

COVENANT CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(Disciples of Christ)  
2700 72nd Street  
Urbandale, IA 50322

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Permit 1586

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

#### Visitors

Gary & Joanne Astor  
Nasser Hajdad  
Kelly, Mark, Kayla &  
Grant Gruenhaupt  
Jay & Ginny Febus  
Marybelle McDonald  
Jana McDonald  
Kevin, LuAnn, Blake &  
Reed Smith  
Kathryn Nichols

#### Attendance

Sunday, August 22	Worship 60
Sunday, August 29	Worship 57
Sunday, Sept. 5	Worship 70
Sunday, Sept. 12	Worship 74

The next newsletter will be mailed on  
Wednesday, October 20.  
Articles to be submitted by  
Monday, October 18.

#### How to Reach Us

Church Phone 515-276-3781  
FAX 515-253-0174  
pwitmer@covenant-christian.org  
blundy@covenant-christian.org  
church@covenant-christian.org  
www.covenant-christian.org

www.uppermidwestcc.org  
Christian Church in the Upper Midwest  
www.disciples.org

#### Financial Notes

August 1, 2010	
Total Deposit	\$5,337.00
August 8, 2010	
Total Deposit	\$984.00
August 15, 2010	
Total Deposit	\$1,511.42
August 22, 2010	
Total Deposit	\$3,963.00
August 29, 2010	
Total Deposit	\$628.00

## the COMPASS

"Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths." Jeremiah 6:16

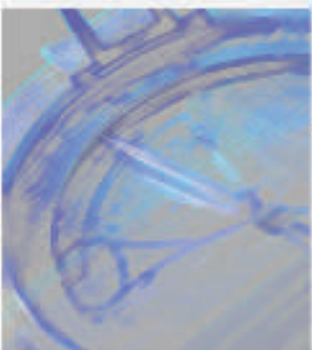
*"Connections are made slowly, sometimes they grow underground.  
You cannot tell always by looking at what is happening.  
More than half a tree is spread out in the soil under your feet.  
Penetrate quietly as the earthworm that blows no trumpet.  
Fight persistently as the creeper that brings down the tree.  
Spread like the squash plant that overruns the garden.  
Gnaw in the dark and use the sun to make sugar." Marge Piercy*

I share these lines of poetry with the sense of awe and wonder that this time of year—late Summer early Fall—bring out in me. The poet captures that sense of mysterious growth that takes place right in front of our eyes, and yet, underground, somehow escaping notice. She's talking about a garden and the work that has gone into producing a rich harvest. But she could be talking about church. More importantly, she could be talking about the Kingdom of God and the mysterious way that God brings forth growth in our lives.

It is a miracle to behold: growth. Wherever it occurs, in our young children; in our small but mighty choir; in an adult Sunday School class or midweek Bible Study. You can sense God "penetrate quietly" and "fight persistently." Growth happens, and it is a miracle. And yet, like in the garden, it does not happen without labor.

That also is the sense I get from church at this time of year: the importance of good labor. Teachers commit, musicians share, bakers provide the necessary calories, artists create and bookkeepers keep us all honest. And in the midst of it all, "connections are made slowly." I'm grateful for your labor and your love of the church and the work of God and hold it all in prayer as we turn the calendar page again, moving into a season of what promises to be miraculous growth. May God's church continue to spread like the squash plant, and overrun the world with compassion and grace. Peace,

Paul Witmer



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September 15,  
2010

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...journey up.

### Growth Opportunities for Adults

You are invited to join a growing number of adults of all ages at Covenant for spiritual growth and fellowship opportunities.

**Adult Sunday School** has begun a new year meeting downstairs on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. We will be exploring "Christianity for the Rest of Us" for a time this year. We always take time for sharing and discussion along the way. Join us!

**Midweek Bible Study** is now meeting on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Our format currently is following the lectionary, preparing us for Sunday's text ahead of time. There is lots of sharing and discussion. No expertise is needed!

**LAG (Looking Around for God)** plans to continue meeting for supper and discussion on faith and current issues. Join us on Tuesday, October 5, at 6:30 p.m. at The Q (8th Street, WDM).

### COME JOURNEY TOGETHER POSTCARDS

Evangelism can be defined as anything you do to help another person move closer to God, or into a Christian community. On two Sundays, recently, *Come Journey Together* postcards were inserted in worship bulletins. Pastor Paul challenged each of us to be creative in finding ways to share them with others. Have you passed yours on yet?

".....The heart of evangelism is having an alive relationship with God, being part of a church you love and caring that people outside the church find what you've discovered."

(From *Unbinding the Gospel* by Martha Grace Reese)

### Mark Your Calendar!

**All Church Clean-Up Day**  
**Saturday, September 25**  
**Starting with Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.**  
**in the Fellowship Hall**

A list of tasks and a sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.



### October

#### BIRTHDAYS

Derek Nash	10/2	Don Cavanaugh	10/3
Corby Roberts	10/3	Dale Schnoor	10/5
Paul Cartwright	10/9	Max Pauley	10/11
Joe Nash	10/12	Deanna Hart	10/13
Howard Sohn	10/13	Gwen Graham	10/15
Gale Holmes	10/16	Shirlee Holmes	10/18
Anne Twombly	10/21	John Isaacson	10/26
Julie McClatchey	10/31	Paul Ratashak	10/31

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Jay Sohn & Julie McClatchey 10/19

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Jayde Hildebrand  
Paul Ratashak  
Mary Rogers  
Helen Schnoor, Dale's mother, who recently had a stroke.  
Don Benson

### Notes and News

- **Gwen Graham** will be celebrating a birthday on October 15. Her address in Australia is: 2/1 Henry Street, Balwyn, Victoria 3103
- Congratulations to **Al Cross** on the birth of his new grandson, **Landon**, born to **Sara** and **Dan Wientzen** on August 14.
- Thank you for all the cards, calls and prayers following my recent knee surgery. They were most appreciated. - **Donna Wilcox**
- **Don Benson** will be recovering from surgery at Mercy Hospital, downtown.
- Please welcome our new nursery staff person, **Samantha Beebout!**

...journey out.

### Reconciliation

Noun: An act of reconciling or the state of being reconciled

Synonyms: [compromise](#), [settlement](#), [agreement](#), [harmony](#), [accord](#)

### Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church

Our denomination addresses issues of racism and poverty through Reconciliation Ministry. Included activities seek to overcome injustices faced by racial minorities and the poor; and seek to empower minority and/or poverty groups through opportunities of self-development.

### Reconciliation Offering

Special offering taken September 26 and October 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Half of the offering is sent to our general church.  
Half of the offering stays in our Region to support Reconciliation projects here.

### Reconciliation Offering Money Spent in Des Moines

- **\$4,000.00:** Grant to Children & Families Urban Ministries to buy milk for their Supper Club. (Note: October 5 we'll be cooking/serving dinner at CFUM)
- **\$4,000.00:** Grant to First Christian Church to help support their English as a Second Language program for immigrant adults.

Your Dollars Are Making A Difference. Right here. Right now! Thank you.

### Red Barrel Day

- What:** DMARC Food Pantry Fund raiser.  
**Task?** Ask shoppers to donate food or money.
- Where:** HyVee on Jordan Creek
- When:** Saturday, October 9, 2010  
9 – 10 a.m. set up. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for collecting
- Who:** Volunteers needed. Contact Donna Rusk.  
[h.rusk@mchsi.com](mailto:h.rusk@mchsi.com); 277-7574