

COVENANT NEWS



May 2021

Covenant United Church of Christ

Celebration Sunday June 6: We Survived the Pandemic!

No, we're not delusional. The pandemic still continues, and people still need to be vaccinated; but, at Covenant, we have reason to celebrate. 100% of our adult worshipping congregation has been vaccinated. The CDC said that the odds of surface contraction of a virus is one in 10,000! We have instituted strict protocols; and not once have we had to close our church because the virus was present here! Not once! And we have been meeting in-house since the first week in June of 2020!

We have discontinued many of our fellowship practices and made changes in our method of worship. There have been some 'causalities'. Our nursery school will not reopen.

But we are slowly moving back into a pre-pandemic normalcy. We hosted a soup and sandwich dinner for Ash Wednesday worshippers. We held our Sunrise Service by the Canal this year. Although our Church choir is taking a 'long sabbatical,' an all-women chorus provided special music at our 10:30 a.m. Easter service.

We have come far! Grateful to God and thankful for our understanding church members, we want to celebrate. Sunday, June 6, will be the day of that celebration. Afterwards, we will begin our Covenant Connection Sunday Potluck Lunches again. Bring a dish to share; but we'll serve it to you! With plenty of safe distancing room in our Dining room, there will be room for all.

Join us as we acknowledge the pandemic journey and the vibrancy of Covenant and the God who gifts us with strength and perseverance on Sunday, June 6.

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**POTLUCK LUNCH
BRING A DISH TO SHARE**

SUNDAY, JUNE 20 | 12:00 - 2:00

FATHER'S DAY PICNIC



Father's Day Picnic on church lawn Sunday, June 20, Immediately after worship (12:00 p.m. – 2 p.m.)

Your Covenant Mission committee hosts a church picnic with hotdogs, hamburgers, salads and dessert, and with games and arts and crafts for the kids.

All you need to do is make a 5-dollar donation to our milk coupon fundraiser.

These coupons, purchased at a discounted rate from Niagara Cooperative, entitles the bearer for a free milk item at any supermarket. The coupons will be purchased and given to the Gasport Food Pantry for distribution.

Join us on June 20, Sunday, immediately after worship until 2 p.m.

We'll meet indoors in the dining room in case of rain. (But it's not going to rain, the day will be glorious!)



Minister's Letter



In June, I will begin a different personal interest trajectory by pursuing a Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling. Some years ago, (in fact, many years ago) after graduating from college, I had intended to enter a grad program of Clinical Social Work at Smith College in Massachusetts. But after college, without intentionality, I simply 'drifted along' working fulltime at Big Y Supermarkets in Springfield. But, in the words of an old adage, "life is what happens when you're waiting for something else" and I began, in the following autumn, a Master of Divinity program at Andover Newton Theological School, a UCC seminary. The rest is history.

In my ministry, I have discovered that church members make assumptions that their clergy are able to offer some mental health help and that they, in fact, had training and experience. This is not true. And although I had a BA in Psychology and a Certificate in Clinical Pastoral Education at Boston City Hospital in Boston, Mass. and various workshop experiences, (probably more training in mental health than most others in ministry) I have always experienced a sense of inadequacy in my mental health skill set. The graduate program at SUNY Brockport

addresses this perceived inadequacy and marks a resumption of an earlier calling, too. These new skills will add to my expertise in ministry.

I suspect this will alter my schedule at Covenant; but I'm not sure how yet. On my typical day off - Mondays - I shall work and other workdays may find me at SUNY Brockport. Saturday (a flex day) may be an all-day at Covenant, too. And, of course, the amount of credit hours I carry will impact my schedule.

I am grateful for Council's support in this endeavor, the church members who were my references, and the advice of Lindsay Yates, a grad student at SUNY Brockport. I'll keep you posted and ask that you include me in your prayers.

Peace,

Covenant's Nursery School Will Remain Closed

It is with a heavy heart but bowing to Pandemic pressure and protocol complications, the mutual consensus (Council Taskforce and Nursery School staff) was arrived at to keep Covenant Nursery School closed. Initially, it closed in March of 2020. While the Pandemic 'seems' to be lighting up, liability and protocol concerns remain.

How grateful we are of Laura's steadfast and competent leadership. Her care of the children has been exemplary. With dedication and compassion she shepherded many children to greater socialization and cognitive learning. One of our members remarked that as an elementary teacher at Royhart, she could 'just tell' from her students performance who came from a Covenant Nursery school experience.

Let me share some history of the nursery school from a conversation with Laura on August 19, 2020. I asked her how she started with the nursery school. She said she was working in the nursery school at Hartland Methodist when she got a call from Sharon Lilly. Sharon interviewed her and hired her. At this time, Covenant had morning and afternoon programs. She worked with Sharon Lilly for ten years. When Sharon Lilly left the program, Reverend Trauscht approached Laura to take the job. Initially Laura declined. So Michael France become the director from January to June of that year. Reverend Trauscht approached her again and she agreed to be director. She has run the program since 1985 and had hired all her assistants. Tonya came into the picture when Kim Burch left to be an assistant librarian at Royhart Elementary school. Tonya's children had been in the program. Laura knew her and approached her, offering her the job as assistant.

It is anticipated we will celebrate the long ministry of the nursery school in worship with Laura Sandolfini in attendance, to give her an enthused corporate thank you for her years of service!



