



## 2020 Stewardship

*Recovery!* is our Stewardship theme for this autumn. It signifies where we are as we move beyond the initial crisis of the coronavirus pandemic into the ways we have changed our lives. For the first time in Covenant history we were closed three months; yet, still we found ways to express our love. With “Happy Boxes” and “Friday Meals” we reached out to our membership and neighbors expressing our care.

But we are still adjusting. In fact, all of us are - children in schools, parents monitoring on-line learning at home, mask wearing, visiting limitations to our family members in nursing home and hospital, our church nursery school is closed, and more. It may not feel like it; but a recovery is happening!

The account from the Gospel of John is a story of healing and recovery. A man, long ill, had succumbed to a popular superstition that if he could enter the water after the surface was disturbed, he would be healed. But the man becomes a caricature of hope, a joke. He can't get into the water because he can't walk. Into this scene, Jesus arrives and offers what the pool can't. Jesus heals the man; and, in recovery, he can return home to live a normal but entirely new life.

Jesus still heals today. He looks to us to offer hope and care to each other and to those outside our faith community

The recovery continues. We are asking you to pledge promise for the coming budget year. In fact, to increase your pledge promise if you can. Covenant has a job to do for young and old. Our pledge goal is a pledge increase of 10% overall or ten dollars a week. We hope you attempt the effort. Only you know your finances. If you can't match that goal, know that whatever you give will help us meet the challenge of recovery. God bless you!

## Shop for Covenant!

A donation of any one of these items listed below will help to keep our supplies costs low so we can use more of our financial resources for mission and worship and fellowship!

Please remember your church when you shop; we will be grateful if you do.



### Shopping List

- Paper Towels
- Plastic Silverware (individually wrapped)
- Toilet Paper (two-ply)
- Facial tissues (any brand)
- Hand Liquid soap
- Dinner Napkins
- Foam Cups (standard 8 oz size)

*“My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.”*

*John 5:17*



## Minister's Letter..



The church internet service has slowed considerably. While it has never been fast, we live with it. To upgrade it would increase the cost of the monthly bill from Spectrum considerably. In fact, the internet plan we have is no longer offered; but we have been 'grandfathered in.'

Now, the internet service crawls between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. I wonder if this is because internet use has increased with the remote school learning or home school learning that is happening as a result of the pandemic . . .

I, who have no connection to public school, am affected, too. Online orders for church supplies, information searches for church reopening ideas, and email prove frustrating as my computer indicates that the website I am seeking is unavailable or it indicates that the router in the church isn't working. Which in fact, it is. If I do my on-line work before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m., I experience no problems whatsoever.

So, I've changed my work habits. It isn't convenient, but it is less frustrating and more productive. I imagine, at some point, the subtle anxiety from this intentional adjustment will disappear as the changes to my patterns become routine as did earlier ones.

Covenant is experiencing these changes, too, as we adjust what we do and how we do it. Some things did not and will not return this fall, like Jubilee or our nursery school, or our Children's Christmas Eve Service! Communion is different with our 'little prefab' cups. Coffee hour is indoors, but we constantly adjust our masks eating our individually wrapped cookies or sip our coffee. Meetings are held in our Fireplace room as we social distance. Some of these changes lack convenience, some provoke a feelings of loss. All are necessary, but the adjustment makes us feel conflicted.

Still we believe that what we do as a church supersedes these changes. Our faith in our mission as a church transcends these minor changes. Yes, minor! Imagine if we couldn't meet - as happened from mid-March to the end of June. But we can meet, and our mission goes on as we attempt to be signs of God's unconditional love to others. This sense of mission, this direction of our church life, moves us to make the adjustments that are necessary because love, in the end, is what Covenant is about.

*Pastor John*

# Donation Dinner 2020

So many changes are coming for this year, but some things will remain the same on the first Saturday in November:

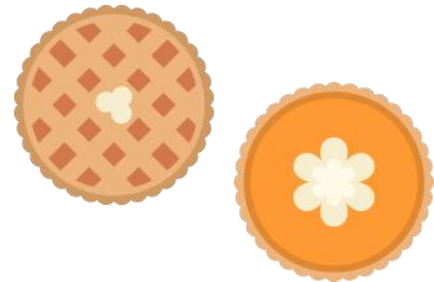
- We will be serving the same delicious turkey dinner, complete with mashed potatoes, dressing, gravy, squash, cranberry relish, roll and pie.
- We will keep our time honored tradition of accepting donations for dinners and not have a set price
- We will need many hands on work days prior to the dinner and the day of to serve 700 meals!

