

COVENANT NEWS



FEBRUARY 2022

Covenant United Church of Christ

CHRISTIAN LIVING

Dr. Stephen Flick

Whereas the end of each year is usually focused upon Thanksgiving, Christmas, and end-of-year activities, January offers a much-appreciated respite from the demands that often accompany these important celebratory events. While most of us are still accountable to the demands of every-day life as the New Year begins, this season of the year may be employed to establish the tone of the entire year. Casting an eye upon the year that is behind us should deepen the resolve of the true follower of Christ to follow more closely to the Master. If other resolutions are all laid aside, the resolve to more earnestly follow Christ must never be. Employing all the means of grace that God provides, let us venture forth to place our footprints upon the unsullied year before us.

As we enter a new month and new year, we remember that before us are a number of opportunities to deepen our appreciation for the ways God has used the lives of other believers in previous generations. As Christians, we should be growing in the grace that God grants to each of us as well as celebrating what HE has already done through the lives of others to bequeath to us a glorious Christian heritage.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETING

It's time—it really is—to get us together again!! While our quick phone meetings have enabled us to complete business as usual, it doesn't allow for open discussions or new ideas or fellowship. I hope you can join us for a Dessert Meeting Tuesday, Feb. 8 at 6:30, where we will set our 2022 calendar of Events and define our role to our church and community.



FLOWER MAKING MISSION PROJECT

Saturday, February 12 at 10:00 AM,
Help needed from all skill levels!

UPCOMING

**Women's Fellowship
Dessert Meeting**
TUES, FEB 8, 6:30 PM

**Mission Committee
Flower Making Day**
SAT, FEB 12, 10:00 AM

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

**Please note the
Proposed Budget on
pages 5-7 for the 2022
calendar year. This
budget will be voted on
at the Jan 30
Congregational
Meeting**

VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day began as Saint Valentine's Day, or the Feast of Saint Valentine. The feast was first established by Pope Gelasius I to honor one or two saints named Valentinus for being Martyred on February 14. Those familiar with this connection believe there to be a single man, but there were actually three saints bearing the name Valentine. Two were from Italy and one was from Africa. Two were clearly beheaded, while the third one was martyred. One story is that he was a temple priest who was imprisoned for ministering to Christians when they were being persecuted by the Roman empire. While in prison, he fell in love with a young woman and sent her a farewell note signed (from your Valentine) before his execution. One version of the story states that the young woman was blind and he healed her. Another story says that he was beheaded for performing secret weddings when Emperor Claudis had outlawed them for young soldiers. And yet another story Valentine was a priest who was arrested, but instead of being put in jail, he was put into the custody of a aristocrat named Asterius. After hearing Valentine speak, he challenged him about the validity of Christ. He bargained with him to heal his daughter for Asterius to believe. Valentine healed her and they all got baptized. After Emperor Claudius II found out, he had Valentine killed. Interesting!



Whatever the true origin, Valentine's Day is a great opportunity to celebrate Love. Jesus said that people would know us by our love.

John 13:34-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Colossians 3:14

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

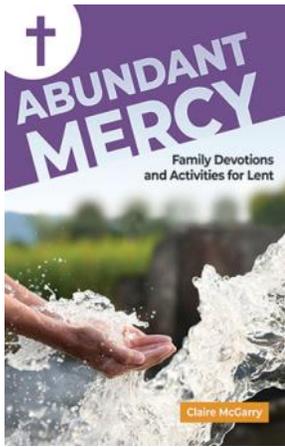
Song of Solomon 3:4

Scarcely had I passed them when I found the one my heart loves. I held him and would not let him go till I had brought him to my mother's house, to the room of the one who conceived me.

Corinthians 13:1-3

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I





ASH WEDNESDAY

Every year, Ash Wednesday falls 40 days before Easter and marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. For 2022, this is March 2. We will have our usual Ash Wednesday evening service, led by Pastor Marty Hamman.

Abundant Mercy Family Devotionals will also be available for you to use to contemplate this holy season. Each day it provides a Scripture with accompanying devotional thought and prayer, as well as a simple activity to extend mercy to those around you.

Our Ladies Group meeting on Tuesday mornings, led by Sandy Allen.



THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER

Meals are an important aspect of spending time together as a family. If you want to grow closer to Jesus Christ, reciting a daily prayer by yourself or with your family before you eat is a great way to seek blessings and give thanks to the Lord. If you aren't sure what to pray, here are some options!

Lord, there are people in different parts of the world that do not know where they will get their next meal. But we are gathered here to eat this meal and we want to say thank you. Father, the earth and everything in it are yours, the world and everyone belongs to you. Father, open up doors for people who are on the verge of sleeping hungry to find their next meal. Send divine helpers to them. Amen

Dear Father, it is another beautiful day that you have granted to us to share a meal. Thank you, for the food set before us, Lord, we ask you to bless it and sanctify it so that we can get nourishment when we eat it. May our bodies be nourished that we can find the strength to continue serving you. May our souls be nourished through your word and the words we share around this table. Let everything we do be done for your glory. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen

Thank you, Jesus, for enabling us to gather here for this meal. We do not take this for granted, dear Lord. We want to thank you for the people that took the time to prepare this meal for us, Lord, bless the works of their hands and meet them at their point of need. Let everything they do bring glory to you hole name. Amen

ACTIVITIES & LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Carol Genet

Hello and Happiest of New Year to you all! My wish for you all is to have a very healthy and happy 2022 and always be thankful for seeing a new year... Just wanted to touch on a couple of things we were able to do: one was to visit Bea Potter in her area and go to the shops on the Ridge. I think we had 15 of us that day, and Bea met us there. It also made us appreciate how far she drives to come and help us at the workshops and setting up and working both days of the Bazaar. You're a real trooper Bea Potter, and your church family loves you!

