



The Covenant Key

Covenant Presbyterian Church • 1025 - 28th Street, West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

June 2011

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Reflections on the Holy Ordinary

Once again the forces of nature remind us of our obligation to help neighbor and stranger. The community of Joplin, Missouri experienced a significant loss of lives and to their livelihood and was a reminder how in an instant life around us can dramatically change. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) funded by the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is responding with help, showing again that a connectional church—person to person, church to church, presbytery to presbytery—is important in living faithfully and putting beliefs into action. If you wish to make additional donations to PDA or offer your volunteer services, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/>

Summer is upon us and we will have moved (as of June 3rd) to our worship hour of 9:30 a.m. Overwhelmingly, people wished to continue an earlier summer worship time. This summer, we are working on supporting our traditional worship experience with the benefits provided by our new audio/visual system. A big thanks is due to the Tech Committee for the ways they are making our worship experience grow. Additionally, we hope to introduce more music into our summer worship experience.

The next three months offer several ways to stay involved at Covenant during the summer. Primarily, we invite you to include regular worship in your planning, to find a mission project to participate with, and to include one of the many fellowship opportunities coming up as part of your summer planning. The offsite worship service on Sunday, July 17th will give us a chance as a community of faith to grow in our fellowship with each other and to do so in a relaxed and

refreshing off-site location. Stonehaven Barn in De Soto offers all the amenities we need and the chance to get to know either other better as brothers and sisters in Christ.



But you also have Vacation Bible School, blood bank drive, Habitat work, the golf outing and Table Top luncheon to choose from in staying connected with your church and its members, friends and visitors. May you be blessed this summer with all the richness this very special time of year gives.

In Christian love,
Pastor Jan

Save the Date!

Sunday, July 17, 2011

We will worship together at
Stonehaven Barn

De Soto, IA

- * Indoor worship
- * Drop-off drive near barn
- * Handicap restrooms
- * Grilled summer meal
- * Activities for all ages
- * More details to come

Carpooling arrangements for those wanting to return to WDM early.

<http://www.stonehavenbarn.com/>



Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped in any way to make our Wednesday evening meals a delicious success for the past year!

Your willingness to help was greatly appreciated by all of the men, women and children who supported the program and enjoyed the tasty meals and fellowship.

- Claudia Pitcher & Sally Patton
Co-chairs

The Covenant Key

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Next KEY Deadline:
June 15

Summer Calendar Notes

Mark Your Calendars!

Progressive Dinner
Saturday, June 4, 2011
5:30 PM-Appetizer Course
7:00 PM-Main Course
8:30 PM-Dessert Course

Instructions have been mailed to those who signed up. Please contact Betty Ratekin with any questions: 225-3439 or ratekin@att.net.

Ladies Who Lunch

meets the last Monday of each month at 11:30 a.m. June's lunch will be Monday, June 27 at **Club Car**, 13435 University Avenue in Clive. Please sign-up on the Activities Bulletin Board.

Office Coverage

Beth will be on vacation the last two weeks in June. A schedule for covering the church office hours is being put together. Please contact the office at 225-2254 if you are interested in joining this team of volunteers.

Saturday, July 16
Habitat for Humanity
Work Day
(details to come)

Sunday, July 17
Off site worship at
Stonehaven Barn in De Soto

July 31 - August 4
VBS
(see details on page 4)

Sunday, August 7
Annual Golf Outing
Terrace Hills Golf Course
Altoona

Monday, August 15
Blood Drive

Saturday, August 27
CPW Table Top Luncheon



Summer Worship Hours June 5 - September 4

9:00 a.m. Nursery
9:30 a.m. Worship

Spiritual Uplifting by the Covenant Shepherds

Each of us in this life wants more than anything to be loved. We work for love. We strive for love. We make fools out of ourselves for love. We long to feel that love warming our hearts and souls. We strain our ears each day for just a whisper of those three glorious words: "I love you."

