



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE **Christmas**



Many hands came to assist in decorating the church this year. Thank you for the many new ideas that were discussed and completed.

Yes, some things have changed this year, but the love of Jesus Christ grows within each of us to make our church stronger!

Our tree is also set up in the Fireplace Room, ready to collect hats, mittens and scarves to donate to those in need.

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Who is “The New Guy?”

An interview by Eliana and Addison Reis

We want you to meet our Pastor.
He will be here until we hire someone full time.

Q: What is your full name?

A: Martin W. Hamann

Q: What was your first job?

A: Mental Health Clinic Counselor

Q: Why did you want to become a Pastor?

A: I have always been close to church pastors in my life, especially when I was in school. When I was in health care, I always had being a pastor on my mind.

Q: What is your favorite part of being a Pastor?

A: I love to preach, to share God’s word. I just love it. I am always afraid when I speak in a group of people, but I always love to preach. That’s why that’s all I do now.

Q: What do you like about our church?

A: I like the friendliness of the congregation; it’s not stuffy. The church allows me to preach the way I like; I like to walk out and talk to people in the pews. I really like a small congregation because I can get to know the people. I like to share stories-I like to share stories about my dogs (He told us about his rescue dogs Apollo and Wilson. Apollo is old and going blind. Wilson watches out for him.) I also like that its close to my home.

If you haven’t been to church since he started, you should come to hear him! All the adults say they like him and he does a great Children’s’ Sermon. It’s short and sweet and meaningful. And he always says a prayer with us at the end.



UPDATE FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

We have met with Rev. Ferner and are working on completing the profile needed to continue in the pastoral search process.

Please keep the search committee in prayer.

TREASURER REPORT

November 2021

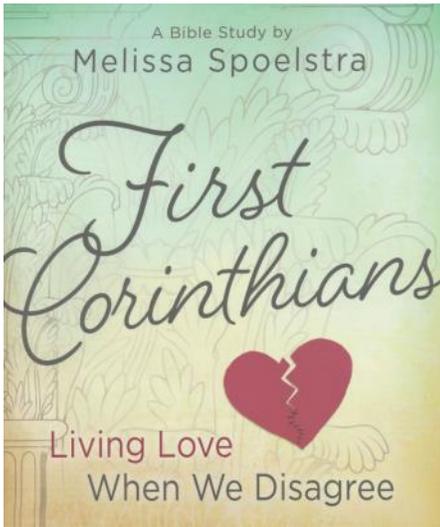
Income:	\$ 6,556.20 (Sunday Collection)
Expenses:	<u>\$ 6,589.93</u>
Shortfall:	\$ -33.73

Shortfall based on Sunday Collection less expenses.

Donation Dinner/Craft Bazaar \$16,006.97
Expenses not deducted

CHECKBOOK BALANCE \$1,000.00

Submitted By Burniece Herendeen



SOMETHING NEW! LADIES BIBLE STUDY

All ladies of the church are invited to take part in a new study group, starting on Tuesday January 11, 10:00 AM to approximately 11:45 in the Sunday School room. This will be a six week study, written by Melissa Spolstra on First Corinthians (Living Love When We Disagree). You will be required to purchase a workbook for \$12

If you would like to sign up or need more information, please contact the class facilitator, Sandy Allen, by phone at 863-370-5425 or e-mail at sandhallen@yahoo.com

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

It's a busy time of year, but we are starting to think ahead for what is coming next! Please see Donna Rice if you have any questions and watch for upcoming information on how you can be involved.

- ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

Tentative Date is January 20.

- FELLOWSHIP MEETING

Will be scheduled for February 8 or 9

-VICTORIAN TEA

More information coming soon

- RADA KNIVES & KAYWOS WINDOW CLOTHS

have been restocked! If interested in purchasing anything, ask Nancy Romanowski or Donna Rice. They make great gifts for Christmas or for in your own kitchen!



DEACON REPORT

On December 24, there will be a Christmas Vigil Service, led by Pastor Hamann, at 7:00 pm. Special music preludes will begin at 6:45 pm. Cocoa, coffee, and cookies will be served after the service.

Pastor Jessica Kacalski will be providing pulpit service for Sunday, December 26 and January 2.

Poinsettias are being delivered to shut-ins this month. Please keep Betty Knisley, William Stockton, Evelyn Elsenheimer, and Beverly Wojtkowski in your prayers.

CRAFT BAZAAR SUCCESS

Carol Genet



What a couple of days we had....Your positive and sunny disposition was felt by all, I had several people say how nice the ladies are, I always knew it, now the world knows it. Thank you for tolerating all my crazy ideas and OCD ways. Like I said in church, if you want it nice, you have to make it nice, and you did. Each booth was tastefully set up and displayed, I can see how each of you take pride in your booth, thank you!

