

# THE PORTFOLIO

March 2022

Covenant United Church of Christ

## SURELY THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD IS IN THIS PLACE

Sandy Allen

The last seven weeks have proved that He has been in our Fireplace Room on Tuesday mornings. Ten ladies have gathered to study First Corinthians, with the singing of “Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place”, led by Pamm Seifert and Pam Bugenhagen. Joining together in song helps us to focus. After singing, we begin gathering prayer requests for loved ones, friends, and the world, and we thank God for bringing us together. We watch our video from Melissa Spoelstra and then share our views from our homework, along with other observations. This has been a time of fellowship, sharing our love of God and becoming closer together as a group of sisters in Christ which now becomes our new name of “Seeking Sisters”.

Our Study ended on March 1<sup>st</sup> but we are going to continue to gather, every Tuesday (starting March 8<sup>th</sup>) with a week-to-week discussion of a specific devotion. The time is set at 10:00am so bring your Bible or borrow one from the pews. Everyone is welcome to attend with no sign-up, just show-up!! There will be a new Study, beginning on May 10<sup>th</sup> with another 6 week series from Melissa, yet to be chosen. There will be a sign-up sheet as we get closer to May.

Small Groups are an important part of keeping church families connected and brings people together to pray which is much needed in our World of today. Prayer is an important part of everyday life if you are a believer in God. God loves us faithfully – do we love Him, faithfully? Join us and learn how you can become closer to God!!!



Though it might be hard to believe *right now*, it's almost time to plant our Acre of Caring!

Thank you to our Tuesday morning group for sharing their love of God and neighbors! -PAB

Thanks to the Study group, I've read my Bible more and I'm trying to be more diligent with “what would Jesus do” or “what would Jesus say” -DR

**Seeking Sisters** Bible Study group will continue to meet Tuesdays at 10AM in the Fireplace Room. All welcome!

## UPCOMING

**Women's Fellowship  
Dessert Meeting**  
MON, MARCH 14, 6:30

**Pancake Breakfast  
Boy Scout Troop 18**  
SUN, MARCH 20  
Middleport Fire Hall  
7:00 AM—Noon

If you have any questions or need assistance related to church business, please feel free to contact Cliff Grant at (716) 213-3046

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Donna Rice

Next Meeting: Monday, March 14 at 6:30 PM.

We held a dessert meeting on Tuesday, February 8 at 6:30 PM. We had 12 women and 1 gentleman attend; when Cliff heard DESSERT (and Tuesday being their dinner out night) he decided to join us! I might add Sandy Voelker's Éclair Cakes passed the Taste Test and disappeared very quickly!

We had a long agenda, so have scheduled another dessert meeting for 6:30 pm on March 14 to continue discussing our agenda and new items from the floor.

We now have a purpose or mission statement! We want to —  
"Live by faith, be known by love, and be a voice of hope in this world"

This will keep us focused on the "why" we work so hard doing what we do. We want to make a difference in ourselves, others, our church, our communities, and our world by sharing God's message by our words and actions!

Decisions made:

- **Victorian Tea and Rummage Sale will not happen in 2022** and will be reviewed in Jan 2023. Our Tea date is normally in March, but under today's current situation, ages of our attendees, and time frame needed, it is best to wait until 2023.

Regarding the Rummage Sale, Carol Genet considered stopping it, but has decided on one every other year. That means March, April or May of 2023 may have another sale! We will address this at our fall meeting and set a date. We discussed renting a storage unit to hold items until then, but decided that would not be a feasible

- **Care Net Pregnancy Center continued support.** "Change for Life" Baby Bottle Fundraiser will take place from Mother's Day thru Father's Day. We will also obtain a list of needed items if you prefer to donate in that way.
- **General Budget.** Motion passed to again give the General Fund \$1,500 towards the custodial budget line.

Our agenda was pretty ambitious, so we only covered half of it. Our meeting was adjourned and we agreed to complete our discussions and the unfinished agenda at our next dessert meeting on Monday, March 14 at 6:30 PM. Please come and be a part as we strive to serve our church and community as we deepen our relationships with God and each other.

