

COVENANT NEWS



Covenant United Church of Christ

November 2018

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Breakfast w/ The Pastor

Thursday, Nov 1 @ 9am
Sunrise Café

Craft Bazaar & Donation Dinner

Saturday, November 3, 10 am

Daylight Saving "Fall Back"

Sunday, November 4
Set clocks *BACK* one hour

Stewardship Sunday

Sunday, November 11

Women's Fellowship Meeting

Tuesday, November 13, 5:30 pm

Missions Committee Meeting

Wed, November 14, 10am

Christmas Auction Fundraiser

Sunday, November 18, Noon

Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, November 20, 1 pm

Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 27, 6:30 pm

What Shines Through You?

I see her as she bends over a small child at Jubilee, our Thursday - after-school program, suggesting that glue can go along the bottom piece as he builds a foam ark.

I hear a voice in the church nursery school that has children recite their A, B, Cs.

I hear a circular saw as several Trustees refashion the old but useable kitchen counter into smaller pieces for someone's home.

I listen to a church member who tells me he visited another member in the hospital, in case I didn't know of the hospitalization. I didn't.

I see people gather up the leftovers from a church potluck to send home to a struggling family.

I see anxiety on faces as committee members share prayer concerns at the end of a meeting for people who are sick or struggling with tragedy.

I see canned food in food pantry collection barrels by the church entrances and envelopes of cash for a special offering for mission.

I hear young laughter downstairs on a Sunday afternoon at a youth group meeting.

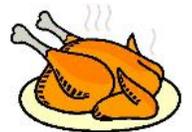
This is love shining. This is the church. This is our church. What shines though you? Your increased pledge promise continues these expressions of care by having Covenant remain as a spiritual community and beacon of hope in Gasport. Give generously!



**Sunday, Nov 18
Noon**

**A great place to start your
Christmas shopping.
Gift certificates, gift items,
Sabres tickets and more!
Open to the public;
lunch available**

Saturday, November 3: Craft Bazaar & Donation Dinner



Craft Bazaar 10:00 - 5:30 p.m. with luncheon available 11am-1pm

Donation Dinner served 3:30 p.m. until sold out

Raffle tickets available

\$2.00 for one ticket,

\$5.00 for 3 tickets,

\$10.0 for 7 tickets!

Correction to the October Newsletter:

The first place drawing is a cedar chest donated by Kevin and Lorie Simons





Minister's Letter..



When a Church Defeats Itself

Historically, churches in America have been perceived as cultural assets. Mr. Ellicott, when surveying the Western New York frontier for the Holland Land Company made provision of land, free of charge, to eastern protestant denominations - read Presbyterians and New England Congregationalists here – to erect their churches. These religious societies provided a civilizing influence upon the surrounding community through religious education, enforcing constraints on immoral behavior (drunkenness and brawling), and establishing charity for hardship cases in the community. Religion elevated the common morals of a community and provided an expression of fellowship that serve to bind the new communities together in a time of settlement flux.

None of this is true today, at least as communities see their churches. For a majority of Americans, churches are seen as relics of the past; or as private, small group expressions (at least with old-line-denominations) of spiritual practice. It's a post-Christian world in America!

It's common for Christians to finger point with regards to their growing irrelevancy in their communities. 'Sports on Sunday,' 'both parents working,' 'low birthrate,' 'working on Sundays' have been excuses church folk use in a denial of their own efforts to 'defeat' their church. The reality is that the enemy isn't *out there*, it's in our own consciousness and, without our own awareness, in our unconscious. Our soft commitment, our mediocre faith - casual and comfortable, our clinging to the 'way it always has been,' our predisposed inclination to criticize . . . that all defeat our church. Our faith expression can even give way to a kind of Christian parasitism when we have a 'what's in it for me attitude' with no sense of service or support. How weary it is to experience people who we haven't seen in years (even decades) and who demonstrated no commitment to our efforts, yet who expect us to be the church for their funerals and other life celebration events.

The culture is changing, in fact it always has, and many churches seem resigned to be 'spiritual outposts.' If you think you're resigned to that, then you defeat your church. If your attitude is complacent, you defeat your church. If you have little regard to help others but only yourself, you defeat your church.

