

Community Covenant Church  
 122 S Main Street  
 PO Box 278  
 Upsala, MN 56384  
 Phone: 320-573-2672  
 Email: covenant@upsalacov.org  
 www.upsalacov.org



Pastor Steve Weihsmann  
 Senior Pastor  
 blackandchrome@gmail.com  
 (218) 428-8010  
 Zach Klein  
 Youth Pastor  
 zach@upsalacov.org  
 763-242-7237

**Sunday School Kickoff**

**September 8, 2024** at 9 AM starting in Kids Cove. All children from age 3 through sixth grade are welcome.

**Wednesday Night Activities**

Our Wednesday Night Activities begin **October 2**. We will learn more about Jesus through games and tons of fun. Kids age infant - 12th grade are welcome.

- 6:00 PM Community Meal
- 6:20 PM Adventureland (infant- age 5)
- 6:30 PM J-Team (K-6th grade)
- 6:30 PM Ignite (7th-12th grade)



The community meal is open to the public. Sign up at the Welcome Center to bring food.

**J TEAM  
 KICK OFF  
 CARNIVAL**

Wednesday, October 2 6:00-7:35 PM  
 Grades K-6 at Community Covenant Church

Starts with a meal! Adventure Land kids welcome!

**GAMES! BIG INFLATABLE! FUN!**

**Help Wanted!**

J-Team is in need of two people:  
 \* to register children on Wednesday evenings from 5:45-6:15  
 \* to supervise children in the Great Room from 6-6:30  
 We are looking for volunteers in the kitchen too. Contact Karen Hoffman 320-808-6678

**Wednesday Night Meals Co-Coordinator**

Another adult is needed to team with Cyd Woller for Wednesday night meals from October to early May. Please contact Cyd Woller 763-350-0292, if you are interested in fulfilling this need.



# Community Covenant Church CHRONICLES

Publication of Community Covenant Church, Upsala, MN

## September/October 2024



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## CIVILITY COVENANT

In the past few decades (or perhaps it has always been true) politicians have felt free to malign those with whom they disagree, cancel each other's statements and dignity, play loose with facts, profess a position and live in an opposite manner, put opportunity over integrity, and block attempts to find mutual solutions. Parties and constituents have followed suit. Is it any wonder that our country is in crisis?

In the Spring of 2008, a group of over 100 ministers, me included, signed an agreement prior to an election, which, like the current election, promised to be contentious. We made seven biblically based commitments, which are paraphrased here.

1. We commit to "be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry" (James 1:19).
2. We commit to show respect for each other because each of us is created in the image of God.
3. We pledge that when we disagree, we will not impugn the other's motives, attack the other's character, or question the other's faith.
4. We will be mindful of our language so that we are not boastful or arrogant. Rather we will "be humble and gentle, patient, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2).
5. We will be mindful that, especially in the Church, we need each other and "are all members of one body" (Ephesians 4:25).
6. We will make "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings for...all who are in high positions" (as urged in 1 Timothy 2:1-2), whether we agree with them or not.
7. We commit to pray for each other, believing that we find it hard to hate those for whom we pray. Within the Church they are brothers and sisters; outside the Church they are people who need Christ.

Might we, as representatives of Christ, by our speech and conduct, shine a light along a dark path? Could we say this election year, when hearing something with which we disagree, "I see where you are going. Here is why I cannot go there..." and so keep the conversation on a civil level? It has been observed that in matters of theology and politics, Christians often define themselves by what they are against. Perhaps we could be known by *Whom* we are for: Jesus Christ. He is for us...and is often compassionate even toward our enemies.

PS



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1	2 6:00 PM - Meal 6:20 PM J Team/ Adventureland 6:30 PM Ignite	3	4	5	
		NWC Ministerial Association Fall Retreat @ Sugar Lake Lodge, Cohasset, MN					
6 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	7 1:00 & 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study	8	9 6:00 PM - Meal 6:20 PM J Team Adventureland 6:30 PM Ignite	10 7 pm Leadership Team Meeting	11	12	
13 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	14 1:00 & 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	15	16 No Activities	17	18	19	
				Fall Youth Retreat @ Bluewater Bible Camp			
20 No Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship w/ Communion	21 1:00 & 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study	22	23 6:00 PM - Meal 6:20 PM J Team Adventureland 6:30 PM Ignite	24	25	26 9am LBBC Annual Meeting	
					LBBC Youth Fall Retreat		
27 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Harvest Fest Youth Meal to follow service	28 1:00 & 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	29	30 6:00 PM - Meal 6:20 PM J Team Adventureland 6:30 PM Ignite	31			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 AM Worship	2 <b>LABOR DAY</b>	3	4 No Activities	5	6	7
8 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	9 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study	10 7pm CW Meeting 7pm Properties Meeting	11 6:00 PM Ignite	12	13	14
15 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship w/ Communion	16	17 7:00 PM Worship Team Meeting	18 6:00 PM Ignite	19 7 pm Leadership Meeting	20	21
22 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	23 8:00 PM Men's Bible Study	24	25 8am See you at the Pole 6:00 PM Ignite	26	27	28 6:30 PM CW Auction
29 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship	30					

