

THE PORTFOLIO

DECEMBER 2023

Covenant United Church of Christ

"Safe & Warm"

A Covenant UCC Sunday School Production



Sunday, Dec 17
10:00 AM

Please bring a baby blanket to donate to
Lockport Care Net
Pregnancy Center

Jesus Birthday Party to
follow service

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Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE SUNDAY, DEC 24 AT 10AM

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PRELUDES BEGIN AT 9:45 AM

COFFEE HOUR TO FOLLOW. NOTE: NO EVENING SERVICE.



See page 11 for details on a
LADIES SHOPPING TRIP
this Thursday, Dec 7 in Rochester.

Christmas Poinsettias

ORDER FORMS & MONEY DUE SUNDAY, DEC. 10
FLOWERS ARE \$6 EACH



IT'S STEWARDSHIP TIME AT COVENANT

Your Committee encouraged you to complete your Pledge forms and return by mail or bring them on Dec. 3. As we said in our letter, it is very important to our Budget Committee to have this information to plan next year's budget. If you haven't yet turned yours in, its not too late!

We hope you enjoyed our PUZZLES on what you can do in the name of STEWARDSHIP at Covenant. See page 10 for our word scramble (and answers) if you missed it last month!

What does 1 Peter say about being a faithful steward?

Faithful stewards use their gifts to serve others. Peter also emphasizes what to do with whatever gift we have received. We must use it to serve others. That's our role. With this declaration Peter is merely echoing the instructions of Jesus to the twelve disciples.

Thank you to all who returned their Pledge Cards. Please pray on where you may share your talents and gifts at Covenant. Our Nominating Committee will soon be asking for people to serve on various Boards and Committees. There is probably an opening on every Board and Committee. Serve, Serve and Serve!

Beth White and Donna Rice



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Covenant United Church members are needed to fill the offices that keep our church an active player in the Gasport community and the western Association of the United Church. There will be openings available in all areas.

Soon the Nominating Committee will be calling on people or talking with them at church or any other time. Several people who are on the committee are me as chair of the Council, the chair of the Deacons (Patricia Crandall), and the chair of the Trustees (currently vacant). The committees needing people are: Trustees (physical aspects of the building), Deacons (spiritual life of the Church), Christian Education (youth programs), Endowment Trustees, and Mission Committee (outreach to the greater community) and Delegates to the Western and NY Associations.

You can volunteer for any office by calling (716-622-0771) or emailing (nrh3@cornell.edu) to me. You can also volunteer to committee chairs. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Nathan Herendeen, Council Chair

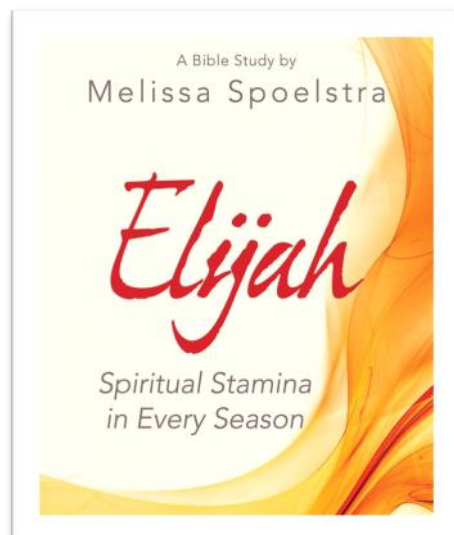
SEEKING SISTERS

We recently finished the fall session of Seeking Sisters, studying Acts with 22 ladies attending. A special thank you to all of them for their dedication and discipline during the last seven weeks.

To celebrate, we gathered together for lunch at the Fieldstone on November 13 to share stories and laughter. A good time was had by all who were able to attend.

The next session will begin on Tuesday, January 9th at 9:45 in the Fireplace Room. We will be studying "Elijah, Spiritual Stamina in Every Season" by Melissa Spoelstra. There will be a sign-up sheet or you may contact Sandy Allen by phone at 863-370-5425 or e-mail: sandhallen@yahoo.com

The workbook will be ordered for you at \$14 each after you sign-up. All ladies are welcome to attend!!