Our second outing was at Brookside in Newfane, and again we had about 15 and had the pleasure of one man join us-and we loved it David Janus you fit right in and maybe a few more men will join us next time! Our lunch was great and Brookside allowed us to bring in a Birthday cake as we celebrated a surprise Birthday for Bea and Patti Logan; they both were surprised and thrilled. Thank you for being a part of both of those days and sharing some fellowship and love.

We have started craft workshops and we have things to do that anyone can work on and feel good about what they are making. There are some pictures below of our first get together. Even if you just want to come sit and laugh with us, you are welcome!

On another note I spoke with Jason Green tonight and he said he is loving his new home in Florida and enjoying the beach, but misses his church family here. Carter has just finished his first semester and is loving it there also and he had a 4.0 marking period! They are loving life and we are missing them both...Way to go Carter so proud of you , but to be honest , I am not surprised!

Also, my brother would like to thank everyone for the nice card and prayers. He has a road ahead of him but with your prayers he will kick it in the butt. Thank you!



2021 EXPENSES	2021	2021	2022
MISSION	PROPOSED	ACTUAL	Proposed
Association Dues	\$ 1,360.00	\$ 1,360.00	\$ 1,360.00
Conference per capita	\$ 340.00	\$ 340.00	\$ 340.00
<i>Special offerings</i>			
OGHS	\$ 100.00	\$ 285.00	\$ 100.00
OCWM	\$ 275.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 275.00
Strengthening the Church	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
NIN	\$ 235.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 235.00
Christmas Pension Fund	\$ 100.00	\$ 54.00	\$ -
Acre of Caring	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
Children's Jubilee	\$ 400.00		\$ -
	\$ -		
<i>Christian Education</i>			
Sunday School	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
Vacation Bible School			\$ -
Youth Confirmation	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
			\$ -
Stewardship	\$ 300.00	\$ 129.36	\$ 200.00
Deacons	\$ 100.00	\$ 859.50	\$ 100.00
Mission Committee	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
Salaries			
Keyboardist (Gross Wages)	\$ 7,320.00	\$ 6,350.00	\$ 6,480.00
Custodian (Gross Wages)	\$ 1,664.00	\$ 1,128.25	\$ 2,900.00
Church Secretary (Gross Wages)	\$ 3,536.00	\$ 2,901.50	\$ 3,200.00
Nursery Care	\$ 250.00		\$ 1,175.00
Pulpit Supply	\$ 600.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 8,100.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,093.89	\$ 2,300.00

EXPENSES			
Worship Supplies	\$ 400.00	\$ 431.95	\$ 200.00
Special Worship Service Supplies	\$ 800.00	\$ 366.72	\$ 100.00
Flowers	\$ 500.00	\$ 486.90	\$ 500.00
materials, candles, etc.	\$ 150.00	\$ 30.22	\$ 100.00
Chorus			\$ -
Children sermon	\$ 75.00	\$ 116.70	\$ 75.00
Electric	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,210.63	\$ 1,200.00
Gas	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,228.74	\$ 2,400.00
Telephone/Internet	\$ 1,601.00	\$ 1,649.50	\$ 1,700.00
Software/.org renewals	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
Water	\$ 200.00	\$ 482.90	\$ 300.00
User Taxes	\$ 600.00	\$ 565.61	\$ 570.00
Maintenance	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 190.07	\$ 1,000.00
Improvements	\$ 500.00		\$ 50.00
Mowing Service	\$ 875.00	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 1,200.00
Snow Removal	\$ 1,675.00	\$ 1,425.00	\$ 1,500.00
Cleaning supplies	\$ 100.00	\$ 95.35	\$ 100.00
paper & plastic goods	\$ 250.00	\$ 211.75	\$ 250.00
Insurance	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 15,697.92	\$ 15,053.00
Office supplies	\$ 2,136.00	\$ 1,518.23	\$ 1,600.00
Office service contracts	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,676.07	\$ 2,800.00
Postage	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 948.40	\$ 1,000.00
Bazaar/Donation Dinner Expense	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,668.75	\$ 1,800.00
Miscellaneous		\$ 543.57	\$ 500.00
Total Expenses without Minister Package			\$ 61,863.00
Minister's Package			
Salary	\$ 50,213.00	\$ 30,900.32	\$ 50,213.00
Social Security	\$ 3,842.00	\$ 2,363.04	\$ 3,842.00
Pension	\$ 9,373.00	\$ 4,686.54	\$ 9,373.00
Health reimbursement	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 561.56	\$ 2,100.00
Mileage (2021)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,024.94	\$ 1,000.00
			\$ 66,528.00
Miscellaneous expenses/ Pastoral Serach		\$ 110.00	
Total Expenses/with Minister Package	\$ 118,720.00	\$ 92,772.88	\$ 128,391.00
		Respectfully submitted	
		Burniece Herendeen, Treasurer	



Covenant United Church of Christ

4449 Main Street
PO BOX 348
Gasport, NY 14067

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Worship With Us SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



You have set all the borders
of the earth; You have made
summer and winter.

Psalm 74:17 NKJV

Contact Us



@Covenantny



office@covenantny.org



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.**