commissioned to this ministry.

SANCTUARY DECORATING TEAM

This team arranges Advent and Christmas decorations, including wreaths, candles, and the lovely setting of poinsettias. In addition, they design arrangements for Thanksgiving Sunday, Palm Sunday, and special floral arrays for other occasions. Beth Folkomer (head), John and Linda Leshner, Isabelle Bingaman, Katie Singley, Jerry and Joanne Hohenstein make up the Decorating Team. Every week, either the Leshners or Beth select flowers to create one or more arrangements for the altar on Sundays. Also, the team changes the paraments on the pulpit, lectern and altar according to the church seasons.

BUILDING TEAM

The Covenant Building Team was made up of nine members of the congregation with the shared mission to improve the condition of the campus by focusing on areas of importance previously investigated by the Board of Trustees. The Team met for the third time this year and continued their discussions on topics such as campus accessibility, Nursery School improvements, technology, research, and making a priority list.

Lori Henning who was a Part Time Administrative Assistant in the Church Office since 2013 tendered her resignation as she was offered a teaching position at Auburn University in Alabama after defending her doctoral dissertation.

Paula Lawley was welcomed to Covenant as Part Time Administrative Assistant replacing Lori Henning. She joined the staff with many years of administrative experience in the insurance industry.

BLESSING BAGS FOR THE LIFE CENTER

The Outreach Team asked the congregation to help gather supplies for and make 120+ Blessing Bags for the Life Center. On Friday, August 12th, Covenant Church provided meals and lunches to 120 people. At a future dinner they would like to provide each person with a Blessing Bag. Items to be donated included toiletries, bottled water, bag of quarters for washing clothes at the laundromat, hand warmers, baby wipes, etc.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Children's Sunday School was busy learning stories from the Old Testament and seeing how God has worked in the past. The Middle School and High School Youth programs, due to numbers, were combined. The curriculum that was introduced taught the basic concepts of Christian faith in 3-week units. Sunday School teachers included Liza Stagliano, Dave Petz, Greg Corner, Rebecca Rutledge, and Wendy Munce.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thanks to the Adult Education Team comprised of Gail Hodge, Patti Owens, Ted Gail, Beth Folkmer, Keith Bratz (Wired Word), Jim Batchelor (Leader Emeritus), and Pastor Jim, who review materials, plan and promote courses and help to teach and lead discussions, classes are held on Sunday, Tuesday morning and Thursday evening.



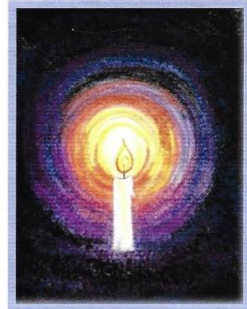
**Breakfast
with Santa**

**Saturday,
December 3**

**9:00am –
11:30am**

**Fellowship
Hall**

HOLY LIGHT
by Robert Hobby



Candlelight Service of Carols

Chancel Choir, Organ, Handbells,
Brass Quintet

Sunday, December 11, 2016
10:45 a.m.

Covenant United Methodist Church
212 W. Springfield Road • Springfield, PA 19064
610-544-1400 www.covumc.com

2017

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43:19a

For just about a year, many of you have been reading and hearing about the Building Committee. Some have wondered: What are they doing? When will we see the plans? When will the changes take place? And, can we afford it?

The good news is that the Building Committee has been diligently looking at the ministries of the church, examining the building and grounds, consulting with an architect, and seeking the advice of financial experts. The Committee has been looking at various options to upgrade our facilities, modernize some restrooms, increase both usability and accessibility of the facilities, and improve the parking situation. There are many options and **this is where you come in.**

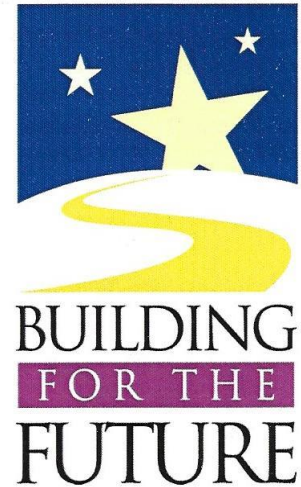
The Building Committee has brought the project to the point where we are ready to schedule a Future Focus Workshop where you will have the opportunity to discuss and help answer five questions:

1. What does God want?
2. Who are we as God's people?
3. What is the community we are called to serve?
4. How are our facilities helping or limiting our ability to answer God's call?
5. Given what we have learned, what should our priorities be?

Plans are now being finalized to have with us representatives of both our financial consultants (Horizons Stewardship) and our architects (Althouse, Jaffe & Associates) on **January 22, 2017** following the second worship service. We will begin with lunch and then discuss the project in light of the above questions.

Please plan to participate in this important step in the life of Covenant Church. Mark your calendar for January 22, so that you can be an integral part of the planning process that will shape Covenant's future in ministry.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Jim



The 2016 **"GIFTS FROM THE HEART"** project was a wonderful success. Thanks to the generosity of Covenant members, a total of \$2,323 was distributed to Appalachia Service Project (\$380), Life Center of Eastern Delaware County (\$446), Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry (\$446), Nutrition Promotion Consultancy in Nepal (\$586), and Mpasa Congo Pediatric Clinic (\$465).

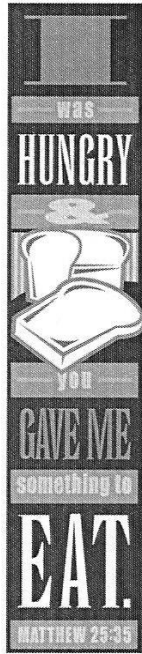
Dick Heintz, Covenant's longest serving usher recently retired after 40 years of service, 25 as Head Usher. The current **USHERING TEAM** included Ed Ranalli (Head), Gale Ranalli, Bev Friel, Jim Hamill, Jim Smith, Gail Hodge, Mark Hodges, Sherman Roberts, Glenn Bowman, Kathy Atkinson, Steve Gluck, Dan Munce, Tim Folkomer, Jennifer Canella, Aaron Hill, and Joe Organtini. Their responsibilities included distributing the bulletins, counting attendance, collecting the offering, helping with Communion, and being prepared to contact paramedics in emergencies.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 512

Joanne Castagna, Director of Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Prospect Park shared this letter:


"On behalf of the client families and the volunteers of Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, we want to thank all of you for your great generosity towards the Pantry. Your donations last year totaled 1,815.5 pounds of food which included hams and turkeys, plus a great amount of personal care items, baby items, school supplies and school bags. Your ongoing generosity is so thoughtful and needed.

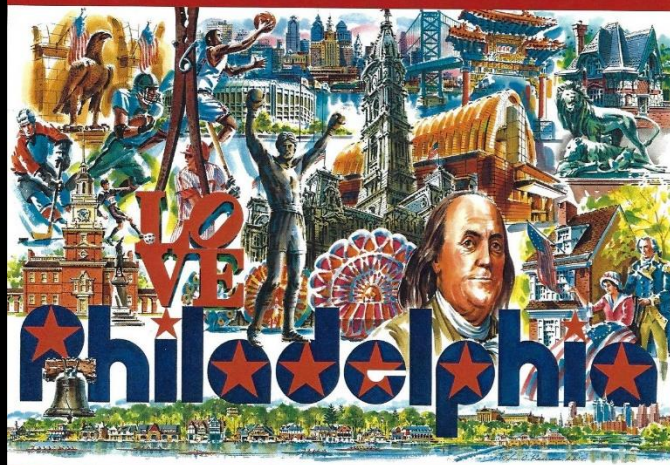
"As food prices and the cost of living continue to grow, so will our pantry as we do our best to meet expanding need. Your continued support is deeply appreciated for helping us meet our clients' needs throughout the year. Thank you for seeing their need and being so generous in helping them. What you have done has had a profound effect upon our clients' lives. We are deeply grateful."



On Sunday, February 12th, the scouts and leaders participated in the 10:45 a.m. worship service. Scouts read the scripture, passed the offering plates, and provided an amazing assortment of treats during fellowship time. Troop 512 is a very large and active troop, with 63 scouts on the rolls and 33 adult leaders, the largest in the area. As their fund-raising last fall was successful, the troop presented Covenant with a check for \$512.

The **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING TEAM** reported that 1581 cans of food and \$3,159 in cash was collected and donated to the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.





Covenant's Sixth Annual Dinner & Auction

April 29, 2017

Covenant United Methodist Church
212 W. Springfield Road
Springfield, PA 19064
610-544-1400 www.covumc.com

Thank you to Kovacs Funeral Home for underwriting the printing cost of this program book.