Lets start with the amazing woman that work very hard all year long on making, and organizing workshops, Bea Potter, your a real treasure to Covenant and a very talented woman who we all treasure, so glad your in my life...Patti Logan I never have enough thank yous for all you not only do for the church , but also being there and sticking with me all hours of the day and night even when your schedule is over the top, You my dear are loved and appreciated. Sandy Allen, Covenant is so happy you chose us to worship at, your a perfect fit and a fantastic crafter and the best lunch lady there is, Covenant loves you and so do I.

Donna Rice you always amaze me at the things you make and the talent you have, We are all blessed to have you and glad you share your talents hope you feel the love your helpers always keep things running smooth. Barb Lindke, so nice to have you back home where you belong! Love you girl. Jean Grant, your jams and canning is always a huge hit and we love having you around and always willing to step up and help. Sandy Voelker, you always out do your self in everything you do your knitting and craft work is great, but your candy is always over the top and your helpers Liz and Julie were the perfect fit.

Our woman fellowship booth once again was set up and run by Nancy and Jill; your set up looked great and sales soared this year. Thank you both! Our veggie bin was another big hit again this year and Roxanne Peckham and Lynn Engelhart, you did a great job selling and hauling and rearranging both days.



We had the most successful raffle we have ever had and I have a few sellers to thank for that, Digby and David, Nancy and Ed, and Linda Boyer, you all did a great job and pushed us over the top.

The Bake Shoppe was as usual a gathering area- we all love pies and pastries and we have some of the best pie bakers around and when Janie walks in the door they are all over her sweet rolls, Donna does a great job over seeing the area and Jean Grant is a great helper, then this year we had our girl Barb home and she just fit right in no matter where we put her



Let us not forget the Luncheon group! They were headed up by Pat Crandall (that by the way did a bang up job) and her helpers were Chris Rising (a wonderful generous and kind person), Joelle Babcock (that always offers to help us on anything we are doing and she doesn't even attend this church, but is just a kind and beautiful soul). Then there is September; what can I say other than she is always entertaining and very energetic! She is a worker and we love her.

Now we shall move into the crafters and fill you in a bit on these ladies. We have Sandy Allen and Julie Dickson by the fireplace; they were very busy selling, wrapping, and talking to our shoppers. Shoppers loved that we had time to get personal with them! Sandy is a beautiful seamstress and one of our great pie makers, Julie is a new comer to our workshops and the Bazaar, but let me tell you she made some pretty amazing things! Now we will move to the back wall and there are the sisters Pam and Bonnie. They are quite amusing always~ workshops, lunch, set up, selling, and take down, always a laugh in there somewhere. You're both beautiful souls and thank you for keeping things going on all levels. Now we shall move to the sink area where we have Bea and Patti. They are both very instrumental in almost everything that is made (and sold, and set up, and displayed, and packed up, and put away). I have found in my life that you don't need a lot of friends, you need good friends that are there for you and care about you; Thank you both of you for all the love and support.

Berniece Herendeen, great job with the cash set up and counting both days (She is also a very good seamstress!). Then we have our guys that search the area for us to get the best and freshest fruits and veggies, Nate Herendeen and Cliff Grant. We appreciate all your running and hauling. Thank you to Schwabs Market, who donated two bushel of Squash. Desirea, you out did yourself with our dragonflies and they were a huge hit and by the way....Sold out! Love you girl.

My dear friend Sharon Hockenberry that so generously donated her painting of two dragonflies and about 25 paintings that she painted, as well as two racks of jewelry that she made; like I said I have the absolute best friends. Love our friendship Sharon.

You may not have gotten to see them because they sold so fast, but Jeff Kindron made Buffalo Cutting boards from corian. They are always a hit, thank you Jeff. Barb and Sandy Harrington, a big thank you to you both for all the candy and baked goods you made and donated... I heard you did 15 lbs of chocolate and must have been good most of it gone. Mike R, so glad you have joined this crazy bunch; you fit right in, Thank you for all you help!

(Letter continued on next page...)

(continued from previous page)

Vickie Demmin your gnomes were a huge hit again this year, and your daughters blankets all sold again. You are very generous and we thank both of you! I also want to say what a wonderful addition Claudia and Steve were this year, you made lunch breaks so easy as you moved from booth to booth relieving for lunch. thank you! Ed and Nancy (Cheswell) Budinger came from afar to help out and donate such beautiful things that Nancy makes, always a hit! I can't forget our Katie in the office- we love her and hope we never lose her, she goes about things and gets them done even if she has to come in on her day off, You're the best and we all think that of you.

I would like to take this time to say thank you to all of you that made pies, baked goods, candy and craft items, as well as those who donated to our prize raffle. You are the reason that this works and you're a blessing to your church and understand the real meaning of Christianity, thank you.