<p><b>Office Hours</b></p> <p>Monday 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM          Tuesday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM          Wednesday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM          Thursday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM          Friday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM</p> <p>122 S. Main Street          PO Box 278          Upsala, MN 56384          320-573-2672          covenant@upsalacov.org  <a href="http://www.upsalacov.org">www.upsalacov.org</a>          Evangelical Covenant Church  <a href="http://www.covchurch.org">www.covchurch.org</a></p>	<p><b>September Worship Servers</b>  <b>Ushers: Leif &amp; Suzi Johnson</b></p> <p><b>Nursery Workers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Richard Blonigen &amp; Trygg Aleckson</li> <li>Elizabeth &amp; Matthew Vandergon</li> <li>Cheryl &amp; Bella Warga</li> <li>Karen Hoffman &amp; Lucy Aleckson</li> <li>Tim Peterson &amp; Benjamin V.</li> </ol> <p><b>Prayer</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor Steve</li> <li>Karen Hoffman</li> <li>Steve Woller</li> <li>Sandi Soderberg</li> <li>Wanda Erickson</li> </ol> <p><b>Scripture</b></p> <p>Anne Weihsmann          Tina Yorek          Cyd Woller          Betty Olson          Sheila Brezinka</p>	<p><b>October Worship Servers</b>  <b>Ushers: Trent &amp; Elizabeth Vandergon</b></p> <p><b>Nursery Workers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Linda Piasecki &amp; Hannah Hoffman</li> <li>Michelle &amp; Evie Aleckson</li> <li>Jesse Aleckson &amp; Emmett Warga</li> <li><b>Harvest Fest (No Nursery)</b></li> </ol> <p><b>Prayer</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anne Weihsmann</li> <li>Dan Voronyak</li> <li>Wanda Erickson</li> <li>Leif Johnson</li> </ol> <p><b>Scripture</b></p> <p>Lydia Prout          Tina Prout          Tanya Olson          Suzi Johnson</p>
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**Staying Connected**

We send out Sunday bulletins and bi-monthly newsletters via email. If you aren't receiving them, call the church office at 320-573-2672, or send us an email: covenant@upsalacov.org



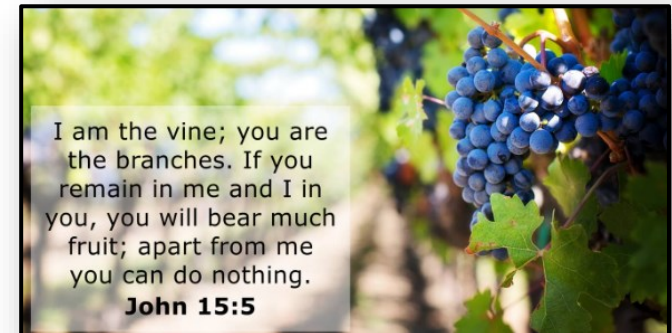
**Publication Deadlines:**

Sunday Bulletin: 10pm Wednesday  
 Monthly Newsletter: February 13, April 15, June 15, August 15, October 15, & December 15

*For your convenience, Birthday and Anniversary lists are available at the church office.*



*Please contact the church office to get your birthday or anniversary added to the list.*

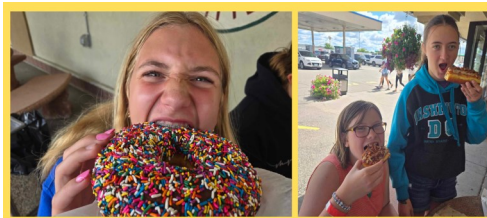


I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.  
**John 15:5**



**SUMMER Went By WAY TOO Fast!** :( Ignite's summer was BUSY to say the least, but it was a good one. We met almost every Wednesday throughout the summer and had a good time hanging out and doing things like swimming, fishing, boating, bowling, watching baseball, playing volleyball, etc. It was a great summer of connecting with students and having a great time in the name of Jesus.