"Changing Lives with Jesus"

The Mission and Ministry of Covenant Church

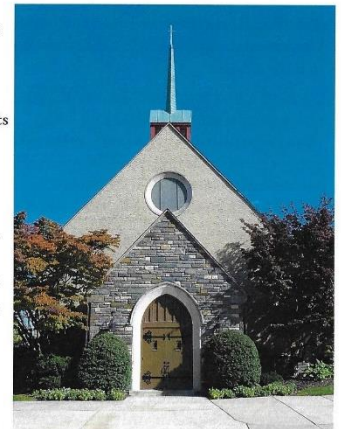
The purpose of Covenant United Methodist Church is to be a vital and inclusive Christian community of encouragement and hope and, as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, to reach out to all persons through ministries of service, learning and worship.

Covenant Church has grown from the small group of the twelve charter members who joined together in 1922 in the Old Central School on Saxer Avenue to a congregation of over 500 assembled in a very different structure, still dedicated to its mission.

We rejoice that we have been able to preserve the tradition of offering a multitude of opportunities for worship for both our own congregation and visitors literally from around the world. We also welcome the challenge of assisting to meet the needs of diverse groups. Covenant is an active and vibrant church serving the world-wide community in the name of Jesus Christ.

The proceeds from the annual dinner and auction support our ministry. This is an occasion to celebrate and support our purpose. The church extends to all the message of Christ's love and offers support, inspiration, and hope. All are welcome to participate in Covenant's Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Adult Education classes, Bible study, special classes, and, of course, worship services each Sunday and on other special holidays. Its inspirational music program touches our souls. Covenant's message is personal, but it speaks to all.

Covenant's week-day programs for children have impacted the lives of thousands of children since its nursery school was first opened in the 1950s. Each week during the school year, over 200 children attend classes in the Covenant Nursery School and



SUNDAY – MAY 21, 2017
10:45 A.M.



HOWARD HELVEY,

internationally renowned choral composer and arranger, will lead us through a musical journey of faith during the 10:45 a.m. service on Sunday, May 21 at Covenant United Methodist Church.

The Chancel Choir will present ten of his anthems, interspersed with scripture readings, hymns and comments by the composer.

Music Director, Sarah Batchelor and Mr. Helvey will share the piano accompaniments.

Howard Helvey serves as the organist and choirmaster of historic Calvary Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has written hundreds of compositions and arrangements and is in constant demand as a composer, conductor and speaker. We are delighted he will be here to share in worship. A reception will follow with an opportunity to meet the composer. We hope you will join us!

COVENANT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
212 W. Springfield Road · Springfield, PA 19064
610-544-1400 www.covumc.com



Howard Helvey Directing the Chancel Choir

LONG TIME MEMBERS

The members are listed in order in which they professed their faith. Alice Faries became a member in 1928, 89 years ago!

Alice Faries (1)	Nancy Beitzel Hall (2)
Mavis Berdan (3)	Walter Hall (4)
Nancy Light Parmiter (5)	Jack Kohl (6)
Jane Bird Wilson (7)	Joanne Robinson Kennedy (8)
Gilda Myers (9)	Marge McConnell (10)
Betty Naylor (11)	Joanne Bauman (12)
Eleanor Hobdell (13)	Marcia Martin (14)
Dolores Poulson (15)	Mary Wagner (16)
Ed Foehl (17)	Ginny Speer (18)
Fern Fisher (19)	Jim Parmiter (20)
Andy Kowalczyk (21)	Bunny Kowalczyk (22)
Ruth Lawley (23)	George DeCowsky (24)
Ruth van Leer (25)	Odette Locher (26)
Jack Schreffler (27)	Joyce Shreffler (28)
Bob Leach (29)	Rosanna Leach (30)
Arthur Stettler (31)	Wilma Albright Houser (32)
Richard Hevner (33)	

and Ron Kaye who will join this august group on June 16, as an active member of Covenant for 60 years!



Sunday School

REPORT ON COVENANT'S ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION

On April 29th, 100 people spent an evening celebrating the history, culture and food of Philadelphia. The team was pleased to announce that after expenses, the 6th Annual Covenant Dinner and Auction raised over \$11,000 to support the church's ministries and missions. Committee members were: Mary Ann Galloway, Peg Hofberg, Ruth Nikish, Robin Moore, Barbara Kenney, Barbara Cadge, Alex Cole, Tim Folkomer and Dick Heintz (auctioneer).

Confirmation 2017



2017 Confirmands serving as communion assistants at the 10:45 service on June 4:
(pictured left to right) Brendan Rosser, Mairin Gallagher, Emily Petz, Kieran Salla.



YOUTH CHOIR



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 10 – 14

Covenant was transformed into a hero's central command. Some adults dressed up like super heroes and the children learned God's "Hero Code" (HEART, COURAGE, WISDOM, HOPE AND POWER). Thirty-two youth and adult volunteers came together to teach 70 children what it means to be God's Heroes.



COVENANT UPDATE

Every Thursday, Covenant's **Digital Ministry Team** sends the *Covenant Update* to highlight some Sunday bulletin and *Caller* articles and to remind members of current and planned activities. With the *Covenant Caller* being mailed once a month, a brief emailed weekly newsletter is a good way to stay in touch.

For some time now, we have been engaging in a process of discernment about a building project at Covenant. You may be wondering what the process is, when we will know the final plans, and how soon the project will begin. The process has been and will continue to be deliberate. It began with prayerful discernment of God's will for the future of Covenant Church. It was during this time of discernment that we made some changes to our Statement of Purpose (see below) and began using the tag line "**Changing Lives with Jesus.**"

Next, we began to look at how our buildings impact ministry. The Board of Trustees saw a need for changes and updates. After working with architect Jack Althouse, they recommended the creation of a Building Committee (BC) which picked up where the Trustees left off. The BC eventually prioritized a plan to make the Kingswood Building both more accessible and usable with the addition of a new ground level entrance, the building of an elevator, air conditioning, and other updates to Fellowship Hall. In the Epworth Building, plans were drawn to enhance child safety by adding new sinks and restrooms accessible to each classroom.

Our next steps are to see how much money will be pledged, then work with the architect and construction manager to determine just how much of the dream we can build. With congregational input, the Building Committee will make recommendations which will be reviewed by the District Committee on Church Location and Building. That group will take a dispassionate look at the plans and approve them as is or make suggestions for changes to help perfect the plan.

The final decisions on building changes will be made by you, the members of Covenant Church. The plans will be published and distributed and then a Church Conference will be called where we can discuss all issues before we make final decisions. Once final decisions are made, the architects, construction managers, and engineers will prepare buildable plans to replace the conceptual drawings we have been using.

It sounds like a long and arduous process, and in fact, it is long and arduous! However, it is designed to be sure we do not make hasty decisions that are not in the church's ultimate best interest.

Please continue to pray our prayer, "Lord, what do you want to do through me? Pray also for the church, "Lord, what do you want to do through Covenant?" With God's faithful guidance and our attentive listening to God's will we are indeed making a "**Covenant for the Future.**"

Grace & Peace, *Pastor Jim*



COVENANT FOR THE FUTURE COMMITMENT SUNDAY

As of December, it was announced that \$543,900 had been pledged.

COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

Covenant and C.C. Hancock had been working together on a number of fronts. Covenant supported Hancock in the celebration of their 60th Anniversary, held joint picnics, celebrated the appointment of Brenda Del Rosario as Associate Pastor at Hancock, and engaged in pulpit exchanges between associate pastors.

CHURCH OFFICE CHANGES

Paula Lawley (2016-2017) was approached by a former employer who offered her a full-time job, and she subsequently tendered her resignation. It was announced that **Rosemarie Gluck (Roe)** (2017-present) joined the staff on November 10th. Roe has been an aide, and more recently, a teacher in the Covenant Nursery School. She will continue with CNS and work at varying hours in the Church office.



Breakfast with Santa

MUSIC NOTES FOR THE SEASON

On Sunday, December 17th at the 10:45 a.m. service a “Festival of Lessons and Carols” service featured the Chancel Choir with guest instrumentalist, Michael Simmons, on guitar.

On Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m. the Children’s Choir presented the musical “Light of the World” by Mark Paterson.

2018

STRONGER TOGETHER

For the past year, Covenant reached out to neighboring churches. Pastor Kevin worked with Clifton Heights UMC, Drexel Hill UMC, and Union Memorial UMC in Darby to create a new confirmation experience for 6th and 7th graders. Covenant also worked closely with C. C. Hancock UMC and held a joint Ash Wednesday service at both churches.

NEW YOUTH PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

*The Sunday Night Liveliness program was replaced with a movie night called **REEL LIFE**. Youth met at the church on the second Sunday of the month at 5 p.m., have dinner, watch a movie and dive into what that movie was saying about the people, the world, and anything else.*

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Dawn Hanrahan (CNS/CMO Director) announced that February would be a busy month in the Epworth Building. Covenant Nursery School had Super Bowl and Valentine parties planned, visit from Pastor Kevin, music class, Donuts with Dad, and speech evaluations. Children’s Morning Out had music class, a Super bowl party and Valentine parties planned.