What most of us don't realize, however, is just how much God loves us. God is showing us and telling us how much He loves us everyday. When you see the sun rising over the mountains, feel the cool breeze kissing your face, and hear the sweet songs of birds blessing your ears that is God saying, "I love you." When you see the adoring eyes of your dog looking up at you and feel the gentle brush of your cat against your hand that is God saying, "I love you." When you hear music that uplifts your soul with joy and read words that make your heart and mind soar into the heavens that is God saying, "I love you." When you hear the laughter of children playing and feel the warm hug of your own child against you that is God saying, "I love you." When you have the loving support of your family and the wonderful kindness of your friends no matter what you are going through that is God saying, "I love you." When you find your thoughts and feelings always leading you towards growth, learning, love, and joy that is God saying, "I love you." When your life's circumstances both good and bad help you to keep growing stronger, better, happier, and more loving each day that is God saying, "I love you."

God is always telling you and showing you just how much He loves you. Don't be afraid then to say, "I love you too God." Don't be afraid to live that love in your life either. Love God with everything you have and with everything you are. Love yourself, love your neighbor, and make this whole world your neighborhood. Always remember that God is love, that life is joy, and that we are one. And always listen for the million ways that God says, "I love you."

~ Joseph J. Mazzella

It is such a good feeling to wake up every morning and know that God loves you. What a way to get your day off to a great start!

~ Teri Springer, Shepherd

Public Hymn Festival To Open Central Iowa Sacred Music Convention



The Central Iowa Chapter American Guild of Organists invites you to attend a series of free public performances.

A hymn festival at Plymouth Congregational UCC, 4126 Ingersoll, opens the program, Monday, June 20, at 7:30 p.m. Featured artist is composer, organist and director Aaron David Miller, who serves the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

in Minneapolis as music director. Miller's DMA was awarded by the Manhattan School of Music in 1999.

He's concertized widely and won numerous prizes for his keyboard skills.

Joining Dr. Miller on the program is de Klokkenluiders handbell ensemble from Pella, brass, the Heartland Youth Chorus and a 120-voice adult choir.

Organists and choir directors from a 10-state region are attending four days of events. Prepare to hear some great singing.

Details available from www.agodesmoines2011.org.

- John Lytle
Drake University

June Greeter/Usher Schedule:

6/5	Scott & Judy Telford, Lori Brown, Norma McLaughlin
6/12	Duane & Liz Heaberlin, Beth & Gordon Miller
6/19	Ginny Ver Ploeg, Lindee Russell, Jim & Barb Woodworth
6/26	Dawn Grandia, Tanis Mueller, Wayne & Judi Nikolish



Please contact one of the others from the list to switch if you are unable to serve that week. Notify the church office at 225-2254 of the changes by the Wednesday before for the bulletin.

Kids on a Mission



Vacation Bible School 2011

July 31- August 4, 2011

6:00-8:00PM

Preschool (3-5 yrs.) to 6th grade/2011-2012 school year
*Optional youth program for students 7th-9th grade
Register [online](#) or by picking up a form in the Narthex.

Join the Team!



I have been part of a sports team since I was in 3rd grade. Only after getting hurt bad enough my freshman year of college did I have to quit playing competitive sports, but quickly changed gears to coaching. Through winning and losing as a player and a coach, the goal of my teams has always been to give 100% and work as a group for the common goal of success. Not only does this attitude apply to sports teams, but all types of teams: math team, quiz bowl, judging team, city council, PR firm, PTO, and a construction crew. All of the members of these groups are doing their job as part of a team to reach success, whether it is winning a trophy or completing a building project. Here at Covenant, there are many teams working toward success of our mission in growing our faith and reaching out to those in need. Right now, Christian Education is looking to fill its roster for some of its teams.

Where do you want to play?

There are currently 3 CE teams looking for members, each one needing the unique gifts and talents of our congregational members and attendees. Look carefully, I believe you'll find one that fits you.

Tried and True: Christian Education committee

As it has always been, this team works together to plan out the path and the steps needing to be taken to continue the growth of our educational programs and activities. From "cradle to grave", as they say, this team addresses the education needs of our very youngest to our most senior members. Meeting once a month throughout the year, this team works to continually move forward.