We also had many students either go to camp as a camper or as a junior staff/D3, which is a great opportunity for them to learn about God and leadership.



- **MUUUCE was AWESOME!**

We sent 9 students and 3 leaders to MUUUCE. It was great to see the students have fun and receive many take aways from the sessions with speakers Tiger McLuen, Cesar Castillejos, and Heather Flies. Learning that our Identity is in Christ and we can trust in Jesus **NO MATTER WHAT!** A big thank you to Jim and Sam Warga for leading our group while Zach had extra responsibilities being on the MUUUCE planning team.

### COMING UP THIS FALL

- **IGNITE begins Sept. 11, 6-9pm**
- **Sunday School & Confirmation begins Sept. 8, 9am**
- **MEA Fall Retreat @ Bluewater Bible Camp - October 17-20**
- **Lake Beauty Bible Camp Fall Retreat - October 25-27**

I highly encourage anyone with a student in IGNITE to join our Remind text chain ———>

### **Want to stay updated on IGNITE announcements?**

#### **For Texts**

Enter this number  
**81010** ?

Text this message  
**@igniteccc** ?

#### **For Emails**

Send an email to  
**zach@upsalacov.org**



### **Karl & Sue Peterson (From Sue's Perspective)**

#### **RESPIROS Listening to God's Voice with the Ear of Our Heart**

**RESPIROS** offers us a space to listen to the God's Voice with our hearts. I continue to facilitate these times alone with God in the community in different venues, with MAEM facilitators; with pastors and church leaders; with women; with local churches like *MisionDF*. The hope for all is to experience intimacy with Him and learn to discern His leading. Pray that more people will be listen to God and each other! I prefer to lead these experiences of prayer outside where people can spend time with God in creation, and am always on the lookout for potential sites around the city.

#### **SPERE School of Forgiveness and Reconciliation**

**ESPERE** 2024 has concluded with exploring biblical reflection on forgiveness; learning to see others with new eyes,; deciding to forgive; understanding our offender; constructing truth; being intentional about a justice that restores; and choosing to reconcile. All this and more form part of the adventure of walking with God and one another through this process of healing. I have just finished co-leading this online **ESPERE** group of ten in which Karl was a participant and is now on the pathway to become a facilitator for MAEM (Ministering to the Abused and Exploited in Mexico) Transforma that will specifically target men.

**IMPORTANT PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for the upcoming Annual meeting of the Mexico Covenant church, Aug. 28-31. The Mexico Covenant church is at a crossroads with an uncertain future. There are multiple factions creating a divisive environment. As missionaries we need your prayer to discern how to interact with the factions and promote Covenant identity, church health, respectful communication, and prayerful decision making.



# Missionary Updates

From our missionary at CRU, **Aaron Peterson** (pictured far left)



For most of this summer, I spent time in Medora, North Dakota, staffing a Summer Mission with Cru. Ten students and 6 Cru staff members lived and worked at the Teddy Roosevelt Medora Foundation where our students learned how to live "on mission" in the everyday, mundane normalcy of life. They learned how to care for their coworkers, to grow in relationship with them, and to intentionally have spiritual conversations - skills that they'll take with them for the rest of their lives. Every year, hundreds of college students from across the world come to work at the Medora Foundation.

I am back in Eau Claire, in full swing planning for the school year to begin. Last year we prayed as a team for God to bring 35 students to faith in Christ; and by His grace we saw 37 students make that

decision! This year, after prayer and reflection, we set a goal to see 40 students make that same decision. Last year was full of growth for our Cru movements at UW Eau Claire and UW Stout. Many of those new believers have stepped up to become leaders and laborers alongside us. Our vision is to reach the whole campus with the gospel, every student and faculty member. Please pray with us that God would make Himself known and give us and our student leaders joy as we do the work.

## JAMAICA



For several years the Friday night small group has been donating devotionals to Jamaica. Several of the young men who have received them have responded positively towards these gifts. Stafford, working his way through university, has stated, "This is what keeps me going!" more than once, with a photo of the devotional message for the day. Another devotional was given to a young married couple, another to a banker, who cherish the hope found in God's word as presented in these devotionals. If you have (new or used) devotionals sitting on your shelf, please consider donating them to the Jamaica team.

Your gifts and prayers for the young men & families, who many of you know, are appreciated: Stafford, Rolando, Savin, Chevan, Donovan & Soshana, Andrew & Ackeema's family, Shimue, Bryan, Shimar, Kwame, Michael & Cristal

Save the Date: Jamaica Baked Potato Fundraiser Sunday, November 3 after church.