Sandy Allen



CRAFT BAZAAR THANK YOU

Well folks ,another one in the books , and what a dandy it was. Can't begin to tell you how you all pulled it together and made the center stage look wonderful. Or as Julie calls it, Carol's Superbowl...lol. I can never thank you enough. I guess I need to start with some of my great friends and friends of Covenant UCC, They come all year long for workshops and are there with me setting up for two weeks and for the most part have a good time and never complain. Bea Potter you are such a heart and soul to this great day and I thank you and love you! Your husband is also one great guy he has made some of the most wonderful things for our raffle last year the moose and this year he hit it out of the park with the light house, thank you Bruce from all of Covenant. Patti is my right hand man and I always get her into this stuff and take up many hours of her day and she is never mad at me for it (or as far as I know she isn't). Thank you for all your endless hours and love you put into Covenant. Julie and Jeff, you both make some of the most incredible things and they are always over the top nice. Thank you especially for redoing the table Jackie Dickson donated and you two made it into a beautiful Bills Bistro that one of Covenants own will enjoy for many years. Susan Genet Soos it was so nice to have you on board this year and you sure stepped up and took charge of that veggie bin on Saturday, you are a wonderful addition to the old gals group, Keep those dollar bills coming. My friends Lynn, September, Bonnie Witt and Ed and Nancy Cheswell Badinger, the items you made and time you worked and money you donated didn't go unnoticed. You're all true friends. Lets not forget Mike Routhier; he showed up one day with 8 pies, two bushel of squash, and lunch for all the gals working. He is a hidden gem at Covenant and we love him! Janie Silsby and Sandy Hamann, your cooking and sewing once again was a big hit, sold out of both, you are covenant family. Sandy Harrington, your 7 lbs of peanut clusters were well received and delicious. Josh Harniman, your Bills bench and small bench you made for the raffles were the perfect fit for us and we thank you, you're the best! Carrie Snediker and Sue Porter each donated \$100.00 towards the lottery / money tree; you're both so giving. Thank you. Thank to everyone that donated towards it, especially my friend Jerry from the market. Gina Carter stepped up again this year with a big tray of Cuccidatis and they were wonderful as always, She also bought a few Christmas gifts here. Cheyanne and Courtney were two young ladies that came twice and helped haul and set up and scoop down stairs, they are doing community hours for national honor society and no doubt in my mind why they are honor society gals, both near and dear to my heart. Then how could I forget our own Katie she is always willing to do what ever we throw her way even when she is busy with five of her own little ones, We love you Katie and if I fail to say it, we appreciate you. Last but not least, our own Boy Scouts that always step up for us and haul all the tables and dividers and under the leadership of John they are always willing to help and we thank them so much. Please take a look at all the names mentioned above as they are all truly friends of Covenant and I am so pleased to say friends of mine, if you see any of them thank them from Covenant. Plus several of them sent checks for the furnace fund and for turkeys.

Now on to our own members that work so hard to keep our family together. Donna you keep making things that always amaze me and your booth looked great you worked very hard at it. Sandy Allen you just keep pushing and going strong. You make the cutest items for the bazaar and the best pies, You always fix us lunch when we have workshops or set up and it is so good, so glad you decided to join our family and you

know we all love you! Pam and Bonnie you two are always there for me at the bazaar, grandmas attic, set up, clean up, and when ever I am working on something, plus your crafty side is improving each year. Burniece and Nate, great job in the lunch room and as usual the chowder was perfect. Jean Bobzien, they say your sauerkraut was awesome, Wendall would be proud, plus all your bake goods were all very good. Nate your endless hours of hauling veggies for the Bin are so appreciated, Thank you both, plus Burniece and Beth White spent a few hours counting and rolling and banding all the \$12,000.00 plus we raised.

Sandy Voelker I am not sure anyone knows the hours and love you put into all that candy- plus chopping onions and celery and helping in the kitchen for the dinner- you are truly a gem, and your daughter Elizabeth always shows up to help. Barb Lindke, how do we ever thank you for all your help and donations, Barb donated several items when I had my yard sale and we sold them all and she gave the \$346.00 to the Bazaar. She is always willing to help and trust me she looks after her senior neighbors and we love her. Will miss you Barb, hope you and Eloise have a great winter, and see you in June! Nancy and Jean, great job running Woman's Fellowship table, and Jean your cookies were to die for. Sandy T and Dennis (wow we have several Sandys) you took charge of that Veggie bin on Friday and cleaned house, Dennis works for coffee just so you all know...lol Julie Russell you were a great help and filled in where ever you were needed and did a great job everywhere. Linda Boyer and Pamm, good job on the raffles and big money was made there. One of our newest members Barb Harrington baked, made the best peanut butter balls, helped set up, and even worked downstairs, plus shuttled the two girls back and forth that were doing Community hours. Her carrot cake is to die for and it sold out! Jeff Kindron your cutting boards were a big hit and sold out, your work is so precise. Cliff and Kent, thank you for hauling apples and cabbage for us. Nellie, you sure were a great help to Donna and such a wonderful addition to our family, You helped in so many ways from crafting to setting up and working two days. Desiree and Chris, you both made the lunch room run smooth and you are both very near and dear to me. Bob Confer and Dom Ciliberto both made donations to our raffles, both these young men are always very generous to me for any raffle I run and I thank them, they get it! Claudia thank you for the donation of the quilt and your sweet friend for making it, we raised \$331.00 specifically for the furnace fund. Chris Pittler your Bills items you donated were very well received and appreciated. Kathleen Reis and girls , the earrings were beautiful and as you can see we sold many pairs of them and could have sold many more Bills ones, Thank you girls. I have to say to all of you that you made this a truly blessed Bazaar and I was at times not myself as many of you could see, John was having a rough time and it was weighing heavy on my mind, If I said or done anything to hurt your feelings just know how sorry I am and know that you are my church family and I love you all. Carol