Nursery School Kids on a snowy day

HUMAN SEXUALITY AND THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A 4-week Adult Education short course titled “Living faithfully: Human Sexuality and the United Methodist Church” was offered. The course was designed to help understand the shape of the debate about homosexuality and same gender marriage for the present and future. Pastor Amy Emmett-Rardin, a trained spiritual director/retreat facilitator and former Pastor of Family Ministries at Covenant was the facilitator.

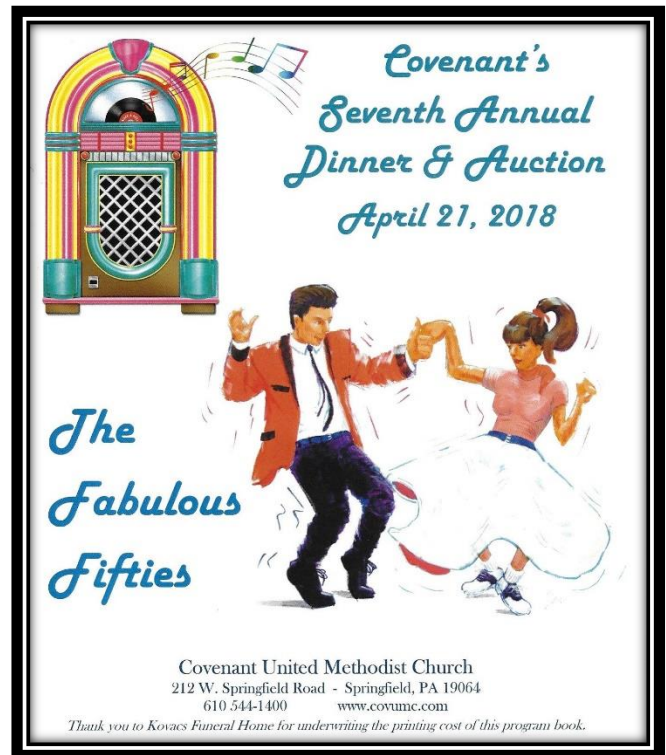
MID WEEK STUDY GROUPS

Covenant continued to offer two ongoing small group studies. The first group met on Tuesday mornings at 10:00, and read through the book “Blessed are the Misfits” by Brant Hansen. The book described how Brant struggled to fit in with the stereotypical model of Christianity.

The evening group met on Thursday evenings beginning with a shared dinner at 6:30. After the meal, the kids joined a group they called “the Sparkle Party” in the Epworth Building where were led by Khadijah Dixon. The adults then turned to a study of some aspect of faith.

PICNIC IN THE PARK WITH MOM

On Saturday, May 5th, Covenant opened its doors to the community for a breakfast and program honoring Mom. The theme was “Picnic in the Park” and featured crafts for the kids, a quartet singing old favorites, great food and some surprise antics.



The Auction raised over \$11,300 after expenses to support Covenant's ministries and missions.

Host & Auctioneer: Dick Heintz

Dinner Steering Team

Barbara Cadge	Peg Hofberg
Alex Cole	Barbara Kenney
Tim Folkomer	Linda Lyman
Mary Anne Galloway	Robin Moore
Dick Heintz	Ruth Nikish
John & Gail Hodge, co-chairs	Dianne Pearce

Support Workers

Fran Ancone	Joanne Hohenstein
Mike Ancone	Carol Jean Kenney
Donald Cadge	Dede Monte
Greg Corner & the ASP Team	Scott Neumann
Kip Craven	Ed Ranalli
Jason Driesbaugh	Gale Ranalli
Kate Driesbaugh	Laurren Randall
Carol Ellis	Eleanor Roberts
Beth Folkomer	Sherman Roberts
Janel Folkomer	Katie Singley
Roe Gluck	Kathie Smith
Jim Hamill	Wednesday Willing Workers

Building Committee Update

May 15, 2018

Dear Members of Covenant,

The Building Committee is working hard to continue developing the Capital Campaign Project and is pleased to provide you with the following update.

As you may recall, the last presentation of the Building Committee took place on February 4, 2018 at the Church Conference where we presented the latest scope, drawings, and budget. The project consists of major updates and improvements focused on accessibility: including a new elevator, lobby, and ADA entrances, as well as updating Fellowship Hall with air conditioning, new bathrooms, new ceiling and floors, and improved acoustics. We also proposed substantial plumbing improvements in the Epworth Building, including adding sinks to all classrooms and four new child-friendly bathrooms.

The Church Conference resulted in a vote that approved the complete project, but tabled the entire proposal until AT&T begins to pay rent and the project is reapproved by the congregation in a subsequent Church Conference. AT&T's rent payment is a contributing factor to the project. AT&T has been providing updates and we are pleased to be informed they have secured the required Springfield Township permits and zoning variance. They are now working on completing the required work for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). AT&T advised us they are highly regulated by federal and state as well as local government. Once they have all aspects of the permit secured, we will finalize the schedule for payment (rent) and work to be completed. AT&T's lead representative has continued to keep the Trustees and Building Committee informed regularly.

As stipulated in the vote at February's Church Conference, once AT&T has started to pay rent, a follow-up Church Conference will be scheduled with the District Superintendent, Dawn Taylor-Storm and the members of Covenant United Methodist Church. We will plan to have revised project numbers stemming from professionally evaluated construction and consultant bids, as well as an update on all financial contributing factors.

In the months since the Church Conference, the Building Committee has continued their efforts to examine the project's consultants, schedule, and costs. It was unanimously decided to hire an "owner's rep" to help navigate the project and provide guidance through their professional experience. The company we have hired is called Owner's Rep, Inc. and they have immediately started to evaluate all aspects of the project to save costs, including consultants (architects, engineer, general contractors), as well as materials, schedule, etc. Even the consultants the Building Committee has been working with will be re-evaluated and requested to submit a new bid, along with others. Due to the size of our project, utilizing Owner's Rep, Inc. will provide Covenant with the professional guidance and decision making we need to successfully meet our budget and schedule.

The Building Committee is overwhelmed with joy to be notified by the Board of Trustees that the Capital Campaign Project is receiving \$40,000 from the John J. Barranger Charitable Trust. Jack Barranger served as Covenant's long-time treasurer before he passed away several years ago. Covenant was named as the residual beneficiary of the trust which will benefit several other areas at Covenant Church including maintenance items the Trustees are working to complete. We are beyond words to receive such a generous bequest, one that was unexpected, yet will significantly help us reach our goal of completing the entire Capital Campaign Project.

As we continue to drive the project closer to fruition, the Building Committee asks that you help keep our mission of *Changing Lives with Jesus* at the forefront. There are a lot of great things happening at Covenant, so as the excitement and anticipation grows, we also ask you to remember your pledges and continue your contributions. Should you have any questions, all members of the Building Committee are available for friendly and open conversation.

Respectfully yours,

Mark Hodges, Chair of Building Committee





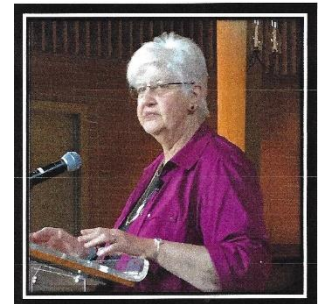
On Sunday, May 20, at the 10:45 a.m. service the Chancel Choir and the Children's Choir will present a special music service featuring harpist Janet Witman and oboist Laura Yawney. Janet has played here at Covenant numerous times over the years, and we are delighted to have her return. Laura is an oboe performance major at Temple University and studies with Peter Smith, Associate Principal Oboe of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

The Chancel Choir will be sharing several hymn arrangements by John Rutter, a setting of *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* by Mack Wilberg, one movement from the Rutter *Requiem*, Gabriel Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine*, an arrangement of the hymn tune BEACH SPRING by Craig Courtney and several other selections featuring harp and oboe. The Children's Choir will also be singing two beautiful anthems with our guest instrumentalists.

I hope you will plan to attend this special service of music and celebration, and maybe even bring a friend! Plan to arrive early for an extended prelude.

Sarah Batchelor, Director of Music

As of July 1st, Covenant and C. C. Hancock began sharing pastoral staff, a newsletter, and the payroll for both churches (a two-point charge). Pastor Kevin became *Campus Pastor* at Hancock offering a new Sunday service which was a blend between worship and a small group. Covenant continued to offer the



Rev. Hess

traditional service. It was intended that by working together the use of the resources of both churches could be strengthened. Hancock's pastor, **Rev. Janet Hess** became Associate Pastor of Visitation for C.C. Hancock and Covenant.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
July 16th- July 20th
“ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE”



CAMP FIRE CHURCH

Covenant and C.C. Hancock Churches launched an outdoor worship service called **Camp Fire Church** on Sundays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the grounds of C. C. Hancock. With a skilled guitarist and vocalist, a conversational preaching time, and an invitation to the communion table, this was a time of worship where all were welcome, especially those who were not necessarily interested in the forms of worship that either church currently offered.