# Fall Camp Events

## LAKE BEAUTY'S WOMEN RETREAT: September 27-29



This is a great opportunity to get away with friends and family during one of Lake Beauty's most beautiful times of the year. During your stay, you will be encouraged and refreshed with chapel services, interesting seminars, outdoor activities, fun crafts, and even massages. Check out the details at [lbbc.com](http://lbbc.com), then register online or give camp a call at 320-732-3218.



## SENIOR ADULT DAY: Tuesday, September 10

Spend a relaxing day at Lake Beauty taking in the fall colors and enjoying the company of others. Reconnect with friends, tour the grounds and catch up on all that is going on at Lake Beauty Bible Camp. Arrive at 9:30 and depart at 2:00. **Free of charge!** Please make advanced reservations for yourself or for a group by contacting camp by September 4., 320-732-3218 or [lbbc.com](http://lbbc.com)

## Dads 'N' Daughters September 6-8, 2024

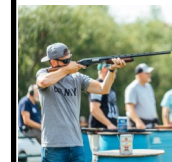


and encouraged!

Join us at Camp Lebanon for a great father-daughter weekend and invest in one of the most important relationships in your family's life! The bond between father and daughter is so important in our world today, and this retreat provides opportunity for that relationship to be strengthened



## Men's Retreat September 20-22, 2024



Schedule a weekend away to unplug, retreat with other guys, and experience God away from the busyness of life. Join with a room full of men singing loudly in worship, enjoy fellowship with other men, and dive deeply into God's Word together.

## Fall Young At Heart Retreat September 16-19, 2024



Our Fall Young At Heart Retreat comes right on the end of our exciting summer camp season. Head up for your own taste of summer at Camp Lebanon – ride the zipline, take a nature walk, or sit by the fire and roast s'mores! Enjoy daily hymn singing, solid teaching from God's Word, and dear fellowship with your old and new friends.

## Women's Retreat September 27-29, 2024



Our Fall Women's Retreats at Camp Lebanon are refreshing and inspiring, offering incredible opportunities for fellowship, instruction, and worship. Treat yourself to this delightful experience on the north shore of Cedar Lake, during one of the most beautiful times of the year.



# Events & Upcoming Events

## All City Women's Mixer-3rd Annual



On July 17, sixteen Covenant Women were joined by 39 other ladies from the community for our All-City Women's Gathering. We had a great time eating at Jordies and playing bingo. Everyone received a gift bag from area businesses!

## CW Auction September 28

The annual Covenant Women Auction is coming up soon! The auction will be held on Saturday, September 28 at 6:30 PM. Mark your calendar now you so don't miss it. If you have special items that you want listed on the Auction Bill, please contact Wanda Erickson by September 8 at [bookreader777@gmail.com](mailto:bookreader777@gmail.com). The CW auction raises funds for activities our church women support. In the past, funds have gone to missionaries, Wednesday night meals, camp fund, and youth initiatives. Items donated should be new, like new or handmade such as woodworking or



embroidered or baked. We LOVE those baked goods! Each family will be asked to bring a snack to share that night. Come join the fun!

## Fall Women's Bible Study

On Mondays, October 7 - November 18 at 1:00-3:00pm & 7:00-9:00pm, please join us for our Fall Women's Bible Study! We will be studying "Jesus & Women in the First Century and Now" by Kristi McLelland.

*Take heart, daughter.* Matthew 9:22 This encouragement from the lips of Jesus surely comforted a hurting woman's soul thousands of years ago. And it offers a similar gospel hope to us today too. Biblical culturalist Kristi McLelland will take us back to Jesus' first-century world, explaining the historical and cultural climate of His day to help us know Him more dearly. This 7-session study is a thoughtful look at several of Jesus' interactions with women in the Bible that will fuel our worship of the Living God.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center, we need to order a book for you. Invite a friend!



# Upcoming Events



**Harvest Fest  
Sunday is  
October 27,  
2024  
10:15am!**

Mark your calendar for Celebration Sunday with **Sweetwater Revival**. The youth will provide a meal after the service; please bring a pie to share for the dessert.

## Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Due November 20

We will collecting shoeboxes filled with items for children in countries around the world. Gift box suggestions for boys or girls can be found on [samaritanspur.org](http://samaritanspur.org), or you can take a printed list next to the shoeboxes in the upstairs foyer. Brochures with labels for both boy and girl boxes, as well as envelopes for the \$10 shipping donation, will be available in Mid-September. Now is a great time to purchase back-to-school supplies for your box.