Upcoming and Coming: Youth Council

Many of you may not realize that we will be without a senior high youth program for the first time in several years, but up will spring the new Middle School/Jr. High program. This allows us the opportunity to create a team to help guide this group, and those to come, through the tenuous stages of adolescence with a focus on mission and personal, spiritual foundation.

Tournament Team: VBS

Maybe it's because I am coaching a tournament softball team right now, but what a great reference for our VBS volunteer team. This includes all the adults who want to be involved in this once-a-year event. Whether you want to lead the charge, greet people at the door, or pray for the participants from the luxury of your home, you can make a difference in the life of a child through your part as the vacation bible school team.

Play on one team or all 3. We need a full team to make it happen so please fill out the form by clicking [here](#), or picking one up in the Narthex - and drop it in the tray on the oak display case or give to myself or an education elder (Deb Kellogg or Barb Byas).

Thanks!

Coach Renae Woodworth

Call to Action for San Isidro-Covenant Partnership!



Each of 50 families in our partner canton (village) in El Salvador is anticipating the start of a simple personal partnership with a Covenant family or individual. What it takes is an occasional very simple note or card, a photo and prayers. So far, 12 Covenant families or individual have signed up, leaving 38 families to match up by the time our next annual delegation visits San Isidro in Sept-Oct of this year. So far Covenant's **Socios de Cristo** coordinating committee has recruited 2 Spanish translators to help pen our very simple individual notes in Spanish. Many of San Isidro villagers cannot yet read or write, so very simple notes with a personal photo will be most welcome as village families help each other read our notes.

While Covenant sign-up for 50 family partnerships is being prayerfully completed, a specific system for translating and sending our notes will be developed. Since mail delivery to El Salvador is unreliable, notes/photos/drawings will be delivered by religious or medical delegations, including our own.



One of the goals of our next Covenant delegation in Sept-Oct 2011 is to visit each family in San Isidro to take a photo of each and create a map locating each family. That brings us to Covenant's **second CALL TO ACTION**. Our mission commitment to partnership is to send a delegation each year for a week to visit villagers face-to-face, deepen friendship and to discuss ways to support San Isidro in developing a more lasting economic future beyond subsistence farming. **Please prayerfully & creatively consider whether you can be part of our week-long delegation visit this year**, tentatively scheduled in Sep-Oct. Give thought and prayer to upcoming annual visits, too. Is this part of your Covenant Call to Discipleship?



Last year's Covenant October team (Oct 23-30, 2010) of Warren Pitcher, Sydney Michael, Pastor Jan Scott, and Bruce Anderson is most willing to share their experiences of air travel to San Salvador, meeting villagers and their leadership team, eating & sleeping at the Pastoral House in Berlin and visiting historical & religious civil war sites in San Salvador. Rough expense estimates are \$400-\$450 for room/board/ share of local translator & transportation expenses plus approximately \$900 for air travel. Covenant's **Socios de Cristo** coordinating team is planning ways to help delegates with expenses. If you want to go, we'll find a way! If you have any interest or feel a nudge to learn more about this life-changing opportunity, **please contact Amy Anderson** for more info (225-1755, amyanderson@mediacomcc.com).

A third Call to Action is to attend a monthly meeting of Covenant's **Socios de Cristo** (Partners in Christ), 3rd Sunday of the month, after worship in the North Classroom. At this point about 15-20 Covenant members and friends are part of the evolving coordinating team. Come learn more, ask questions and contribute your ideas!! It takes a whole village to partner with San Isidro, El Salvador!!

~ Marilyn Johnson for the **Socios de Cristo** coordinating team



Like to Sew?? Diapers for Haiti Project Needs You!

A number of local church groups are working on a colorful and basic needs project collecting T-shirts (used or new) to cut and sew diapers for orphanages in Haiti.

If you are interested in helping in any way with this project, either on your own, or in a small sewing group (possible Covenant sewing bee??), please contact Marilyn Johnson by phone, email or in person to let her know of your interest and to get more information. Several video clips are available with specific information. Patterns and instructions will be provided to sewers. Cutters and assemblers are also needed. A project coordinator will be available for on-site instruction and questions.