Jesus provides a good example of what we can be in these changing times in his Parable of the Mustard Seed. It shows us how small things can give results far beyond their initial imaging. Unless we're prepared to believe - really believe that God can effect good change through us and our efforts, we defeat our church. If that's the case, we may as well close the doors, sell the contents, disperse the endowment, and move on. But the gospel indicates that new life is possible. That renewal and hope are not unusual but typical in spiritual communities and in the people who inhabit them. And the future is not to be feared but embraced with Holy Spirit possibilities. We only have to believe in the incarnate Son of God and welcome his efforts to make us anew.

Pastor
John

Dear Covenant Family-

As many of you know, September 11, 2018, my family experienced the loss of our unborn child, who we named Noah. Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers as we've navigated this difficult time.

Additionally, thank you for your donation to Lockport Care Net Pregnancy Center in Noah's memory. My husband and I firmly believe in the work being done at Care Net. There are many babies Noah's age and size that do not survive, not because of medical reasons, but because of fear, uncertainty, lack of options, or ignorance. Care Net is working hard in our community to reach people with the truth—in love—and to give these babies a chance at life.

So thank you. Thank you for supporting this important organization. Thank you for honoring our child's life. Thank you for coming along side us as we grieve.

Sincerely, Katie Rose
Church Secretary



Breakfast with the Pastor
Thursday, November 1
9:00 a.m.
Sunrise Café

TREASURER REPORT September 2018

Income	\$5,795.00	(Sunday Collections)
Expenses	<u>\$11,532.49</u>	
Shortfall	(\$5,737.49)	

Checkbook Balance	
9/1/2018:	\$2,025.81
9/30/2018:	\$5,082.08

Shortfall is based on Sunday Collection less expenses.

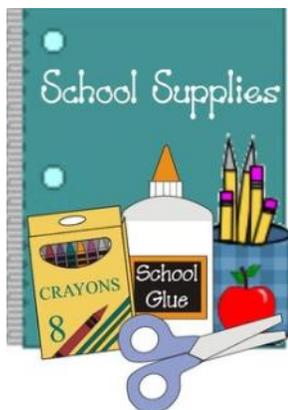
Burniece Herendeen
Treasurer

Women's Fellowship Planning Meeting

Please join us on **Tuesday, November 13 at 5:30 p.m.** Dinner of pizza, wings & salad provided.

Here are the following topics for discussion, please feel free to also bring other ideas!
Christmas Donations, Holiday Dinner, Victorian Tea, Rummage sale, Mother/Daughter Banquet.

RSVP to Donna Rice



The Mission Committee thanks you for your donation of school supplies! This is what was collected:

25 Backpacks ♦ 21 spiral notebooks ♦ 25 packs of crayons ♦ 55 packs of pencils ♦ 4 packs of colored pencils ♦ 5 packs of colored markers ♦ 28 pencil boxes ♦ 3 3-ring binders ♦ 121 portfolio folders ♦ 46 glue sticks ♦ 9 bottles of glue ♦ 6 scissors ♦ 23 packs of ball point pens ♦ 4 packs of highlighters ♦ 2 bottles of hand sanitizer ♦ 38 erasers ♦ 8 rulers ♦ 28 packs of notebook paper ♦ 24 pencil sharpeners ♦ 40 marble notebooks ♦ 36 dry erase markers ♦ 2 calendar packs ♦ 144 ear buds



Covenant United Church of Christ

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SUNDAYS

9:30 am Adult Bible Study

10:30 am Worship Service & Sunday School

WEDNESDAYS

7:30 pm Worship Chorus

THURSDAYS

3:30-5:30 pm Children's Jubilee

Attention Music Lovers!

Our worship Keyboardist, Fran Woodmancy, is now accepting music students at Covenant. Private piano, keyboard, and music theory classes are available for all ages, styles and levels of study.

Fran has 40+ years experience as a music instructor and performer. For lesson rates and further details, please call (716) 946-2125

Contact Us



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Covenant News is published monthly except for January & August. Articles should be submitted via email by the 15th of each month prior to the month of their appearance. We reserve the right to edit articles.

Are you moving? Make sure to send us your updated mailing address!

**Church office hours are
Wednesdays and Fridays,
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**