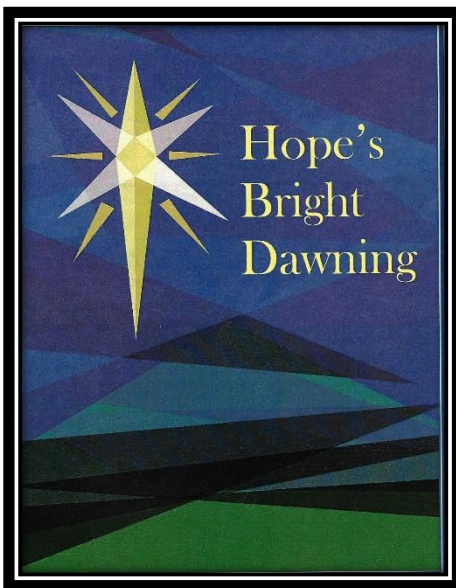
AT&T RENTS SPACE

For many years Covenant's Board of Trustees worked with AT&T regarding a rental space to install a cell tower inside the steeple atop the Kingswood Building. As part of the project, AT&T would build a new steeple and rebuild the concrete steps leading to the basement workroom where they also will rent space for their equipment.

BUILDING PROJECT PASSES

On Sunday, November 11th, Covenant members gathered for a Church Conference to vote on the building project that was put on hold earlier this year. After many long months of research and planning, the project received an overwhelming majority vote in favor of moving forward. The AT&T lease helps to pay the loan for the Kingswood/Epworth building improvement project.

The building designer, WJK & Associates was working to finalize the designs to bring them to the Township along with Covenant's owner's rep, Owner's Rep. Inc. for permit approval.



HOPE'S BRIGHT DAWNING

A Service of readings and carols
Sunday, December 9, 10:45 a.m.

A morning of music and celebration as the Chancel Choir presented imaginative and inspiring carol arrangements with flute (Sara Barthol), oboe (Jacqui Hickey Rothera), percussion (Colleen Hagenbuch), and 4-hand piano accompaniment (Sarah Batchelor and Pam Corner).

MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO

In 13 of the last 15 years, Pastor Janet Hess has gone on mission trips to the Caribbean with Discovery Service Projects. Over the years she and others worked in Honduras, Mexico and Costa Rica building churches, hurricane shelters, clinics, schools, home, and Sunday School wings. In February, Pastor Janet and three others from our congregations journeyed to the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, to build a church for an established congregation in Getsamani.

2019

PASTOR JANET ANNOUNCES HER RETIREMENT

*After 36 years of serving in appointive ministry, the **Rev. Janet K. Hess** announced she would be re-retiring at the end of the conference year. She first retired in 2005, but soon answered the Bishop's call to serve the CC Hancock Church. Now, after 14 years of service at Hancock (one of which was split with Covenant), she decided the time was right to again retire.*

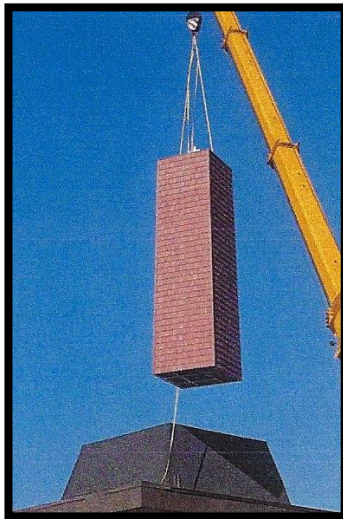
After 25 years of faithful service as Covenant's Data Management Coordinator, **Barb Cadge** retired on March 28th. A reception in her honor was held following the March 24th 10:45 a.m. worship service.

Abby Rosenthal was hired as Accounting Coordinator. She began her employment in mid-March, training with Barb Cadge.

Sundays, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

Nursery and Preschool (3 and under)
New Testament (pre-K – 1st grade)
Old Testament (2nd – 5th grade)
Middle/High School (6th – 12th grade)
Adult Short Course
Wired Word (adult study on current events)

Room 12 Epworth
Room 23 Epworth
Room 23 Epworth
Room 4 Kingswood
Room 2-3 Kingswood
Library



The 2018 **"GIFTS FROM THE HEART"** was a pleasing success. A total of \$1,680 was distributed to these mission ministries: Appalachia Service Project, Life Center of Eastern Delaware County, Nutrition Promotion Consultancy Service in Nepal, Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, and Mpasa Congo Pediatric Clinic.

AT&T Cell Tower

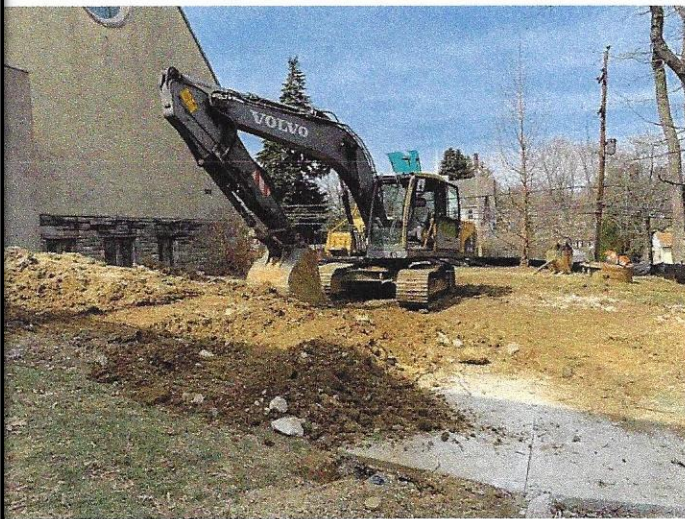
On a Saturday morning in March, AT&T removed the old steeple from the Kingwood Building and installed support structures to hold the new cell tower. The new steeple is 12 ft. taller than the old one and much bulkier, as it will hold the cell tower's electronics and must be large enough to accommodate a technician when needed. The \$3,600/month rent will be used to pay the loan that Covenant plans to use to complete the building improvements to the Kingswood and Epworth Buildings.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Covenant delivered 1,106 food items and \$1,983 in cash to the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Prospect Park. The community-wide Delco Super Bowl of Caring drive resulted in 36,034 units of food and cash, the best that was ever done!



Getting ready to excavate



Digging in progress.

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

On Monday, March 18th, construction inside and outside the church began in earnest. A temporary wall was installed to keep the church safe and clean, while outside demolition and excavation was in full swing. The following week footers were dug and poured so that the steel frame for the elevator tower could begin.

C.C. HANCOCK CLOSSES

At a church conference held on March 10th, members of C.C. Hancock voted for church closure after 63 years of Ministry and Mission. A closing service and lunch were held at Hancock on Sunday, April 28th.

FAREWELL TO PASTOR JIM

It was announced in February that Bishop Peggy Johnson would appoint Rev. James D. Anderman as Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church in Palmyra, Lebanon County, PA effective July 1, 2019. A reception luncheon honoring Pastor Jim was held on June 2nd following the second service.



Rev. Terry

Bishop Peggy Johnson announced the appointment of **Reverend Mark Terry** (2019-present) as Covenant's next Senior Pastor. Pastor Terry came to Covenant after completing 10 years as pastor at Oxford UMC and before that was pastor of Mount Carmel UMC in St. Peter's Village while attending Lancaster Theological Seminary.

