



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Helen Crew
11/2

Christine Young-Denny
11/4

Judith Henry
11/4

Lynn Heuss
11/4

Russ Lundy
11/6

Derek Roberts
11/7

Bob Avaux
11/21

Betty Lou Lundy
11/29

Tom & Linda Small
11/27

THE COMPASS:

Covenant Christian Church Newsletter

Greetings!

come... journey... together...

These are the words that greet us each week. They're words that remind us of our call to community, to faith, and to journey. They seemed like good words to frame our stewardship work this fall as we think about the year ahead and make plans for a budget and board to serve us in 2017.

Come: this is a word of invitation, and sums up our work for several years of seeking to be a community of welcome and grace. We strive to be a place where all are welcome, and there's always more room at the table!

Journey: this is a word of exploration and action. This describes how we do what we do. We are reminded of the work of our journey teams that help us explore the height and depth, length and breadth of Christ's love. (Ephesians 3) Notice the journey up (height), the journey down (depth), the journey out (length) and the journey in (breadth).

Together: this is a word of community and relationship. This is where we are deepest character of our church shines. We are a community, and we value relationship. We are excited to see what we can do together!

So, as you review the contents of this newsletter, we hope you will be reminded of the great work we do, and respond with your heart-felt and soulful pledge this Sunday, November 13.

Looking forward to another great year as we come, journey together . . .

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

CALENDAR

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

in our prayers

Jayde Hildebrand
Donna Wilcox
Helen Heckert
Carolyn Ratashak

visitors

Deanna Jens
Jean Boomershine

Financial Notes

Oct. 2	\$2,849.50
Oct. 9	\$4,431.75
Oct. 16	\$3,648.83
Oct. 23	\$1,718.00
Oct. 30	\$2,746.00

Attendance

Oct. 2	33
Oct. 9	36
Oct. 16	27
Oct. 23	28
Oct. 30	49

Office Hours

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

Fellowship Friday

November 11, 6:00 p.m.

at the home of Karen & Don Hiscox
307 SW Creekside Court, Grimes
Please RSVP: 986-0740 or vromankaren@q.com
Please bring appetizer or dessert

NGP Health-System Pharmacist of the Year

Congratulations Geoff Wall! Professor of Pharmacy Practice **Geoff Wall** was recognized as the 2016 Next-Generation Pharmacist Health-System Pharmacist of the Year. This award recognizes a pharmacist who works in a health-system setting, such as a hospital, long-term care facility, home care, or a health maintenance organization, and has demonstrated improvements in the coordination of care.



Bibles for Young Readers!

It was a thrill to give Bibles to our young readers on Reformation Sunday, October 30. Above they are pictured with their parents and their new Bibles, "Deep Blue Kids Bible" the Common English Bible. Our young readers are Miles Hoover, Addison Chambers, Shelby Warwick, Esme and Oliver Young. Congratulations!

Adult Sunday School

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515-276-3781

Fax
515-253-0174

E-mail
pwitmer@covenant-
christian.org

Like us on Facebook

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

www.uppermidwestcc.org

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

Begins Sunday, September 11

Welcome to Deep Blue One Room School House, Sunday School for kids.

Thanks to a great team of volunteers, we've launched Sunday School for kids which meets every Sunday, after children are dismissed from worship, about 10:15 following the "Time with the Young."



See below for the scope and sequence of lessons for the fall.

Five young readers received a new Bible on October 30!

Date	Teacher (Deep Blue Curriculum)	Lesson
Sunday, November 6	Linda Small	"In the Wilderness"
Sunday, November 13	Jay Sohn	"Ten Commandments"
Sunday, November 20	Jay Sohn	"A House for God"
Sunday, November 27	Jay Sohn	"The Peaceable Kingdom"

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

Outreach and Evangelism

Team Leader: (2016) VeeAnn Cartwright

*Give Me
WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE
that I may **LEAD***

2 Chron. 1:10

THANKSGIVING OFFERING NOVEMBER 2016

Over **27,000** students reached every year by Disciples related institutions of higher education.