No specific deadlines have been set at this time, but collection of T-shirts is well underway and sewing groups or individuals are organizing and training.

You may remember that in early 2010 after the devastating hurricane in Haiti, Covenant participated in a community project, "Soles for Souls", to collect and send 2,135 pairs of shoes to the people. A year later, great needs still exist. One is the need for cloth diapers for Haitian orphanages, which care for so many more children since the earthquake. If you can sew or help in any way and if this sounds like a good opportunity for you, please let me know.

Thanks!
Marilynn Johnson 278-2585
Marbob10505@aol.com



STATED SESSION MEETING

May 15, 2011

6:30 p.m.

Clerk's Report: Motion carried to approve minutes from Stated Session meeting on April 10. Communion was served to 158 on 4/24/11 and 110 on 5/1/11. Motion carried to elect Paul Hayes as Treasurer for one year. Motion carried to elect Barb Storjohann as Clerk of Session for one year. Review of rolls for 2011 is underway. Session has 9 women and 7 men and the congregation has 130 women and 96 men.

Business Before the Session

Motion carried to approve the treasurer's report by Paul Hayes.

Motion carried to have Covenant Sunday on August 28th and it will be a Ministry Fair. Elders will put together tables to promote their commissions.

Parking lot safety during the week was discussed; cars cut through lot during the day causing safety concerns for children and adults alike. Building security for Sunday mornings was discussed. Motion carried to instruct ushers to lock the north door right before service starts, hang a sign telling late comers to come to the east entrance and do a walk through the building. We will look at this matter more closely to see how to handle this going forward.

Holy Conversations

Ben Woodworth and Duane Heaberlin addressed the issue of trying to get young adults and young families more involved in the church. There will be a gathering of these folks sometime this summer. There was much discussion about leadership and discipleship and how to move forward.

Barb Storjohann, Clerk of Session

Summer Nursery Update

In a recent Preschool Sunday school class, the children learned about Jesus' command to Peter to take care of his sheep. Jesus asked better, "Do you love me?" and Peter of course said, "Yes, you know I love you". But then Jesus said, "Feed my sheep". It took Jesus repeating himself several times and then Jesus still had to explain himself for Peter to understand that Jesus didn't have a flock of woolly sheep to tend, he meant take care of his people.

As a mission based church, we find ourselves on numerous committees at several events serving Jesus by caring for his sheep. As our 2010-11 education year has come to a close, we witnessed the celebration of many people who served as educational leaders for our congregation. But the work is not over. As we enter the summer months, there are groups of people who still need our attention. One such group is our nursery kids. Children 0 to 5 years have the option to spend the worship service playing and learning with one another in structured environment just off the narthex. This summer we will begin implementing a new curriculum for the 3 to 5 year olds to continue the structural path of growing their faith and prepare them for the start of Sunday school in the fall.

As our nursery numbers increase, so does the continued need for adult help. Many of you have volunteered in the past and have indicated on your Activate Your Faith forms that you continue to feel a calling to serve in the nursery. For those of you who may not have felt your service could be used, please reconsider and spend at least one Sunday with our most active church attendees. Contact me at church, or sign up in the nursery if you are interested. It is my goal to have the nursery fully staffed every Sunday a month in advance. Currently I am filling July and August and plan to begin the fall schedule at the beginning of July. We appreciate all the time and prayers you have given to our nursery and hope that you will continue throughout this summer and into the 2011-2012 educational program year.

Rena Woodworth
Director of Christian Education



Peanut Butter Challenge for June

Covenant's Mission & Action Committee challenges every member to bring a jar of peanut butter for the DMARCC Food Pantry in June. Covenant has approximately 226 adult members. Let's see if we can donate 226 jars of peanut butter in June!

People need to eat year round, but summertime is when donations to the Food Pantry drop off dramatically and the food needs increase. Children are out of school and are not getting a free breakfast or lunch at school. "Kid friendly food" is always most welcome during the summer – peanut butter, mac and cheese, cans of spaghetti, ravioli, or other things that kids can prepare. Please continue to shop for the food pantry this summer.