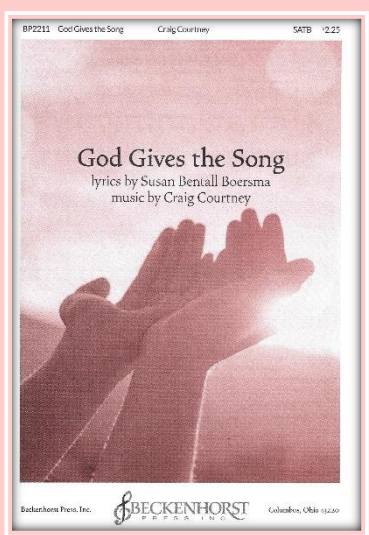
Special Music Service

Sunday, May 19

10:45 a.m. service

Anthems presented by the
Chancel Choir and Covenant Ringers
with flute and cello accompaniment

Premier performance of the
newly commissioned anthem
by Craig Courtney to celebrate
Sarah Batchelor's 30th anniversary



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL "To Mars and Beyond"



CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION AS PROFESSING MEMBERS

Pentecost
Sunday, June 9, 2019



Keri Emma Hagenbuch
Bethany Munce
Elizabeth Grace Trakimas Myers
Theresa Jeanne Olive
Jessica Leigh Petz
Dylan Michael Theiss
Elizabeth Helen Warwick
Susan Alice Warwick

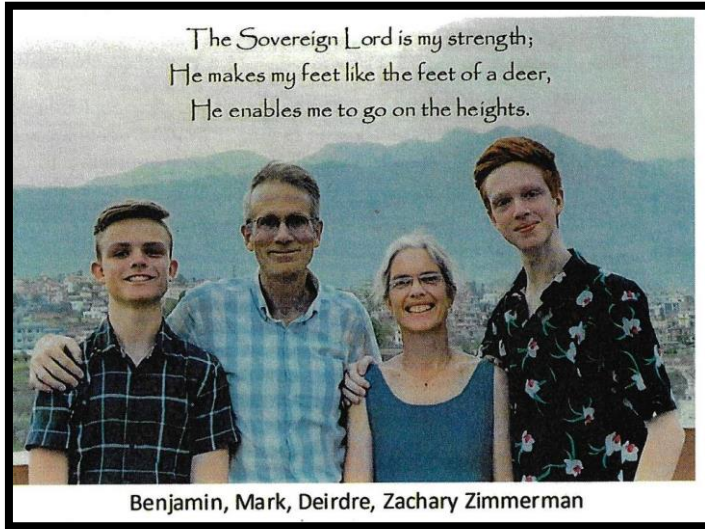
4th of JULY

As has been done for years, Covenant served as a hospitality center during the parade by offering lemonade and opening Wesley Hall as a place for parade goers to pause for a moment in an air-conditioned space or use the rest rooms.



1922 – 2022 ABRIDGED HISTORY

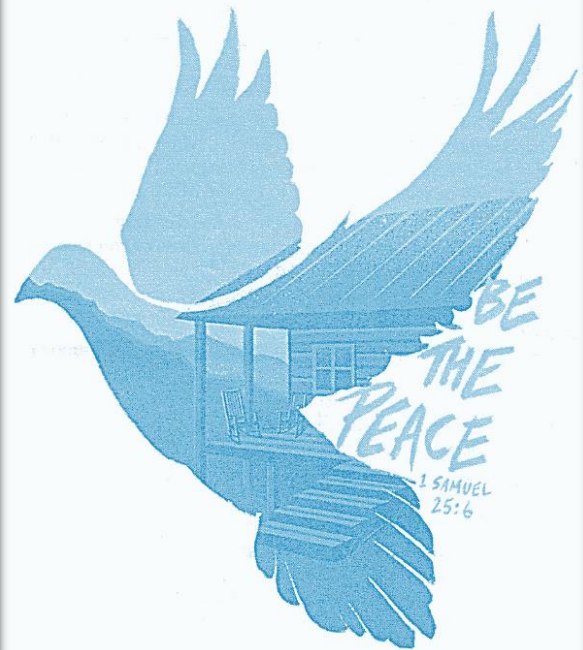
Covenant's **Missionaries to Nepal**, Dr. Mark Zimmerman, his wife Deirdre, and their sons, Zachary and Benjamin, joined in worship at both services on Sunday morning, July 28th.



2019 ASP TEAM

Dan Apostolu	Dennis Gray
Glenn Bowman	Emily Gray
Emma Brune	Laura Grubb
Greg Corner	Colleen Hagenbuch
Lori Corner	Morgan Hagenbuch
Rich Debany	Kayla Hayes
Sam Debany	Alissa Kinney
Sara Delaney	Riley O'Connor
Chris Friel	Dave Petz
Aidan Gallagher	Emily Petz
Mairin Gallagher	Nathan Ridgley
Todd Gallagher	John Shields
	Emma Whitaker

Appalachia Service Project 2019



*"Thus you shall salute him:
'Peace be to you, and peace be to your house,
peace be to all that you have.'"
- 1 Samuel 25:6*

A Lazy Family Day Tubing Down the Brandywine



Sunday Sharing

FIFTH SUNDAYS AT COVENANT

Whenever there was a 5th Sunday in the month, a brunch during the time between the two services was started. The hope was that many in the congregation could spend time with and get to know the people in the "other service."

1922 – 2022 ABRIDGED HISTORY

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PASTOR KEVIN

Pastor Kevin announced he decided to accept a full-time position for a company named BEMA Technologies who provides consulting and support for churches who use Rock Church Management Solution. Therefore, he would no longer be appointed full-time at Covenant but instead would serve at Covenant one-quarter time focusing on Youth Ministry.



RALLY DAY SEPTEMBER 2019

HARVEST HOME RETURNS

The Harvest Home Food Collection took place on Sunday, November 17th. 35 boxes of food were delivered to Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry which amounted to 519.1 total pounds of food. Also, \$715 was donated to help purchase additional food items as needed.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

A fun evening was hosted by Covenant's United Methodist Women on December 10th at 6 p.m. Dinner was provided followed by "Wise Women in the Wings", a devotion led by Pastor Janet Hess, along with Christmas carols and songs.



Nursery School (Ginger Bread Thursday)

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE



New Wheelchair Accessible Entrance



*New ADA Entrance and stone veneer on
elevator tower*



Inside new lobby and entrance



RAKE AND RUN

Six Covenant youth were on a mission to rake and collect leaves around Springfield raking the lawns of church members and their neighbors. They completed five yards but ran out of time before they could finish the last one.

THE FOUR SUNDAYS IN ADVENT

8:15 AND 10:45 A.M. SERVICES

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| December 1st | Our Children's Choir will be singing at the 10:45 service. |
| December 8th | The Covenant Ringers will be sharing their gifts at 10:45 a.m. |
| December 15th | The 10:45 service will feature a special Christmas music program, <i>Kneeling in Bethlehem</i> , presented by our Chancel Choir. |
| December 22nd | Both services will celebrate Christmas a little early, for those who cannot join us on Christmas Eve. |

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 5:00 p.m. | Communion and Candlelight Service |
| 7:00 p.m. | Family Service featuring our Children's Christmas Musical |
| 10:00 p.m. | Candlelight Service featuring our Chancel Choir and Covenant Ringers |

2020

The 2019 *“Gifts from the Heart”* project was a wonderful success. Thanks to the generosity of Covenant, a total of \$1,920 was distributed to: Appalachia Service Project, Life Center of Eastern Delaware County, Nutrition Promotion Consultancy Service in Nepal, Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Prospect Park, and the South District Mission Project: *Abundant Life Locally and Globally.*”



In January, Covenant youth attended a **Youth Rally 2020 in Ocean City, Maryland.** Youth Rally was a gathering of 3,500-4,000 youth and youth workers from Friday night to Sunday afternoon. The year’s theme was “Inseparable” and the theme’s verse was Romans 8:38-39. In this verse, Paul wrote: *“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to*

separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” There were bands like Zealand Worship Band (The worship band for the week end), Citizens Way, and Seth and Nirva. Mixed into the music were powerful speakers which resonated with the youth.

UNITED OR UNTIED: WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH?

Based on the vote at last year’s special General Conference of the United Methodist Church which focused on human sexuality and LGBTQ issues, there was an increased discussion about the future of the United Methodist Church. Would the 2020 General Conference bring more clarity, or might the United Methodist Church be on the verge of major changes in how it is structured and how it operates?

Covenant held a session to help members and friends understand some of the many proposals the 2020 General Conference would consider and the process required for approval. The session was held on Sunday, February 2nd at 9:15 a.m. in room 2-3 of the Kingwood Building. At this question-and-answer discussion, two of the delegates to the 2020 General Conference: Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, District Superintendent, and Krystl Johnson, were there to provide a better understand of the proposals that impact all of us.

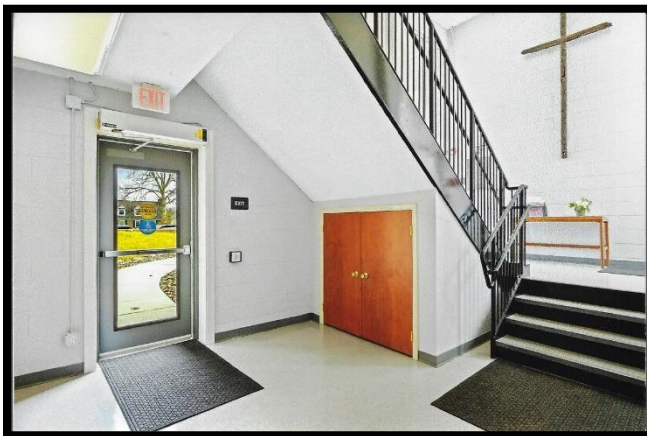
BUILDING PROJECT COMPLETION



FELLOWSHIP HALL



ELEVATOR



WHEEL CHAIR ACCESSIBLE ENTRANCE



REFURNISHED WALL BEHIND MEMORIAL GARDEN

NEWS FROM THE NURSERY SCHOOL

Over last year's holiday season, the children and staff of CNS/CMO collected 154 pajamas for the Scholastic Pajama Program. This program gives a pair of pajamas and a new book to help children enjoy the benefit of a loving bedtime and peaceful goodnight.



