



#### Birthdays and Anniversaries

Jane Shane  
12/2

Paul Witmer  
12/7

Marsha Ratashak  
12/16

Tad Guy  
12/21

Carolyn Ratashak  
12/22

Doug Minear  
12/31

## THE COMPASS: Covenant Christian Church Newsletter

#### Greetings!

Advent Greetings and blessings are upon us! We hope you will be joining us for worship opportunities this Advent Season when we prepare room in our hearts and lives for the coming of Christ into the world. See below for more information on all the ways to prepare and celebrate the season, including an Advent Retreat, Caroling with friends, a special Winter Solstice worship experience (December 21), and of course, our annual Christmas Eve candlelight service of carols and communion.

This year, with Christmas Day falling on Sunday, we have decided not to have Sunday services on December 25.

Advent can be a very meaningful time to really center in and find the quiet center where Christ can enter in. I hope you can take time away from the usually hustle and bustle of the season, and enter into worship and prayer.

In Peace,  
Paul

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*Journey In . . . deepening our connections to each other.*

#### **Fellowship Caroling?**

If you are interested in a Christmas Caroling outing, please gather with folks this Sunday (December 4) after worship to discuss options for a congregational caroling event. Caroling would likely take place on an evening later in the month.

[Church Calendar \(Google\)](#)  
[Church Calendar and Serving Schedule\(PDF\)](#)

in our prayers

Jayde Hildebrand  
 Donna Wilcox  
 Helen Heckert  
 Carolyn Ratashak

visitors

Sam Erwin

**Financial Notes**

Nov. 6 \$2,398.25  
 Nov. 13 \$3,049.00  
 Nov. 20 \$2,892.06  
 Nov. 27 \$8,329.00

**Attendance**

Nov. 6 41  
 Nov. 13 28  
 Nov. 20 31  
 Nov. 27 47



**Adult Sunday School**

We are gathering each Sunday at 8:45 for conversation, faith and fellowship. Join us for engaging topics and opportunities to grow in faith. We've been viewing short video clips (about 8-12 minutes each) with really interesting people of faith who challenge and inspire us in good conversation. Hope you can join us!

**Children's Sunday School**

**Advent Coloring Project**

This December, our kids will be in worship and invited to work on the large-scale coloring projects that are being added to our Advent Banner.

Adults are welcome to join the "coloring table" and share the joy of color/meditation that this group creativity provides.

We will plan to return to our "Deep Blue" Sunday school for kids after the new year.



Inter-generational creativity  
 is at work this Advent!

**Office Hours**

Monday:  
 office closed  
 Tuesday-Friday:  
 8:30 to Noon

Church Phone  
 515-276-3781

Fax

*Journey Out . . . sharing with the world our passion for justice and peace.*

**Outreach and Evangelism**

**Team Leader: (2016) VeeAnn Cartwright**

E-mail

pwitmer@covenant-  
christian.org Like us on Facebook

Website

[www.covenant-  
christian.org](http://www.covenant-christian.org)[www.uppermidwestcc.org](http://www.uppermidwestcc.org)

# Christmas Offering

## SUPPORTING THE MINISTRIES OF OUR REGION

Luke 2:25 - 32 tells us of the story of Simeon, a righteous and devout man, who was told by the Holy Spirit he would not die until he saw Israel's Messiah. When Jesus was brought by his parents to the temple to be circumcised, at eight days, they encountered Simeon. Simon took Jesus into his arms to praise God for allowing him to hold the Messiah, who had finally come. Simon, guided by the Holy Spirit, knew that what the Israelites hoped and believed, the Messiah, the great hope for the nation of Israel had been born.

In the Regions, we too can look, in these days of Advent, of a people who **believe and hope** that through the Holy Spirit we too can see Salvation and become a light of revelation to all people. As Disciples of Christ, we can **Believe Again** that God is actively promising us a **deeper hope** for our congregations and regions working together to be in covenant with each other. Many churches, differing churches, all in one region **Believing Again; Hoping Again** together that the God who ushered in a Savior as a baby in a complex world can once again save God's people.

