

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

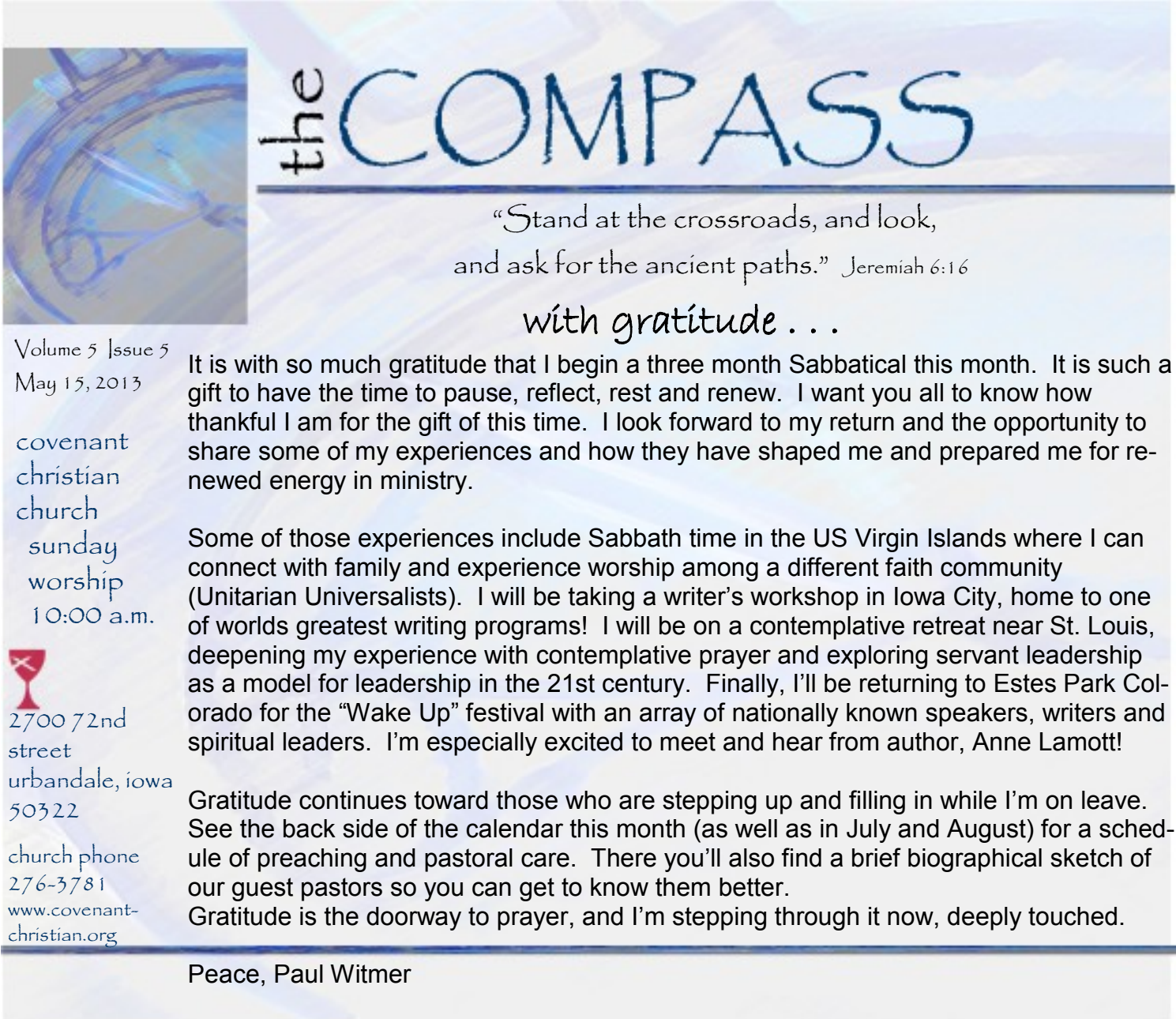
Visitors
Judy Harvey
Chuck & Sharon Little
George & Diane Lair
Kay Kopatch

Attendance
Sunday, Apr. 21 Worship 59
Sunday, Apr. 28 Worship 59
Sunday, May 12 Worship 60

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

The next newsletter will be mailed on
Wednesday, June 19. Articles to be
submitted by Monday, June 17.




the COMPASS

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

with gratitude . . .

Volume 5 Issue 5
May 15, 2013

covenant
christian
church
sunday
worship
10:00 a.m.



2700 72nd
street
urbandale, iowa
50322

church phone
276-3781
www.covenant-
christian.org

It is with so much gratitude that I begin a three month Sabbatical this month. It is such a gift to have the time to pause, reflect, rest and renew. I want you all to know how thankful I am for the gift of this time. I look forward to my return and the opportunity to share some of my experiences and how they have shaped me and prepared me for renewed energy in ministry.