COVENANT UNVEILS ITS NEW VISUAL IDENTITY

The dove with an olive branch symbolizes hope. In the Old Testament, the dove's appearance is followed by God's Covenant with his people, a Covenant and hope that are exemplified in the New Testament by God sending his only Son – a Son who can change lives. It is this symbolism, as well as the connection to the dove in Covenant's rose window, that led the Communication Renovation Team and the Planning and Policy Team (PPT) to accept and introduce this logo as an integral part of Covenant's new visual identity.

Christ's hands and feet were definitely moving things in this year's Delco Souper Bowl of Caring food drive. This local food drive is part of the National Souper Bowl of Caring (SBOC), a youth-inspired, youth-led movement, celebrating 30 years of service. Covenant was an integral part of this effort to reduce food insecurity in Delaware County. We contributed in two ways: through the community food drive and our Sunday food drive, all working toward the same cause – to tackle hunger.



The community food drive is an amazing undertaking, coordinated by Joe Couchara of Life Christian Fellowship church, in which local churches, schools, youth groups, scout troops, and individuals work together on both Saturdays before the Super Bowl. On Saturday, January 25th, hundreds of volunteers, distributed informational flyers to thousands of homes in neighborhoods of Springfield, Drexel Hill, Westbrook Park, Rutledge, Morton, Ridley, Media, and Aston. After that, lawn signs, coordinated by "sign man" Don Cadge, started popping up all across these neighborhoods declaring the food drive is on! Then, on Saturday, February 1st, volunteers returned to these neighborhoods to collect donations that residents were generous enough to leave out for pick-up. These donations were taken to six churches who participate as pack-out centers, where even more volunteers counted and boxed up items for delivery to six local food banks.

Each year, this effort grows. The people involved in SBOC know that the need is still there – and growing. More local families are unable to provide food for themselves and have to turn to local food banks. As of 2016, the food insecurity rate in Delaware County was 13 percent. That's 73,890 people. This number has surely grown. Joanne Castagna, Director of the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Prospect Park, said they anticipate serving well over the 1,100 client families they served last year. Aware of the need, the 2020 collection expanded into areas of Aston and Media.

The 2020 collection was very successful in part due to the help from Covenant. The Saturday food drive was a beautiful example of cooperation between many local churches, schools, and groups. The St. Francis of Assisi Parish normally serves as a pack-out center on the Saturday collection. This year, they were unable to use their facilities due to construction. So Covenant offered some of our newly renovated facilities. We worked with Jim Larkin from St. Francis to make sure everything was in place for the Saturday pack-out operation. The combination of Covenant's easily accessible space and St. Francis' people power proved to be a winning combination as more donations than ever were counted, boxed, and delivered, and in less time. The additional door into the Kingswood building (with no steps) made the whole operation easier.

Then, on Sunday, February 2nd, Covenant came together to contribute more. Through your generosity, you brought in donations of food and money to the church. The Sunday school children did a terrific job collecting coins in soup cups which they brought up for the children's moment during service. They made a lot of joyful noise dumping all those coins into a big soup pot for a total of \$123.30. After worship, our youth helped count and box all of the donations received. Last weekend, we delivered \$1,816 and 1,456 food items (1,677 lbs.) to the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry. Joanne told us the food delivered should help feed local families for the next month.

Through all of these cooperative efforts, people came together to do just what the organizers had hoped – they provided more food than ever to local food pantries – a record 41,051 units (food and dollars). People came together to do just what Jesus calls us to do – serve and feed others. In Matthew, chapter 25, Jesus says "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink ... just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Many people, including some of you, were the hands and feet of Christ during the 2020 Delco Souper Bowl of Caring. You used your hands and feet to move mountains of food and hope. Thank you!

AND THEN THERE WAS COVID.....

- **The Church Office closed, though voicemails were being monitored,**
- Worship was held on-line not in-person: No choir, no funerals, no weddings, no baptisms, no in-person Bible studies,
- **Later postings of Sunday services were found on YouTube,**
- Pastor Mark shared a message each morning on the church Facebook page and other updates were found there as well,
- **Pastor Mark set up a “room” at GoToMeeting so any meetings which were needed could be done via video conference,**
- Pastor Mark met with any kids at 10 a.m. Monday through Friday via a Zoom call,
- **The yearly Appalachian Service Project was suspended until August 2020,**
- The popular Covenant Dinner/Auction canceled.
- **Vacation Bible School canceled.**
- Covenant Nursery School closed

WHAT DID WE DO.....

Three teams were formed to address the church’s response to the new reality we were living in.

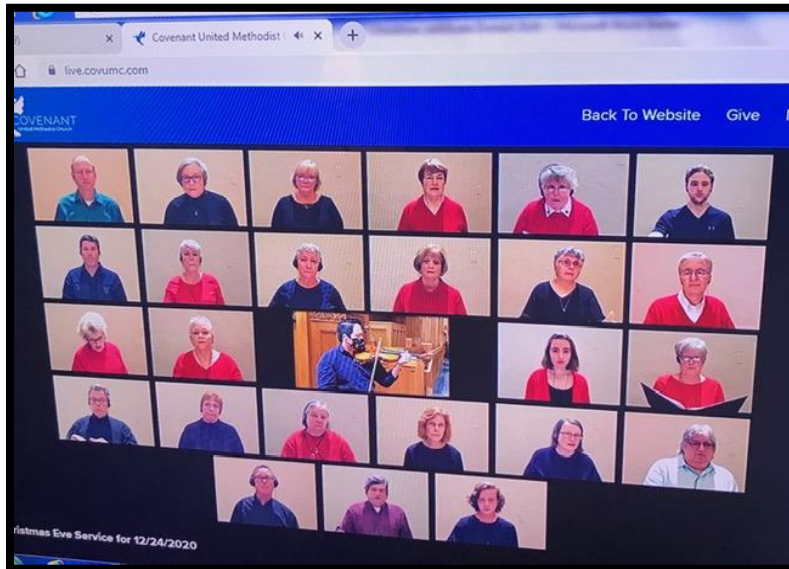
1. **Health and Safety Task Force** to work on policies and procedures for the safe use of the buildings as it gradually reopens.
2. **Loan Surplus Task Force** to decide the wisest and most generous use of the surplus funds from the government loan that did not need to be paid back. Covenant applied for and received \$92,300 from the Paycheck Protection Program, the loan program created by the Federal Government which helps small business and churches keep their employees paid during this unprecedented time. This money helped pay our Nursery School staff through the end of their school year and helped pay church staff and our utilities through the middle of July.
3. **Worship Task Force** to work on the worship service which will evolve both in person and online as things start to open up.

An **Outdoor Communion Service** was started on July 15th in the church parking lot which was offered at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. People gathered in a safely spaced circle in the upper lot by the playground for prayer and Communion.

ASP Took a Detour: Since the summer mission trip to Appalachia was canceled, the group looked for other local single day mission projects, coronavirus conditions permitting. Good Neighbors

Home Repair is a faith-based organization servicing Chester County, PA and northern New Castle, Delaware. On July 9th, Covenant's first **Mini Mission Day** was held for a homeowner in New Castle County. A crew of 10 accomplished removing an old roof and started the installation. A few weeks later they returned to finish the new roof.

Music



Singers, instrumentalists, and ringers individually recorded anthems for the streamed services. In November, our ever-resourceful Music and Bell Choir Directors, procured software to enable the choir to make a virtual anthem for Christmas Eve. Each choir member traveled to the church at scheduled times to be videotaped and recorded. Wearing headsets, choir members sang a "Solo" to the

music. Kirk Schneider then had the arduous job of putting it all together with violin and piano accompaniment. The choir sang "*Immanuel*" by Benjamin Knoedler and text by Garrett Paul Martin. Ben Weaver (Violin) accompanied the choir.

Helping Others

With money available from the John Barranger gift to Covenant and in support of food banks which Covenant regularly supports facing overwhelming need, Covenant sent along blessings to Loaves & Fishes and St. Mark's Food pantries totaling \$3,000.

The traditional "*Harvest Home*" food collection also continued with a plea for money rather than food collection which resulted in \$2,700 given to Loaves & Fishes to provide a Thanksgiving meal for those in need.