We covenant together, as a region to work together to be the kind of change that needs to happen for Jesus to again become the Savior of the world through the works and ministries of the Regional Churches. Together we:

- Provide camps, conferences and retreats
- Revitalize existing congregations
- Call, commission and ordain new pastors
- Support & equip pastors and lay leaders
- Provide resources and support to congregations and pastors
- Assist congregations to claim their unique mission and ministry
- Provide pastoral care
- Make visible the care of all God's family
- Connect congregations to give witness to ministries of justice, hope and compassion

The Christmas Special Day Offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our Region. **Your generous gifts make the difference.**

The Christmas Offering will be received Sunday, December 18 and Christmas Eve.

### Visit the Women at the Well in December

A group of 10 visitors from Covenant Christian Church has been approved for a visit to Thursday evening worship experience with Women at the Well on **Thursday, December 15** (6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.). If you are interested in supporting the work of Women at the Well, a prison congregation at ICIW, please let Paul know.

### Welcome Statement

**As God's grace is present in all creation, our welcome is extended to all spiritual seekers -- people of all races, all ethnic backgrounds, all generations, all physical and mental abilities, all economic conditions, all gender identities, all sexual orientations -- celebrating the diversity of our faith journeys. We affirm the faith, baptism and spiritual gifts of all and invite you to bless this church with your presence and service.**

*Journey Up . . . growing in our love of God.*

## *Worship and Spiritual Growth*

**Team Leader: (2016) Karen Vroman**

### **Advent Schedule**

Advent worship is always a very special time to connect with each other and with God as we prayerfully "prepare the way of the Lord." Please Join us for some of these special worship opportunities coming up during the month of December.

### **Advent Retreat**

*"Making Way in the Desert"*

**Saturday, December 4, 9:00 to Noon**

Join us for a contemplative morning of prayer and reflection, "Making Way in the Desert." Advent themes from scripture will be offered as a way to prepare for the coming of Christ.

### **Winter Solstice**

**Contemplative Worship, Wednesday, December 21**

**7:00 p.m.**

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan will be back with us, (and possibly Trish!) for another beautiful service noting the shortest day of the year. Or, as some traditions would have it, the darkest night of the year. Winter Solstice has always had a close connection with the Christmas calendar, and this is an opportunity for us to gather in the darkness, looking with hope for the light.

Join us on Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m.

### **Christmas Eve**

**Saturday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.** Our Christmas Eve worship will be at 7:00 p.m. this year. Offering a beautiful worship experience for all families, with communion, candlelight, and carols. Join us for this annual tradition, and bring your family to celebrate the nativity of Jesus.

### **Christmas Day (No Worship)**

We will not have worship on Sunday, December 25. We hope you will be enjoying Christmas day with your family, giving thanks to God for all good gifts.

### **Bible Study**

We resumed our Bible Study on Thursday, December 1. We'll be exploring the Advent texts and themes of scripture. Come join us for conversation and Bible Study .



Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. Beginning again December 1.

Thursday, December 8	Isaiah 35 Isaiah 40 Luke 1:46-55
Thursday, December 15	Psalms 80 Isaiah 7:10-16 Isaiah 11:1-10 Matthew 1:18-25
Thursday, December 22	Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-20
Thursday, December 29	Isaiah 63:7-9 Matthew 2:13-23

**Serving Schedule** Please see the serving schedule, and sign up for tasks for the month(s) ahead when you are able! The board for December is now up with lots of openings.

### [December Calendar and Serving Schedule](#)

#### **Sermon Audio**

Please click on the links below to listen for sermons you may have missed. Feel free to share with others!

#### [Law of Heart](#)

Sunday, October 16

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### *Journey Down . . . taking care of our physical plant*

#### **Team Leader: (2016) Doug Minear**

Thanks to Doug Minear for work on removing dead tree limbs from the fence line.

Many thanks to Doug Minear and Tom Small for lots of time given to the upkeep and maintenance of our newly expanded Labyrinth Park.

The Board has been researching options for having the building professionally cleaned.

#### [Labyrinth Brochure](#)

### *From the Board*

**Next Board Meeting: December 14, 6:00 p.m.** The board will be meeting in December to finalize plans for the congregational meeting on Sunday, December 18.

## Fall Stewardship Schedule

**Sunday, November 13**

Pledge Consecration Sunday

**Wednesday, November 16**

Budget Meeting (Board)

**Sunday, December 4**

Budget Published for congregational review

**Sunday, December 18**

Congregational Meeting to approve Budget and elect 2017 Board



Covenant Christian Church

2700 72nd St. • Urbandale IA 50322 • Worship 10 AM Sunday