Help promote health and wellness by providing any of the following most needed food items:

- 100% Juice (tomato, orange, or vegetable in a can or plastic bottle)
- Fruit (canned in water or 100% juice, not in heavy syrup)
- Canned vegetables (with no-salt added, for example tomatoes, green beans, mixed vegetables, sweet potatoes preferred)
- Canned beans (refried beans, vegetarian refried beans, and beans in water for example kidney beans, red beans, black beans, garbanzo beans)
- Dry beans
- Peanut butter
- Canned meat (tuna or chicken in water)
- Whole-grain dry pasta or egg noodles
- Brown rice (regular or instant)
- Vegetable soup (low-sodium)
- Whole grain crackers (wheat saltines)
- Canned spaghetti sauce
- Hot cereal, oatmeal (plain, no sugar added, instant or regular)
- Cold cereal (whole grain cheerios, wheat chex, wheaties, granola, or shredded wheat preferred)
- Shelf-stable UHT milk (in aseptic packaging, low fat preferred, no canned milk)
- Infant/baby formula

For a vertical version of the online Covenant Calendar, go to:

<http://www.wdmcovenant.org/covenantcalendar.html>



June 2011 Covenant Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Personal Product Collection: Toothbrushes	Coins for Concern CROSS Ministries Back to School Giveaway		1 10:00 am Coffee 6:30 pm Yard Work Day 6:30 pm Chancel Choir	2 10:00 am Al-Anon	3 7:00 pm AA Mtg	4 5:30 pm Progressive Dinner
5 Summer Worship Begins 9:00 am Nursery 9:30 am Worship w/ Communion 7:00 pm AA	6 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 9:15 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Pampered Chef W3 7:00 pm G-12 Mtg	7	8 10:00 am Coffee 6:30 pm Yard Work Rain Date 6:30 pm Chancel Choir	9 10:00 am Al-Anon	10 7:00 pm AA Mtg	11
12 9:00 am Nursery 9:30 am Worship 7:00 pm AA	13 9:15 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm G-12 Mtg	14 6:00 pm PEO Fellowship Hall	15 KEY Deadline 10:00 am Coffee	16 10:00 am Al-Anon 6:30 Tech Committee Mtg	17	18
19 Food Pantry Sunday 9:00 am Nursery 9:30 am Worship 7:00 pm AA	20 9:15 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm G-12 Mtg	21	22 10:00 am Coffee 11:00 am Shawl Ministry	23 10:00 am Al-Anon	24 7:00 pm AA Mtg	25
26 9:00 am Nursery 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Socio de Cristo Mtg. 7:00 pm AA	27 9:15 am Staff Meeting 11:30 am Ladies Who Lunch Club Car in Clive	28	29 10:00 am Coffee	30 10:00 am Al-Anon		

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We're on the Web!

www.wdmcovenant.org



Mission & Action

June Personal Product Collection – Toothbrushes

In June we're collecting toothbrushes for the DMARC personal product collection. Place your donations on the lower shelves of the Food Pantry cart in the Narthex. Your donations will be given to **CROSS Ministries** for inclusion with their Back-to-School Supplies give-away.

Our April and May contributions have been significantly lower than in the past. Please make an effort to purchase personal products whenever you see them on sale. We will be collecting toothpaste in July and toilet paper in August.

- Karen Anderson

June's Coins for Concern

June's Coins for Concern will go to **CROSS Ministries Back to School Giveaway**. For 19 years, **CROSS Ministries** has provided children from low income families with a new backpack filled with the school supplies they need to begin their school year. In 2010 they were able to assist 1,100 children. Children of low and no income households are most affected by the poverty their families experience. The best way to get them out of the poverty cycle is through education.

If a child has to start school without the basic supplies needed, or has to start school late while waiting for the money to purchase the supplies, it puts them at a major disadvantage. Therefore, the **Back to School Giveaway** is an investment in the future for us all. Please give generously.

Important Reminders:

- **Food Pantry Sunday - June 19, 2011 (Peanut Butter Challenge!)**
- **Habitat for Humanity Work Day - Saturday, July 16, 2011**
- **Blood Drive - Monday, August 15, 2011**