Special Events

October

Sunday, October 1
Newcomers Dessert

Wednesday, October 4
MOPS
Women’s Study

Saturday, October 9
Work Day

Wednesday, October 11
Bible Study
K.I.C.K.

Saturday, October 14
Cornerstone Service Day

Sunday, October 15
Meeting for Parents of Middle and High Schoolers

Wednesday, October 18
MOPS
Women’s Study

Saturday, October 21
A Day at CHIC

Wednesday, October 25
Bible Study
K.I.C.K.

Saturday, October 28
Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 29
World Relief Kickoff
Reformation Concert

See inside for details.

“Finishing Strong”

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith
(2 Timothy 4: 7)

As I looked out at our congregation last Sunday, it occurred to me (in a new way) that it’s a good thing to have older folks around—and not because it makes me feel younger. It’s a good thing because without many of you those of us who are younger may forget that we too are growing older. Aging isn’t just for the aged; it’s the most common experience of all.

There’s no question that people are living longer these days—my parents are both well into their 90’s! Yet, after observing them over the past few years, I have asked myself if it’s actually a good thing to live so long. I’m not sure there’s anything inherently good about just getting old.

I’ve concluded that we can either dread the aging process, or we can embrace it and view it with faith: believing that old age can be “good old age,” as the Old Testament puts it.

Our culture reminds us constantly, in a variety of ways, that our youthful years were the “good” years, the best years of our lives. These were the years in which we found excitement, adventure, and worth, when possibilities were endless. But, I disagree. I have to say, after getting to know many of you and watching how you live, it seems the Lord has “saved the best for last” (just as he did at the wedding in Cana). He has touched your lives (and, therefore, our lives) with uncommon grace and wisdom. He seems to be turning you into “fine wine.”

From many of you, I’m learning that aging doesn’t mean dying. It can be growing, maturing, serving, and ministering. You have taught me that one is never too old to be fruitful. As Scottish writer and theologian George McDonald once said, “Age is not decay; it is ripening, the swelling of the fresh life within.”

Thank you for your example.

—Pastor Kurt

Northwest Covenant Church, as disciples of Jesus Christ, seeks to be an authentic Christian community where lost people are found and hurting people are helped.
Council Corner

September was a very busy month at Northwest. We began with a beautiful day at Covenant Harbor. Celebrated Pastor Kurt and Alyona’s wedding. We had a tremendous rally day together. Launched our expanded KICK program. As the month came to a close we said goodbye to Pastor Mark and his family and welcomed Drew Edstrom as our new Director of Student Ministries. I want to extend thanks to Mark and Sara for sharing their lives and mentoring our students at Northwest. I know that they are well loved here and will be missed. As I reflected on this month my thoughts went to another special Sunday. On Sunday the 17th we had a farewell party for Ernie and Viv Johnson and it was emotional for all of us.

For a few months at Council we have discussed how Northwest can be a more effective voice, or example if you will, of Christ in our community. We have discussed programs and outreach events. All corporate ideas for opening our church to others. I believe that any shift in the culture of a church ultimately begins with individuals. We each have to commit to putting others before ourselves.

Pastor Lucco shared his message about how we are to submit to each other. Pastor Kurt has reminded us weekly that this submission is not only meant in the context of marriage, but in all facets of our life. Especially in our relationship to God.

Now you see why I can’t help but focus on Ernie and Viv. They have shown us, by example, how to submit to a life in Christ. For more than 60 years they have led a life of service together. They have served at Northwest, in our community with Young Life and have been faithful supporters of our world missions. Their individual roles in our church are too numerous to mention. As important as each of these things have been, don’t focus on what they did as much as how they did it. They always demonstrated a quiet, good humored nature while being wholly committed to whatever task they took on. Many people never knew how involved they were, but they touched many of us with love.

Ernie always introduced Viv as “My Honey” or “My Sweetheart”. They have been married for over 60 years and remind me of teenagers on their first date. You could say that they are kind, thoughtful, considerate or compassionate. Any of these words describe their relationship with each other and the world around them. The word that really sums it up is Love. They love each other. They love their church, their family and most importantly they love the Lord they serve.