Here is a list of the winners from the big raffle below. Congrats to all and thank you to our donors!

- 1) Lottery / cash tree \$250.00~~~Lori Donner
- 2) Bills Bench ~~ Fran Woodmancy
- 3) light house~~~Lisa Bugenhagen
- 4) Bistro Set~~~Dawn Petry
- 5) Bills diamond point~~Dorie C



PANTRY BOOTH THANK YOU

I can't thank all of you enough for the turnout of baked goods and Canned goods. I knew ahead of Friday, Nov. 3rd I had 500 jars of Canned goods and 16 people had signed up to bring baked goods, needless to say I was very concerned about baked goods. Well on Thursday my baked goods came in **THREEFOLD!!** We were looking for tables and openings to place it all!! I should never doubt us, **YOU** always comes though!!

It was a busy 2-3 months of Workshops and we did it, **AGAIN**, broke records everywhere!!!

We had **YOUNGER FACES** helping this year and what joy that was. We had a few newly retired "girls," as I called them, who boosted us "old girls" energy levels!! Barb Lindke, Jackie & Julie Dickson, Nellie Grant and Susan Genet Soos, I loved every minute of teaching you the proper canning methods making Pickled beets, Bread & Butter Pickles, Peach Jam and Hot, medium and mild Pepper Jelly!!! I'm "**ALMOST**" ready to do it **AGAIN!!! NOT!!!**



I don't like giving out individual thanks as I know I will forgot someone or won't know of someone who outdid themselves and this year as much as I'd like to I won't. I will say a huge thanks for your generosity. All my pies, cookies, brownies, muffins, carrot cakes, raspberry cakes and more were gobbled up quickly. We increased pie prices to \$18 for those special ones; rhubarb, strawberry rhubarb, raspberry and mixed berry 10" pies and they were gone first!! I was shocked!! The breads, carrot cakes, raspberry cakes, sweet rolls, cuchacdati, oatmeal raisin, cut outs, peanut butter cookies all disappeared quickly!! Truthfully everything was a favorite by someone and they know our baked goods are the best and they sold!!

A special thanks to Barb, Nellie, September and Susan for helping me set up, price and work the booth. I couldn't have done it without you all!! Thank you , thank you all!! It takes a Team of Covenant Players to make it happen and **WE DID IT!!**

Carol Genet, we can't thank you enough for your , leadership, patience, creative displays and you and Sandy Allen for those lunches and more!!! **TEAM COVENANT** did it again!! We are the best!!



DONATION DINNER THANK YOU



Thank you!

Thank you to our forefathers for establishing this event to care for their pastor.

Thank you to the members who saw the wisdom to continue this event and extend their kindness to the community.

Thank you to the hundreds of church members and friends that have helped form the reputation that this dinner has enjoyed for so many years.

Thank you to everyone who donated turkeys, bread, celery, onions, brown sugar, potatoes, rolls, other grocery items and pies and more pies.

Thank you to McCollum Farms for donating 30 pounds of butter again this year.

Thank you to Brendan Monaco and Goodman Farms for donating the squash again this year.

Thank you to the workers who made this day happen; workers who washed or scooped squash, workers who sorted and ground cranberries, apples and oranges; workers who cubed 100 loaves of bread, workers who made the dressing, workers who cooked 30 turkeys, workers who came early to carve 30 turkeys, workers who made squash, potatoes and gravy; workers who scooped cranberries and bagged rolls; workers who washed dish after dish, workers who served over 700 dinners in a little over an hour; workers who waited on our customers, took pie orders and delivered to the car with a big smile; workers who took every donation with a "Thank you!"; workers who stayed late to count and secure the donations; workers who put every single thing away and mopped the floor, making it appear as though nothing even happened in that kitchen; workers who gave up time from their job or jobs at home that needed to be done, and workers who came after their job to help their church family.

Thank you to the pie cutters for quickly coming up with several solutions for the pie containers that were too small and getting every piece out so everyone had dessert!