Once again, Covenant offered the opportunity for persons to make a donation in the *Gifts from the Heart* Program. When a donation was made to the selected outreach ministries, a card was mailed to the donee so it could be personalized and sent to inform the recipient a gift had been given in their honor. \$3,155 was distributed to the following ministries: Appalachia Service Project, Life Center of Eastern Delaware County, Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Camp & Retreat Ministry, and Nutrition Promotion Consultancy Service in Nepal.

With an idea from Dawn Hanrahan and in-person services still in question, for a donation of \$5.00 per dedication a bulb was added to a **Christmas tree** in the doorway of Wesley Hall on Saxer Avenue in memory, honor, or gratitude. The tree was lit on the first Sunday of Advent and culminated on Christmas Eve. All donations benefitted CASA Youth Advocates of Delaware and Chester Counties.



Covenant's **White Tag Tree** went virtual. Toys were requested for girls and boys at the Eliza Shirley Shelter in Philadelphia, refugee children who were served by Nationalities Service Center in Philadelphia and the Bridge to Recover group in Delaware County. Gifts were to be shipped directly to the facilities.

AS WE STARTED TO RECOVER.....

- In October, a **Red Cross Blood Drive** was held at Covenant with 23 units of blood donated which benefitted 65 patients in the metropolitan Philadelphia area.
- Covenant **Preschool and Children's Morning Out** were preparing to open in October.
- **ASP** was finally able to host volunteers by September. Not wanting to ruin Covenant's successive record of sending a team to Appalachia for almost 40 years, Lori and Greg Corner headed down to Unicoi County, Tennessee in October to do what the team usually does – make homes warmer, safer, and drier and bring the love of Christ to others.
- In December, Covenant delivered a home cooked dinner to be served at the **Life Center** in Upper Darby.

2021

Based on the statistics in Delaware County and guidance from the State Department of Health, the CDC and our bishop, Covenant's Health and Safety Task Force agreed that it was not advisable to consider opening for worship at this time.

The **Delco Super Bowl of Caring** was especially needed as hunger in local communities and around that nation was higher than ever due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Canned and non-perishable food items were dropped off at the entrance to Wesley Hall. Financial donations were made on line or by sending a check to the church. 869 non-perishable food items were collected along with \$3,140 in cash at Covenant. All of these donations went to the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Prospect Park.

Church Leaders for 2021

PLANNING & POLICY TEAM

PPT Chair - OPEN
PPT Secretary – Peg Hofberg
Lay Leader – Betty Brown
Lay Delegates – Tim Folkomer, Kip Craven
Alternate Delegate – Joe Organtini
Treasurer – Eleanor Roberts
Financial Secretary – Mary Anne Galloway
Membership Secretary – Cindy Roth

NOMINATING & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT – OPEN

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS

Class of 2021 – Kate Driesbaugh,
Mark Hagenbuch, Linda Leshner
Class of 2022 –
Class of 2023 – Nana Allison, Tom Bateman,
Barb Craven

FINANCE TEAM

Bill Hermann (Chair), Kip Craven, Joe Organtini,
Lee Spector, John Strayer
Also: Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Stewardship
Chair, PPT Chair, SPR Chair, Trustees Chair

Stewardship Team – Chair - OPEN
Alex Cole, Kip Craven, Financial Sect'y,
Finance Chair

Counting Team – Mary Anne Galloway (Chair),
Alex Cole, Kip Craven, Cindy Cutrufello,
Jerry Hohenstein, Joe Organtini, Rich Pacitti,
Eleanor Roberts, Cindy Roth, Lee Spector,
John Strayer, Joe Trainor

Auditors – Kathy Atkinson (Chair), Joe Organtini,
Joe Trainor

TRUSTEES

Class of 2021 – Bob Bateman, Sarah Collins,
Tom Hiscott
Class of 2022 – Alex Cole,
Carol Jean Kenney, Dana Olive
Class of 2023 – Kip Craven, Linda Lyman

PROPERTY TEAM

Bob Bateman, Nancy Hansen, Greg Plank,
Jerry Hohenstein, Bud Dalrymple

LEARNING CLUSTERS

Adult Sunday School – Gail Hodge
Children's Sunday School -
Youth Sunday School -
UMYF – Pastor Kevin
Church Library – Janet Evans

PRESCHOOL MINISTRIES

Preschool Director – Dawn Hanrahan
Preschool Registrar – Isabelle Bingaman
Preschool Team – Joe Organtini,
Kate Driesbaugh, Colleen Hagenbuch

NURTURE CLUSTERS

Correspondence Team – OPEN
Nursery Home Visitation – Kate Driesbaugh
Prayer Chain – Barb Cadge
Reassurance Ministries – Martha Murphy

WORSHIP CLUSTERS

Communion Steward – Fran Ancone
Creche Team – Marcia Martin
Flower Delivery – Odette Locher
Greeter Coordinator – OPEN
Pew Maintenance – Odette Locher
Sanctuary Decorating – Beth Folkomer
Sunday Refreshments – OPEN
Usher Coordinator – OPEN
Harvest Home – Betty Brown, Barb Cadge

EVANGELISM / OUTREACH / MISSIONS

Cluster Coordinators – Lori Corner, Colleen Hagenbuch
ASP – Greg Corner
Blessing Bags – Colleen Hagenbuch
Breakfast w/ Mom – Lori Corner, Colleen Hagenbuch
Breakfast w/ Santa – John Strayer
Harlee Manor Worship -
Life Center Dinner – Scott MacNeil
Loaves & Fishes – Meredith Spector
Nepal Team – Kirk Schneider
Red Cross Blood Drive – Janet Evans
Scouting (Boy Scouts) – Pastor Kevin
(Girl Scouts) – Sharon O'Hara, Colleen Hagenbuch
Souper Bowl of Caring – Greg Corner
White Tag Christmas Team – Alice Pacitti
Digital Ministry Team – Greg Corner, Pastor Kevin
Communications – Gail Hodge, Peg Hofberg,
Greg Corner, Pastor Kevin
Dinner Auction – Gail Hodge, John Hodge



The congregation, in February, was challenged to write a **letter of encouragement** to a person in Chester's state prison.

Covenant delivered a home cooked dinner to be served at **The Life Center** in Upper Darby in February.

The virtual worship service on May 16, 2021 included the choir singing ***You Do Not Walk Alone***

written by Elaine Hagenberg. A significant number of singers joined the Chancel Choir for this project including some young folks and some former choir members for a total of over 30 voices. It was not known when the choir would be able to return in person based on current COVID statistics.



Covenant Goals for 2021: Making it R.A.I.N.

He will give rain for the seed with which you sow the ground, and grain, the produce of the ground, which will be rich and plenteous. Isaiah 30:23

Isaiah promises the people that if they sow the seeds, God will cause them to grow. Last fall, Mrs. Krystl Gauld, did some work with our church for one of her graduate school classes. In thinking about what sort of seeds we could be planting here at Covenant, she encouraged us to think about R.A.I.N.: **Reach** (and touch people in ways that we have never touched them before); **Assimilation** (Work to change to be more in sync with the way people are living); **Inclusion** (Offer new people meaningful ways to participate in things); and **Nullification** (Put an end to things that are harmful: fight injustice).

Joy Karsner Barton then led a group of leaders through two goal-setting sessions, based on Krystl's work, and after those two sessions, PPT has adopted the following goals for 2021, one for each of her themes:

Reach - Record the worship service and deliver it to those who do not have computer or internet access.

Assimilation - Offer our youth at least one social and one service activity in the next 6 months. Work to determine the best way forward for children, youth and families to grow in discipleship.

Inclusion - To make this a year to celebrate the rich diversity of our congregation, by encouraging and embracing the sharing of different traditions and gifts of our members.

Nullification - Have a guest speaker series on social justice issues – both stand-alone events, and sermons.

PPT has already established some specific action items for each of these goals, some of which you will read about in other places in the newsletter, and all of these goals have opportunities for your involvement. Help make it RAIN this year at Covenant!

Thank you to Krystl for choosing Covenant for her project, and to Joy for shepherding us through the goal-setting process again. And thank you to all the members who took part in our two goal-setting sessions. 2021 will be another year of growth and fruitfulness for Covenant and the community we serve!

Pastor Mark

Since worship was not held in the Sanctuary during COVID, in lieu of fresh **flowers**, the congregation was asked to make a monetary donation in memory or in honor of loved ones. Dedications were acknowledged on the screen during the online church services on Sunday mornings.

Because of the demands of **Pastor Kevin Rutledge's** full-time job and the commitments he wanted to keep with his family, he decided that he could not meet the expectations he had for himself as youth pastor, so he resigned that position but continued to help to train people on worship technology



Pentecost Sunday
May 23, 2021
9:15 A.M.