ABOVE: Our 2016-2017 Nursery School Class planting a Lilac bush with Beth White in memory of Roger White in May 2017.

BELOW: Our 2019-2020 Nursery School Class with special guest Clifford the Big Red Dog in March 2020.



Another Rummage Sale in the books

I am glad to say it was a huge success... Without a doubt we earned every penny of our \$10,037.60. This is a great event and I am sad to see it come to an end, but we all know all good things must come to an end, or at least to an every other year event...(We will talk).

I am so fortunate to have such a strong circle of friends outside the church that are always willing to step up and pitch in; let me brag about a few... Bea Potter, Patti Logan, Sandy Allen, Barb Harrington, September, Lynn Engelhart, Barb Henderson, Liz Greene, Roxann Peckham ... Plus all my friends at the market that donated and delivered vans full of stuff to the church: Thank you Kay, Ceil, Tammy, Patty, Miles, Audrey, Todd, Mark, Bill, Tony. and Rich and Karen Russel.

I am so thankful for all of you and your support through this, I know it was long days and trying times but at the end of the day I hope you still think of me as a friend. Pam and Bonnie you were real troopers and hung in there, Donna and Sandy you both have full plates but were there, Sandy Allen your lunches day after day were delicious and as always a treat, and the pies were a big hit with you know who... (who is so lucky to get homemade pie for dessert each day?) He loves pie...Your welcome John Tipton!

Onnalee you worked very hard even with a bum foot, Patti and Bea just know what needs to be done and they just do it, (They are like the NIKE girls) Kim, Lindsay and Jeff as always stepped up and made sure all the leftovers went away. Grace, Dez, and AJ, your presence was felt both days and Des your help cleaning out estates was a blessing as was Jeff Kindron, Patti Logan, Nick and Onnalee. Scott and Pam Brauer I know it must have been very emotional for you both to part with such treasures, she would be so pleased that the church benefited from it all, Scott your kind words to me was one of the most touching things anyone has ever said to me...Thank you! Jason and Carter Green thank you for all your many runs to the cars and hauling things around. Darsi as usual your a go getter and I love it when your there. Jean Grant, Nancy Romanoski David and Digby (welcome home) and any one else that I may have missed, thank you.

Roxanne Peckham no one has told her yet that she isn't 16 anymore she was up and down the stairs also... Thank you to our chili makers Fran, Norm, and Lisa our salad makers Kim and Jean, and everyone that donated food for the luncheon. It is official we have the best Pie makers around: Pies sold like crazy (and one peach crumb pie sure was a hit Beth White) and candy was gone in a flash, Candy Landers you've done it again... Good job! Everyone that baked and prepared food, thank you, and Pam and Barb thanks for stepping up to the plate on Friday as Sandy couldn't be there you were like pros! Special thanks to Katie for always making just what we need and always doing it with a smile...John Tipton you are always our biggest cheerleader and willing to jump in and help, thanks for the many donations and guidance. Guess you will have to fix your own lunch now! Thanks for the roses and the champagne toast.

Thank you everyone that donated for the Raffle, especially Bob Confer that donated the Bistro set, Spa steps, \$50.00 gift card and a Nature book, Onnalee for the Hot wheels basket, and everyone that helped with the lottery tree. All in all we had a very good Sale and there is no expense as I purchased all the marking and tape supplies and the paid ad in the paper, All the ones I put online were free and the front page picture and story was free and successful.... In some way you were all a part of this and the saying "It takes a village" is so true.

Here is a list of totals and raffle winners on the next page. Great job to all, and many thanks!

- Carol



A portion of the set-up team Wednesday before the Rummage Sale.

From left:
 Onnalee Landers,
 Pam Bugenhagen,
 Patti Logan,
 Carol Genet,
 Donna Rice,
 Bonnie Snaith,
 Sandy Allen.

Raffle Winners

Bistro Set: John Tipton**
 Lottery Tree: Jodi Peters
 Hot Wheels Basket: Drew Dunlop
 Spa Steps: Kitty Ulrich
 Made in America Gift Card: Lori Schram
 **FYI, John has donated the Bistro Set back for our 2021 Craft Bazaar Raffle.

Money Raised Breakdown

Luncheon.....	\$ 488.25
Candy & Bake Sale.....	\$ 689.75
Raffle Tickets.....	\$ 912.00
Rummage Sale.....	\$ 7847.60
GRAND TOTAL:	\$10,037.60

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

On April 24, 25 families used the food pantry. 33 bags of food were distributed.

The next distribution will be Saturday, May 22 from 9:00-11:00 AM. Distributions will most likely be curbside, with appointment times for clients.

The clothing closet has been rotated to summer clothes, with two persons at a time allowed in the closet.

Donations always accepted of non-perishable food items, toilet paper, toiletries, etc. Clothing donations are not accepted at this time. Thank you

TREASURER REPORT

March 2021

Income:	\$ 7,292.00 <i>(Sunday Collection)</i>
Expenses:	<u>\$ 11,857.13</u>
Shortfall:	\$ 4,565.13

Shortfall based on Sunday Collection less expenses.

CHECKBOOK BALANCE

3/1/2021	\$2,427.98
3/31/2021	\$3,196.82

Submitted By Burniece Herendeen



Covenant United Church of Christ

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www.covenantny.org

Worship With Us

SUNDAYS

10:30 AM

Please wear your masks in the building when not in your seat, and when singing. Hand sanitizer is available at all entrances.

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
Fridays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.