Thank you to the boy scouts who brought every dinner up the stairs to the drive thru, and continually re-supplying rolls, pies and cranberries from the kitchen.

Thank you to the community who continues to support this event, lining up in their cars, all the way down main street and route 31 all the way past Mack Avenue!

Thank you to our members, families and friends who have this date, the first weekend in November marked in their calendar already for next year!

One hundred thank yous could never be enough to express our gratitude for all of the support for this event and all that it does for our church!

Sincerely,

Scott and Pam Brauer



Turn to page 8 for pictures!





COVENANT UCC'S 2023 STEWARDSHIP

WORD SCRAMBLE

“SERVICE IS LOVE IN ACTION BY SHARING OUR TIME, TALENTS, AND PLEDGE.”

THEME CLUES: COMMITTEES, BOARDS & GROUPS WHERE YOU CAN SERVE & JOIN

1. CUICLNO
2. PENRSOLEN
3. NMGTINNIAO
4. CIRSHANIT DE
5. FODO TRPAYN
6. MSIION
7. EDWOTEMEN
8. SCEHRA
9. SWAPETIDRSH
- 10.50 AIVNESYANRA
- 11.WNOMES FLOEWLPSIH
- 12.BARAZA
- 13.DAONTNIO UKRTYE NIDRNE
- 14.MORDATROE
- 15.ATSS MORDATROE
- 16.TERARSREU
17. ASTS TERARSREU
- 18.CKREL
- 19.FLAICNANI SYRATECRE
- 20.DCNAEO
- 21.TURTESE
- 22.TRAHCEE
- 23.SNDYAU HOSOCL TUSPNITNEDENTR
- 24.BELIB SUDYST
- 25.ASTSIK CKELR

Each has received a gift, use it to
serve one another, as good
stewards of God's varied Grace.

1 Peter 4:10

1. COUNCIL
2. PERSONNEL
3. NOMINATING
4. CHRISTIAN ED
5. FOOD PANTRY
6. MISSION
7. ENDOWMENT
8. SEARCH
9. STEWARDSHIP
10. 50 ANNIVERSARY
11. WOMENS FELLOWSHIP
12. BAZAAR
13. DONATION TURKEY DINNER
14. MODERATOR
15. ASST MODERATOR
16. TREASURER
17. ASST TREASURER
18. CLERK
19. FINANCIAL SECRETARY
20. DEACON
21. TRUSTEE
22. TEACHER
23. SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT
24. BIBLE STUDY
25. ASSIST CLERK



SAVE YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS!

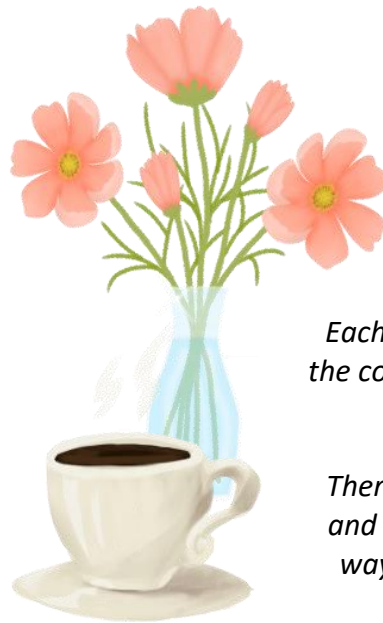
After the holidays, we are collecting used Christmas Cards! Please save the decorated side of the card that is blank on the back. They can be used to cut tags for next year's Bazaar. Please give saved cards to Carol Genet. Thank you!

LADIES DAY OUT

THIS THURSDAY
DEC 7



Meet at Covenant at 9:00 am to go to "The Shops on North Ridge" in Rochester, and eat lunch out. No need to sign up, just show by 9:00 am



COFEE HOUR HOST & ALTAR FLOWERS

Each week there is an opportunity to be the coffee hour host, or donate flowers for the Sunday morning service.

There is a sign up in the Fireplace Room and information on how to serve in this way. You can also speak to any of the Deacons for more information.



Women's Fellowship Presents a "Just in time for Christmas"

FABULOUS KNIFE SALE

3 piece boxed sets \$19.99 each
6 piece steak knife set \$24.99 each

Call Nancy Romanowski at 716-772-7993 to order





Covenant United Church of Christ

4449 Main Street
PO BOX 348
Gasport, NY 14067

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www.covenantny.org

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship with us Sundays at 10:00 am

Christmas Eve



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

SUNDAY, DEC 24
10:00 AM

Special preludes at 9:45 AM

Coffee Hour to Follow
Note: No evening service

@ office@covenantny.org



www.covenantny.org



(716) 772-7802