

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**  
Addis Geletta & Family  
Iris Eng  
George Lair  
Derek Roberts  
Virginia Rowen  
Caroline Stump & Family  
Susanna Crichton & Family  
Muriel Penble

**Attendance**  
Sunday, July 22 Worship 64  
Sunday, July 29 Worship 50  
Sunday, Aug. 5 Worship 61  
Sunday, Aug. 12 Worship 58

**Financial Notes**  
July 22, 2012 \$330.00  
Total Deposit July 29, 2012 \$2,727.00  
Aug. 5, 2012 \$5,374.00  
Total Deposit Aug. 12, 2012 \$2,248.85

**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, September 19.  
Articles to be submitted by  
Monday, September 17.**



# the COMPASS

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

## “Having the Church You Want by Being Present to the Church You Have.”

I borrowed and adapted the line above from Mark Nepo’s book of daily meditations entitled, Book of Awakening. His subtitle boasts: *Having the life you want by being present to the life you have*. I think maybe there’s something here for the church to ponder and explore.

How can we become the church we envision, while being present to the church we are? This same dilemma is sometimes put more crassly, “How can we attract new members without alienating our current members?” This bottom-line version of the question sort of reduces it to a business plan and I think misses the deeper questions that are really begging to be answered:

### “Who are we?” and “Who are we becoming?”

Between talks with College Avenue Christian Church and exploring the use of our building and space, the last few years have really brought us face to face with these questions. As we prepare to step forward, possibly with new by-laws and organizational structure, what I’d like to bring to mind is the importance of being present. Just as it is essential for personal transformation as implied in Nepo’s work, so too is it essential in the life of a congregation. I feel that we have been faithful in paying attention to the life we have by constantly reminding ourselves of our roots, our origins, our core beliefs and values. We seek to move forward only by holding dear those qualities that most define who we are as a Christian community.

May we continue to do so with faithful, mindful presence. Paul Witmer

Volume 4 Issue 9  
August 15, 2012

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



2700 72nd  
street  
urbandale, iowa  
50322

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

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 up. . . to grow in our love of God.

**The Changing Shape of  
 Covenant's Educational Ministry!**  
**Sunday Morning: Education**  
 (every Sunday!)

**Wednesday Evening: Fellowship and Outreach**  
 (First Two Wednesdays each month)

We are working hard to develop a strong and growing educational program for all ages at Covenant Christian Church! We are excited to announce that we are expanding opportunities for kids to include Sunday Morning education. Children, nursery through 5th grade will go downstairs following the children's sermon and enjoy Sunday School lessons based on Bible stories with an engaging video presentation, crafts and activities.

We will continue to offer Wednesday Night fellowship and outreach service projects for all ages on the first two weeks of each month. We begin with a Family Night on **September 5, 6-7:15 p.m.** Wednesday gatherings will include supper and a variety of fellowship and outreach activities. This first gathering will be an overview of the Fall Season for parents and volunteers. (While kids are being otherwise entertained!)

The following **Wednesday, September 12** we will enjoy a fellowship meal with Urbandale UCC (at UUCC), 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. We are exploring ways to partner more with UUCC and this seems like a great fit! We are also exploring options for our 6th through 12th graders as well.

Sunday programming for children will begin after labor day on **Sunday, September 9.** We will also begin the program year with a special training for all volunteers who serve in the Nursery or work with kids in any role. If you work with children at Covenant, please plan to be present for this important workshop (about an hour) following worship on **September 9.** We will go over practices and procedures to ensure a safe environment for all the children in our care.

**And for Adults?**

**Adult Sunday School** will resume meeting every Sunday beginning **September 9 at 8:45 a.m.**

**Bible Study** will resume meeting every **Thursday on September 6, 10:00 a.m.**

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

**Save the Date - Meals for the Heartland**

Three teams from Covenant will be joining in the Annual Hunger Fight for Meals for the Heartland on August 29th - September 1st. Times are as follows:

9:30 - 11:30 AM Wednesday, August 29th  
 2:30 - 4:30 PM Thursday, August 30th  
 6:00 - 8:00 PM Friday, August 31st.

The teams on Thursday and Friday are not full, so there is time to participate. Please contact **Dana Schock at 515-334-5647**, if you are interested in joining a team.

... journey in. . . deepening our connection  
 to each other

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Jayde Hildebrand  
 Paul Ratashak  
 Shirlee Holmes  
 Dana Etzel-Wharff

**Notes and News**

- Welcome new member, long-time friend **Margo Whiting** who joined Covenant on **Sunday, July 22!**
- Congratulations to **Ron and Sue Stookey** on the recent birth of their granddaughter, **Ayla Marie Stookey.**
- We welcome guest preacher, **Stephen Haney** to our pulpit on **August 26.**
- **Paul Witmer** will be on vacation, **August 21 -28.**
- **Choir** will begin rehearsing on Wednesday, September 5, 7:15 p.m.
- A big **thanks to all who helped** purchase food, prepare food, or serve food for the August 3rd **CFUM Supper Club.** We were able to serve 100 adults and children a warm nutritious meal.

**Thank You**

Thank you all so much for sharing in our VBS program. Your time, gifts and hospitality made it special. We look forward to growing in our relationship and having more fellowship opportunities.

Blessings,  
 Amy Murray, Urbandale UCC

**School for Congregational Learning  
 Saturday, August 25th**

"Tools . . . in the  
 Footsteps of the Carpenter"

Check out these and other intriguing workshops at SCL. See the bulletin board @church for more information!

- *Thinking of a new service?*
- *How to stop our committee structure from sucking the life out of your church*
- *Creating a Culture of Generosity*



**September**

**BIRTHDAYS**

VeeAnn Cartwright	9/9	Wanda Bane	9/10
Dan Murray	9/11	Leah Denny	9/15
Olin Shane	9/15	Ann Pauley	9/21
Rick Pauley	9/28		

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Zeke & Corby Roberts	9/1
Howard & Jo Sohn	9/4
Paul & Marsha Ratashak	9/5
Gale & Shirlee Holmes	9/10
Russ & Betty Lou Lundy	9/13
David Twombly & Larry Hoch	9/19
Rick & Ann Pauley	9/22
Greg & Kristin Warwick	9/30