We need help in the kitchen on the following days:

- Sunday, October 18** - Squash Day! After church, we will need help taking the skin off and the seeds out of 13 bushel of squash!
- Thursday, October 29**- 6:00 p.m. make cranberries, cut bread for stuffing
- Thursday, Nov. 5** - 11:00 a.m. make stuffing

Things that will be new this year:

- We will only be serving **APPLE** and **PUMPKIN** pie. If you are baking or donating pie, please make sure its apple or pumpkin. This will streamline the drive thru process.
- We will be serving dinners **DRIVE THRU** only. Two serving lines will be set up, one in front of the church and one along the south side of the building, to get traffic off of the street as quickly as possible
- We are scheduling specific people for specific jobs for specific times on Saturday. If you don't have a job yet and would like to work, please call or text Lindsay Yates at 807-7288. We are sorry but we will not be able to have any children helping this year.



This year will be different for sure, but, as usual, we appreciate all of your help to make this a success!

# Craft Bazaar

Well school has started, the days are getting shorter, the frost is creeping in and it is Bazaar Time. As most of you know things are somewhat different this year, and I have a great feeling we are going to come out on top with this one. I am excited about having the Bazaar for two days as we work very hard making these wonderful things and will have a bit more time to sell them...We still need pies, candy, cookies, canned goods that you may be canning, Crafts and most of all your beautiful smile as we sell for two days.

We are not doing the raffle this year as we really needed to get that started a few weeks ago so that is about \$1000.00 that we will be down but with the beautiful things we have made we will do just fine, We have had a couple workshops and a mincemeat canning session thanks to Sandy Allen and Donna Rice it turned out perfect. Bea Potter has been making things all summer long and Wow she has out done herself, my friend Patti has been making thigs at the workshops and taking things home to finish them, We do have one of the best support systems of any church I know.

We will not be serving a luncheon this year , but I will be looking for some people to make some chili and sandwiches so we can feed our workers, We won't be charging for the lunch but may have a donation can out . Will also be looking for workers for both days, Watch for sign up sheets in the fireplace room. We will be able to set up earlier as the preschool isn't in session. Cliff Grant and Nate Herendeen are helping us track down veggies and fruit if you have any to donate let them know.

If you have any questions or can donate anything for the Bazaar please call me at (716) 622-3095. Let's have a great Bazaar and Dinner and try to be kind and patience is a great thing to practice as we all are tired and are all in this together and working for the same cause.

**Use the attached flyer to help spread the word!**

- Carol Genet

## TREASURER REPORT

### August 2020

Income: \$ 7,609.51 *(Sunday Collection)*

Expenses: \$ 8,447.72

Shortfall: \$ 838.21

*Shortfall based on Sunday Collection less expenses.*

### Checking Account Balance

8/01/2020 \$ 995.64

8/31/2020 \$ 4,793.25

Submitted By Burniece Herendeen

## A Discipleship Opportunity at Covenant!

We are looking for someone to manage our paper goods inventory at Covenant. There are cupboards in the basement storage room with foam dishes, paper towels, toilet paper, plates, plastic ware, and other items. We welcome a volunteer to keep it in order and alert us when supplies are running low. This commitment would require perhaps just an hour a month but it keeps things neat and tidy and prevents us from running out of items before a potluck dinner or funeral luncheon. Interested? Let Cliff Grant (our Church Council President) know you are willing to serve!





# CRAFT BAZAAR

**FRIDAY, NOV 6: 10a-4p**

**SATURDAY, NOV 7: 10a-2p**

GREAT VARIETY OF HAND-CRAFTED ITEMS, HOMEMADE CANDY, FUDGE, BAKED GOODS, JAMS & JELLIES, PIES, HARVEST APPLES, SQUASH AND MORE

COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
**4449 MAIN STREET, GASPORT**  
COVENANTNY.ORG

# DRIVE-THRU DONATION DINNER

**SATURDAY, NOV 7**

**3:30 UNTIL SOLD OUT**



A SIMPLE DONATION (AMOUNT DETERMINED BY EACH GIVER) ENTITLES YOU TO A HOMEMADE THANKSGIVING MEAL



Covenant United Church of Christ

4449 Main Street  
PO BOX 348  
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Worship With Us  
**SUNDAYS**  
**10:30 AM**

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**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.**