With so many churches in our communities today, it's easy to give up on one another when things get complicated. We can move on to the next church for a few years until things go wrong there. While legitimate reasons exist for leaving a church, sometimes we give up too soon. Even when the Holy Spirit moves us to a new community of believers, we still are called to love the people we've left behind.

- Melissa Spoelstra

*First Corinthians: Living Love when we disagree*

## FALL CRAFT BAZAAR

Our dedicated group of crafters has met together several times already to work on items for the fall bazaar. You are welcome to join us, just see Carol for details.

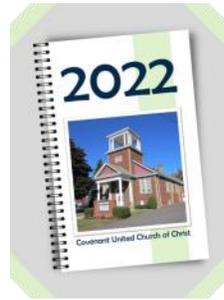
Some things we are looking for:

- Tomato cages to make trees
- Seasonal fabric for plates  
(small amounts needed)

We do not yet have our High Ticket Raffle Items. This part of the Bazaar usually yields over \$1,000 alone, with a lot of interest in what we have to offer. If you have the talent and can make (or help us make) an item please let Carol know. Also looking for donations toward the lottery tree.

Thank you for your continued support and please keep watching for workshop dates!

## It is time to update our church directory!



If you have had a change to your address or telephone number, make sure we have updated information. You can e-mail [office@covenantny.org](mailto:office@covenantny.org) with any changes. New directories should be available later in March.

## TREASURER REPORT

### FEBRUARY 2022

Income:	\$ 5,145.00 <i>(Sunday Collection)</i>
Expenses:	<u>\$ 3,334.29</u>
<b>Excess:</b>	<b>\$ 1,810.71</b>

#### CHECKBOOK BALANCE

2/1/2022	\$2,815.72
2/28/2022	\$1,896.45

Submitted By Burniece Herendeen  
Treasurer

## LENTEN PRAYERS

Donna Rice

“Approach one another with the Love of Christ.” I didn’t realize the impact of those words before. I know, “God so loved the world He sent His only Son.” “God loves us no matter what!!” We know we “love thy neighbor as thyself,” and other Bible lessons from childhood. I thought If I approach life with the love of Christ always in the forefront there can only be love, right?

Well in my own circle of family and friends, whom I love dearly, I know I do that already... but then reality hits. I’ve failed there more than once. I’ve held anger longer than necessary, I’ve prejudged, I’ve been resentful and I’ve allowed myself to justify my wrongs with placing blame elsewhere. Was I looking at them with the love of Christ then? God, please show me your love!!

What’s happenings in the world right now with Russia invading Ukraine, I know I’m not looking at Putin with the love of Christ and I’m truthfully questioning if I ever can! God help me please.

The social injustices and inequities in our everyday lives creates dissension and distrust!! Again I’m not looking at the wrong doers with the love of Christ and not sure I can do that either. God help me please. Yet, He says in Matthew 19:26 (and I do believe it), “All things are possible with His love.”

I know I must ask for what I need in prayer. I need to forgive and be forgiving. I need to read my Bible more and be aware of His signs and listen for His guidance. I need to be set a time for doing this on a daily basis. Lord, hear my prayers!



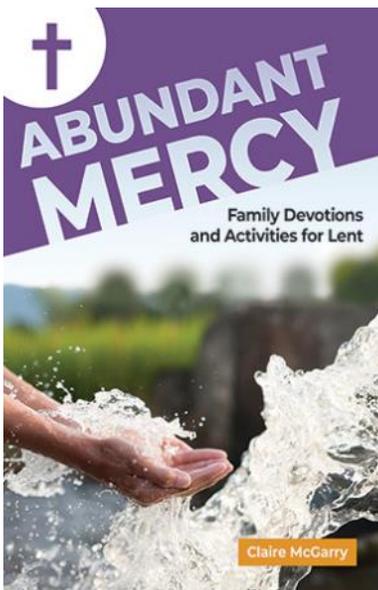
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## Worship With Us SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



Lenten  
Devotionals  
now available

Have mercy on me,  
O God, according to  
your steadfast love;  
according to your  
abundant mercy

Psalm 51:1

### Contact Us



@Covenantny



office@covenantny.org



[www.covenantny.org](http://www.covenantny.org)



(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.**