Some of those experiences include Sabbath time in the US Virgin Islands where I can connect with family and experience worship among a different faith community (Unitarian Universalists). I will be taking a writer's workshop in Iowa City, home to one of worlds greatest writing programs! I will be on a contemplative retreat near St. Louis, deepening my experience with contemplative prayer and exploring servant leadership as a model for leadership in the 21st century. Finally, I'll be returning to Estes Park Colorado for the "Wake Up" festival with an array of nationally known speakers, writers and spiritual leaders. I'm especially excited to meet and hear from author, Anne Lamott!

Gratitude continues toward those who are stepping up and filling in while I'm on leave. See the back side of the calendar this month (as well as in July and August) for a schedule of preaching and pastoral care. There you'll also find a brief biographical sketch of our guest pastors so you can get to know them better. Gratitude is the doorway to prayer, and I'm stepping through it now, deeply touched.

Peace, Paul Witmer

We are spiritual seekers working to grow in our love of God,
 deepening our connection to each other and
 sharing with the world our passion for justice and peace.

... journey in. . . deepening our connection

A Note from Sarah
 Education Coordinator

On **May 19-24**, I will go to Alexandria, Minnesota for the first training session of the 2013 **Certification School in Progressive Youth Ministry**. During that time, I will gain insight into the most current and effective approaches to Christian education and youth ministries. While I am there, I will make daily updates and post pictures to the Covenant group on Facebook to keep in touch.

I wish to express gratitude to the congregation and to the Board for their personal, spiritual, and financial support in this endeavor. I feel showered with enthusiasm, encouragement, and generosity from this congregation, and I am thrilled to be a part of a church that places such high value and priority on children and youth ministries. I am looking forward to returning to Covenant with new ideas, skills, and knowledge to bring to our youth education program. I will be making several presentations this summer about what I am learning in the training—stay tuned for future announcements!

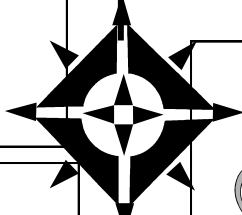
With humility and gratitude,
 Sarah

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jayde Hildebrand
 Paul Ratashak
 Shirlee Holmes
 Donna Wilcox
 Jo Sohn
 Hannah Witmer

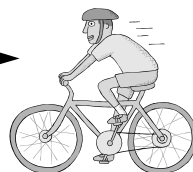
NOTES & NEWS

- Many thanks to **Tom Small, Sarah Hughes** and **Lynn Heuss** for their work on a great Earth Day celebration April 28.
- Congratulations to this year's High School graduates: **John Isaacson; Tyrone Hastings and Colton Ruegsegger**. In addition, we celebrate with **Megan (Wharff) and Nicholas Kavanaugh** who both received Masters degrees from UNI!
- Thank you to all who volunteered to serve this year as Sunday School teachers and SPLASH youth workers and nursery caregivers. Your ministry is so important to us all!
- Mark your calendars for **Vacation Bible School with Urbandale UCC, June 28-30**.



"Raise It Up!"
A 2013 Capital Campaign

Many of you will be receiving a letter and pledge agreement as we proceed with plans to make significant repairs to the church structure. "Raise It Up" is our 2013 capital campaign to raise a minimum of \$40,000. We are able to secure a short term loan enabling us to begin repairs sooner rather than later. However, we are all called on to respond in faith to these needs. As we seek to raise these funds, the Board has chosen to demonstrate our commitment to sharing beyond our walls by designating 10% of all gifts given to be shared with a building project at the Christian Camp and Conference Center. Look for more information to follow and please respond prayerfully.



Bike Night is Back!
Starting June 12
6:30 p.m.

Join us for a great summer tradition at Covenant as we bring back "Bike Night." Bike Night is for all ages and all riders. We'll meet at church at 6:30 p.m. and plan a route on some of the wonderful bike trails throughout Des Moines. Please talk to **Tom Small** with questions or interest. Hope to see you on the trails!

... journey out. . . sharing with the world our
 passion for justice and peace.

Pentecost Offering helps start new churches . . .

and because of your support, new places are being reached with New Disciples churches. When you give to the **Pentecost Offering**, one half of your gift stays in the Region and one half goes to Missional new church development. In the Upper Midwest Region, we currently have 5 New Church Starts.

In 2012, our Church gave \$450. We plan to collect our offerings for this **Special Pentecost Offering** on Sundays, **May 19** and **May 26**, to experience the Joy of Giving.



June

BIRTHDAYS

Garin Hoover	6/1	Adam Isaacson	6/3
Karen Vroman	6/5	Linda Small	6/8
Rachel Ratashak	6/10	Morgan Hoover	6/11
Brad Lair	6/12	Grant Denny	6/13
Megan Wharff Kavanaugh	6/14	Shelby Warwick	6/17
Dana Schock	6/17	Tammy Lair	6/20
Don Twombly	6/26	Donna Wilcox	6/26
Katie Pauley	6/27	Kristin Warwick	6/30

ANNIVERSARIES

Hal & Donna Rusk	6/4
Colin & Breanna Young	6/5
Eric & Susan Guy	6/9
Jerry & Wanda Bane	6/15
Don & Drue Kavanaugh	6/15
Jerry & Tommie Warwick	6/17
Ron & Sue Stookey	6/21
Dave & Dana Etzel-Wharff	6/29