8,410 students graduated in 2016 from Disciples colleges, universities, and graduate theological institutions.

14 Disciples Related Colleges & Universities

7 Disciples Related Theological Institutions

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These learning communities are an extension of the church, challenging students to understand and respond to God's call to serve.

The offering will be received Sunday, November 20.



Labyrinth Park Gets Lots of Traffic!

The addition of three new labyrinths this summer has meant the creation of a Labyrinth Park at Covenant, and lots of folks in our wider community are taking notice! Recently, a group from Downtown Disciples was visiting to make use of the labyrinth walk as part of a prayer, meditation and discernment experience for their congregation.

This week, a confirmation class from St. Stephen's Lutheran Church was here to walk and pray.

It is wonderful to share with the world our

passion for justice and peace on the spiritual journey!

Visit the Women at the Well in December

Covenant Christian Church is on the calendar for a visit to the Thursday evening worship experience with Women at the Well on **Thursday, December 15** (6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.). There is room for 10 visitors, so space is limited. Again, please see Paul to express your interest in visiting this unique and powerful ministry. A background check is required that includes sharing sensitive information, so please speak to Paul in person if you are interested in this worship experience.



Downtown Disciples Experience Discernment on the Labyrinth

JustFaith - There's Still Room!

If you have been considering the JustFaith program, we still have room for you! Here are just a few of the people who have benefited from JustFaith: those who are about to retire or recently retired; empty-nesters; young adults; couples who want to share a journey of faith and compassion together; those looking for a life-change; those wanting to make a difference in the world; YOU! Online JustFaith registration is available at www.centerforsocialministry.org. Questions? Contact Susie Tierney at the Center for Social Ministry, 515-782-3054 centerforsocialministry@gmail.com.

Becoming a Congregation of Welcome and Grace: Building an Inclusive Church

Our process of building an inclusive church has helped us build relationships and deepen understanding. Over all, we've sent out 12 volunteers who have engaged in about 53 conversations with about 80 people. We currently have about 86 active participants at Covenant, so that's a pretty exhaustive effort and undertaking. Overwhelmingly, the response has been welcoming. Many express the sentiment that we should continue to work on being even more inclusive. In regards to the welcome statement, most are very supportive, and some hope that we'll continue to broaden and expand our welcome.

So, on October 9, our board chairperson, Erin Hiscox announced the adoption of our Welcome Statement that we have been living with in recent years. Congratulations! May we continue the journey of welcome and grace!

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

Bible Study

Our Thursday morning Bible Study finished up our study of Paul's prison letters, and had an interim study, "Finding the Bible in the Hymnal; Finding the Hymnal in the Bible." We are taking a break for the rest of November, and will resume 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.

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.

[November 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!

[In the Lineage of . . .](#)

Sunday, October 2

[Law of Heart](#)

Sunday, October 16

Advent 2016

Sunday, November 27, will be the first Sunday of Advent. We'll plan to have a service of the "Hanging of the Greens" that Sunday morning, taking time during worship to prepare the way of the Lord with greens and other symbols of the the season.

We're still finalizing plans for Christmas Eve, but have decided not to have worship services on Sunday morning
, Christmas Day.

Journey Down . . . taking care of our physical plant

Team Leader: (2016) Doug Minear

Thanks to Doung 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: November 16, 6:00 p.m. The board will be meeting in November to prepare a budget for 2017, based on pledged and other income. We encourage you to return your pledges to church, either by mail or in worship on Sunday, November 13.

Fall Stewardship Schedule

Sunday, November 13	Pledge Consecration Sunday
Wednesday, November 16	Budget Meeting (Board)
Sunday, November 27	Budget Published for congregational review
Sunday, December 11	Congregational Meeting to approve Budget and elect 2017 Board

Pastor's Vacation

Paul will be using his final vacation time for the year to travel on November 12-19. Don Hiscox will be preaching on Sunday, November 13.



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