I also want to mention the Boy Scout Troop 18 and the leaders they hauled my tables and dividers and all our stuff from downstairs up for us I thank you and appreciate all you do to help. Wayne Reis you were there to haul and help several days and nights and I so appreciate you and your beautiful family...Please remember to be kind and caring as we go through day to day, life is short and if you do this you will never have regrets....Love my church family!

Breakdown totals from all the sale areas:

- BACK WALL CRAFTS \$989.25
- FIREPLACE WALL CRAFTS \$1,159.25
- SINK WALL CRAFTS \$1,741.50
- CANDY \$498.25
- BAKED GOODS \$1,153.85
- VEGGIES \$331.70
- WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: \$366.75
- RAFFLE: \$1,345.00
- LUNCHEON: \$499.00
- SUNDAY AFTER SALES: \$579
- GRAND TOTAL: \$9,117.55**



RAFFLE WINNERS

1. \$200 Lottery Tree - Hannah Van Norman
2. Signed Hockey Stick - Judy Saunders
3. Bike - Mike R
4. Bistro Set - John Peters
5. Metal Planter - Richard Dudek
6. \$50 Gift Card - Pam Moriarty



DONATION DINNER 2021



donation \ dō-'nā-shən \

the act or an instance making of a gift especially to a charity

Examples of donation in a sentence:

The organization is funded by private donations.

We are grateful for the donation of whatever you can afford to give.

Merriam-Webster may have printed it, but Covenant UCC personifies the definition of donation in so many cases; especially during our Donation Dinner. Its very name sets the tone for this annual event. Members and friends donate their time to make this tradition successful year after year. Donations of paper products and ingredients start appearing in the kitchen in October. Work dates are set up and members and friends show up to donate their time: cleaning, cooking and scooping squash, making cranberry relish, cutting 100 loaves of bread into cubes for stuffing, prepping and roasting turkeys, cleaning and prepping the kitchen, scheduling the day and asking people to work, making and donating pies, cutting and boxing up all of the pie slices...ALL of the food preparation on The Big Day; all donations for our church family. So much work to prepare, then it's time to serve. The Boy Scouts have donated their time to help serve for several years and in these times of serving drive-thru only, their young legs running up and down the church stairs have been so appreciated. The original intent of this dinner was for the congregation to offer donations from their own harvests to the pastor, to supplement his income and show their appreciation. This has grown into preparing and serving 700 turkey dinners on the first Saturday in November. We could not continue this event without the many donations from our church members, friends and the Boy Scouts.

With our sincere and most appreciative thanks,

Jeff and Kim Yates Scott and Pam Brauer



A Song and A Story

The 12 Days of Christmas In the church refers to a twelve-day period that starts with Christmas day. This is where the “Twelve Days of Christmas” comes from. The world celebrates Christmas for twelve hours, but the Church celebrates Christmas for twelve days because the gift of Christ is with us for twelve months of the year.



“The Twelve Days of Christmas Song”-the song

When most people hear of “The 12 days of Christmas” they think of the song. This song had its origins as a teaching tool to instruct young people in the meaning and content of the Christian faith.

From 1558 to 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not able to practice their faith openly so they had to find other ways to pass on their beliefs. The song “The Twelve days of Christmas “ is in a sense an allegory. Each of the items in the song represents something of religious significance. The hidden meaning of each gift was designed to help young Christians learn their faith.

The song goes, “On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me...”. The true love represents God and the me who receives these presents is the Christian.

- ✿ *The partridge in a pear tree* was Jesus Christ who died on a tree as a gift from God.
- ✿ *The two turtle doves* were the Old and New Testaments, another gift from God.
- ✿ *The three French hens* were Faith, Hope and Love, the three gifts of the Spirit that abide (1 Cor. 13)
- ✿ *The four Calling birds* were the four Gospels which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- ✿ *The five Golden rings* were the first five books of the Bible, also called the Books of Moses.
- ✿ *The six Geese a-laying* were the six days of creation.
- ✿ *The seven Swans a swimming* were the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- ✿ *The eight Maids a milking* were the eight beatitudes.
- ✿ *The nine Ladies dancing* were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- ✿ *The ten Lord’s a leaping* were the Ten Commandments.
- ✿ *The eleven Pipers Piping* were the eleven faithful disciples.
- ✿ *The twelve Drummers drumming* were the twelve points of the Apostles’ Creed.

So, the next time you hear “The Twelve Days of Christmas” consider how this otherwise non-religious sounding song had its origins in the Christian faith!

(Primary source of this information was and article in the Anderson Independent-Mail newspaper, SC Jan 21,1996 by Dr. William Hunter)

STEWARDSHIP 2021: TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

The following was shared in the service on Stewardship Sunday, November 21. If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please remember to do so soon! Additional pledge cards are available in the church office or on the next page.