Morning Worship

PRELUDE	"It Is Well With My Soul"	arr. Bethany McDonald
WELCOME		
HYMN	"God of Grace and God of Glory"	
SCRIPTURE	Acts 2:1-4	Janet Evans
SPECIAL MUSIC	"Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"— Peg Hofberg, soloist	Michael Burkhardt
SCRIPTURE	Galatians 4:1-7; 5:16-26	Janet Evans
SERMON	"It's Wake Up Time"	Pastor Mark
HYMN	"Go Forth for God"	
PRAYER		
BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	"In His Holy Name"	Chester Norman

Guest Organist/Pianist: Ruth von Minden

The chancel flowers are presented to the glory of God by Rich Pacitti in memory of Marge Pacitti (wife and mother).

IN PERSON CHURCH RETURNS

After almost 12 months, on Sunday, May 23, 2021, the church re-opened on a limited basis for one in-person service on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. Seating was limited to about 70 people and reservations were required. Masks were required for all, temperatures were taken, screening questions asked, and entrance was by three specific doors. At the conclusion of the service, everyone was asked to leave right away and not socialize.

The 9:15 a.m. service was replayed online at 10:45 a.m. where members could use the "chat room" to add comments.

The Wednesday evening book study group was reading Bishop Sally Dyck's "Hopeful Earth" which focused on the Christian response and responsibility to the environment. The new **Covenant Conversations** discussion series in May focused on food waste, composting and zero waste grocery shopping. This presentation was held on-line.

ASP CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

The ASP team returned to Jonesville, Lee County, Virginia in July where they served in 2009. With this summer's mission trip, members of Covenant have been working with the Appalachian Service Project for 40 years.



ASP's CEO Walter Crouch stopped by to present the team with a certificate commemorating Covenant's 40 years of service with ASP

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

After a summer without Vacation Bible School, Covenant had the opportunity to partner with Shorter AME Church in Morton. Shorter had a large grassy lot which made it possible for the kids to enjoy being together safely. The program ran in the evening on August 2nd through 6th.

WORSHIP UPDATE

After evaluating the latest information from the CDC, Covenant still required masks for worship and for people to be seated in a socially distant manner in church. However, starting on July 25, people were welcomed to sing the hymns (with masks on).

On Friday, August 13, Covenant delivered dinner for 30 residents living at **The Life Center** in Upper Darby. This included making a casserole, salad, buttered bread, brownie and a banana. Bag lunches were also prepared for the next day.

NEW SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Beginning, September 12th, the Sunday after Labor Day, a new schedule for Sunday worship will be followed:

9:15-10:00 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages

10:15 a.m. – One Worship service, in-person and live-streamed.

VOCAL CHOIRS RESUME

After more than a year of waiting, Covenant's Chancel and Children's choirs resumed rehearsals in the fall with masks on for added safety. The Chancel Choir's first appearance at morning worship occurred on Sunday, September 12th.

3D (Devotion, Design and Dine)

At each gathering, there was a short devotion, a snack or mini-meal and a craft. The first session was held on October 6th from 6-8 p.m. where a wire pumpkin was made. Beth Folkomer was the 3D Coordinator. Future meetings were to be held once a month.

Sharing Our Blessings with the Community



During the initial months of the pandemic, Covenant applied for a loan to pay the salaries of the nursery school staff for the remainder of the school year. The Small Business Administration awarded us a loan much larger than we needed, and after the loan was forgiven, it left the church with a surplus that our Planning and Policy Team (PPT) determined should go out into the community. At their October meeting, PPT voted to distribute the following:

- **Shorter AME Church, Morton:** A new refrigerator for their feeding ministry – \$2-3,000
- **Nursery School:** Funds for families that cannot afford the full tuition – \$1,000
- **Eastern PA Conf. of UMC:** Hurricane Ida relief funds for local projects – \$2,500
- **Good Neighbors Home Repair Ministry** – \$15,000
- **Habitat for Humanity of Montco/Delco:** For a project in Delco – \$15,000.
- **Appalachia Service Project** (the organization, not our church group) – \$5,000
- **DIFAN/Family & Community Service of Delaware County** - \$5,000

This leaves Covenant with a surplus balance of approximately \$7,500 to disburse locally as we determine need.

STAFFING UPDATE

Eddie Williams was hired as Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministries. In this position, Eddie led our youth group, facilitated the work of Sunday school, attended ASP team gatherings, coordinated VBS, developed quarterly family events, worked with the pastor on family programming for Christmas Eve and developed a pool of volunteers. His full-time job was teaching second-grade at a Catholic Academy in Chester.

As more people were trained on worship technology, **Pastor Kevin** turned his attention back to sharing his other gifts: Preaching once a month and leading a small group study or a class of Financial Peace University.



During the first week of November, the Covenant **Appalachia Service Project** team sent a crew to Jonesville Virginia to serve in ASP's year-round program. The crew of volunteers Greg and Lori Corner, Rich Debany, Todd Gallagher, Tom Hiscott, Victoria Hiscott and Bryce Munce had the pleasure of spending three days with homeowners Lori and Norman who enthusiastically shared stories of life in the mountains on the border between Virginia and Kentucky. During those three days, this small but mighty crew removed a porch and fashioned a hardy new porch, stairs and ramp to make it easier and safer for Lori and Norman to come and go – and almost completed it.

Along the way, they enjoyed lots of challenges, laughs, fun, and faith with prayers and a fried chicken lunch from Lori and Norman.

WEDNESDAYS AT COVENANT

- **3D Wednesday** on the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.
- **Worship Wednesday** on the second Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- **Book Club Wednesday** on the fourth Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- **Wellness Wednesday** on the third Wednesday at 7 p.m. Barbara Bunting-Loveday leads a class on Tai Chi.

The Harvest Home Team reported that during the fall season, Covenant stepped up knowing that many neighbors were dealing with food insecurity. 250 food items and \$1,165 cash donations were given to Loaves & Fishes and Shorter AME Church to provide Thanksgiving dinners and more to those in need.

COVENANT CONVERSATIONS RETURNS WITH SERIES ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Sunday, November 7, 9:15-10:00am (Adult Education)
An Introduction to Social Justice – Gail Hodge

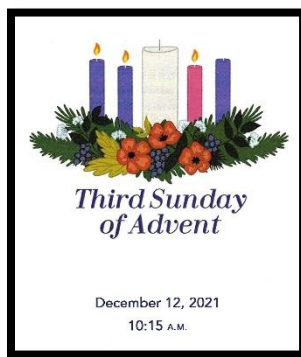
Sunday, November 14, 9:15-10:00am (Adult Education)
Racial Justice Issues - Rev. Britni Johnson

Sunday, November 21, 9:15-10:00 am (Adult Education)
Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters: A Study of Amos – Gail Hodge

Sunday, November 28, 7:00 pm (Special Event)
"Do Right By Me" - Dr. Valerie Harrison and Dr. Kathryn Peach D'Angelo

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

On the Sundays before and after Veterans Day, photos of those members, both retired and active, who served our Country, were displayed around the Sanctuary.



DECEMBER 12TH – A VERY SPECIAL SUNDAY

The Chancel Choir and Covenant Ringers, along with guest musician, violinist Ben Weaver, shared songs of the season with the congregation, alternating with a series of scripture readings telling not only the story of Christmas, but telling of who Jesus is.

Also on this Sunday, after meeting with Pastor Mark since January, gaining a deeper understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and a part of His church, they were ready to confirm the vows made

on their behalf by their parents at their baptisms.



Mrs. Tallon's Nursery School Class



Pictured L to R: Pastor Mark, Samantha Spector, Bryce Munce, Charlotte Hiscott, Jenna O'Hara, Brett Rosser.

"GIFTS FROM THE HEART"

Thanks to the generosity of Covenant this Christmas season, a total of \$3,548 was distributed to these mission ministries: Appalachia Service Project, CASA Youth Advocates of Delaware/Chester Counties; Life Center of Eastern Delaware County, Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, and Nutrition for Urban communities, Nepal.



White Tag Gifts THANK YOU!

Thank you to the members and friends of Covenant for your generosity this holiday season! We received a record number of toys – over 180 gifts! A few Covenant elves packed up the Hagenbuch sleigh which delivered the toys to Philadelphia for the children at the Eliza Shirley Shelter and for the refugee families at the Nationalities Service Center. Both organizations were so grateful to have gifts for their children for the holidays.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

*Sorted gifts ready to be packed for delivery.
(Photo taken in our lower elevator lobby.)*

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

After a very quiet 2020, two in-person services were held on Christmas Eve.

7:00 p.m. – **A Family Christmas Eve Service**

10:00 p.m. – **A Traditional Christmas Eve Service** with the Chancel and Bell Choirs joining in the celebration. The service was concluded with candlelight symbolizing both the Light coming into the world and the light we are all called to be. Masks were required for worship and seating was limited to every other pew.