Have you ever wondered why we have a Stewardship Sunday, and why we are challenged to give more each year? And more of what??



YOUR TIME.

Our time begins at birth and ends on this earth with death. For most, it is about 25,000 days. Not much time, huh? Our time is precious and cannot be stored up like grain in a barn. Once a moment passes it is gone forever.

God wants all of us to reach heaven; that is why He created us and why He sent us Jesus. Our life on earth is a pilgrimage toward heaven. Each year, each month, each week, and each day, and in fact each minute, we must be super intentional about our pilgrimage towards Him. We cannot do this unless we give some time to God.

Through daily prayer, we develop a close personal relationship with God, sharing with Him our successes and failures, and asking for His guidance in our daily lives. Reading Scripture daily helps us reflect on God's word. It also tells of God's great love for us. Helping others and organizations is another way to share our personal time to the glory of God. We need to let Christ use our feet, our hands, our eyes, and our voice.

This is the time that your church family needs you.

- Come to church.
- Continue to come to church.
- Come back to church to worship with your church family.
- Sign up as a greeter.
- Sign up to host coffee hour.
- Join one of our mission projects.
- If you have more time, consider serving on the Board of Deacons or Trustees when the Nominating Committee calls you.

“This is the
time that your
church family
needs you”

YOUR TALENTS

All of us have special talents or gifts, which are a sign of the power and majesty of God, who can do all things. These talents and gifts are not given to us just for our own use, but are given to us for the enrichment of the lives of others and so that we can serve God better.

Peter tells us, "Each one of you has received a special grace, so like good stewards, be responsible for all these different graces from God, put yourselves at the service of others."

All of Christ's works need to be done in our church and community. As you know, Christ left His spirit here for each of us to use to showcase His love using our talents. Several times God asks us to do his will on earth so our time and talents are not wasted.

-If you can visit the sick and elderly... go hold a hand.

-If you can feed the hungry... go cook something.

-If you can teach those who want to learn... testify from the roof tops or in a cardboard box.

-If you console the lonely and sorrowful.. Hug, kiss, and love those who need it.

All of us can pray for the needs and to give a helping hand and offer a kind word in this world that so desperately needs YOU!

Christ depends upon each one of us to do these Spiritual works of mercy in His name. That makes us co-workers with Christ in the Holy Works of Redemption. What a privilege! What a gift!

Your gift of talent is a special gift once again that only you can give.

YOUR TREASURE.

This last one is the one you most likely attribute to stewardship Sunday. In my experience, however, this one without the others...

Lets look at Matthew 25:14-30, which speaks of a man preparing to travel to a far country. Before departing, he gives money to his servants.

- The first servant receives five coins and works to build them into five more.
- The second servant, who receives two coins, doubles their value.
- But the third servant, who receives one gold coin, buries it.

When the master returns, he praises the first and second servants, but he takes the one coin from the third servant because the servant was not a good steward of the money, having done nothing to increase its value.

We are to make good use of material gifts given to us by God. When we do make the most of material possessions, Scripture points out two ways we can show our gratitude to God for his gifts.

First, because God is the Giver, some percentage of what is received must be returned to Him as an act of gratitude. It is mentioned 39 times in the Old Testament and 11 times in the New Testament, so we know it is God's will that the practice of financial giving be continued. Secondly, there should be some sharing of our money and material goods with those in need of our family, community, and world.

Here at Covenant,

Your Treasures feed our budget. Our church family operates very much like your household budget; there are utilities, maintenance, and insurance to keep the building running, and costs are going up. We are thankful to have Pastor Marty here, but we are in the process of looking for a new Pastor, and we also have other employees; Katie (our secretary), Fran (our keyboardist), and Carol (our housekeeper).

More importantly however, your treasure feeds our budget to provide the resources for Covenant United Church of Christ to continue sharing the gospel and serve our community in whatever way possible.

Now, more than ever, we need YOU!

Our walking orders from the greatest book ever written are clear:

“It is in giving that we receive”



Covenant United Church of Christ 2022 Pledge

I/We plan to donate a total of \$ _____ for Covenant's operating/missions budget for the 2021 year in this way:

- \$ _____ per Sunday (52 weeks) OR
- \$ _____ per month (12 months) OR
- \$ _____ per quarter (4 quarters) OR
- \$ _____ per _____

I am also able to give of my time and talent in the following way:

Name(s): _____

Date: _____

I would like offering envelopes



Time. Talent. Treasure.

I pledge to partner with Covenant United Church of Christ as we strive to reach out to our community through Jesus Christ.

My commitment to give:

\$ _____ every _____

I am also able to give of my time and talent in the following way:

Keep this portion for your records



Covenant United Church of Christ

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(716) 772-7802

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.**