Ernie and Viv took that love and let it loose on all of us. With a sparkle in their eyes they would greet each of us, and we knew we were loved by them.

So, pull out that chair, hold that door, greet that child, welcome that visitor, greet the stranger on the street, be kind to the salesperson, thank people for their help and tell others you appreciate them. Live a life filled with love. It’s really pretty easy; put everyone else before yourself. In short, copy Ernie and Viv.

—Kirk Johnson, Council Chair

Newcomers Dessert

If you are new to the church in the last few years, or if you are looking for a way to get better connected at Northwest, please join us at 6:30 pm on Sunday, October 1, at the home of Ross and Carla Peterson. This is an informal get together with dessert and an opportunity to visit with others. Please call the church office if you would like to attend.
Rip n Roll meets every Thursday from 9:30—11 am in Fellowship Hall. ALL are welcome — men and women!!! For more information contact Cindy Lorimer.

to serve coffee and goodies after the Worship Services. If you would be willing to serve, please contact Kim Johnson or Donna Badame.

K.I.C.K.—Kindergarten through 5th graders are invited to join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

**Wednesday, October 11** - Heroes have heart and serve others  
**Wednesday, October 25** - Heroes have courage

We’ll have fun with games, crafts, snacks, science and object lessons that help us learn and understand how to be heroes for God. Kids are invited to attend whenever they can, and are always invited to bring friends.

**Chapel Choir**  
rehearsals are  
Wednesdays 6:00 - 6:30 pm  
for Kindergarten thru 5th graders during the school year.  
All kids are welcome!

**The Children's St. Lucia Program**  
Saturday, December 9th at 10:00

Kids ages 3 through seniors in high school are welcome! SEEKING CUTE GRANDKIDS!!  
If you want your GRANDCHILDREN to participate in this traditional Advent celebration, send an email to Jennifer Swanson Hillbo at frogville3@aol.com. Kids do not have to be "regular" Chapel Choir singers or even attend NWCC.  
Sign up by November 5th.

**MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)**  
exists to encourage, equip, and help women become the best moms that they can be! Women who are pregnant or have young children (birth through kindergarten) are all invited to join MOPS. Childcare is available.

Our meetings are at 9:30 am on the first and third Wednesdays of the month and include breakfast, coffee and adult conversation. Your first meeting is FREE, and after that, each meeting costs only $7 with childcare and $5 without childcare. Bring a friend; new members and visitors are always welcome!

**Oct. 4** Speaker: Meghann VanderBaan, a former MOPS member will be doing a style session  
**Oct. 18** Craft: sugar scrub.

**Sunday School for kindergarten through school from 10:00 am. Lecture Class will meet in Fellowship Hall.**

**Lecture Class speakers—**  
October 1 - Stan Friedman  
October 8 - Dan Johnson, Christian Radio for Russia  

In addition, there are two small groups that

**Women’s Study**  
**Wednesdays,**  
**October 4 and 18 at 7:00 pm**  
**NOTE:** Change of Dates!

All women of the church are invited to join Women’s Study. We will meet at Carol Nelson’s new home (1274 Luther Lane, AH) on the FIRST and THIRD Wednesdays of each month. We will be studying “When God Interrupts: Finding New Life Through Unwanted Change” by M. Craig Barnes. Any questions or for directions, call Carol Nelson at 847-392-8260.
Northwest Covenant welcomes Dan and Oksana Johnson on **Sunday, October 8**.
We as a church support Dan and Oksana and their organization, Christian Radio for Russia.
This is a non-profit ministry that works to guarantee that Christian radio programming from New Life Radio can be available in any city, village, or remote area throughout the former Soviet Union. New Life Radio does this through director-to-home satellite radio, FM, cable networks and the internet.
To learn more about their mission, check out the website:  crfr.org

**Northwest Compass’** request for October is for laundry baskets filled with cleaning supplies for people moving into an apartment. Seven (7) apartments are opening up for homeless people to move into in October.
And, for all gardeners as the season is ending, please drop off any fresh produce that you can spare. Their address is 1300 W Northwest Highway, Mt. Prospect.
Thank you for helping; it is appreciated.

**Help the Homeless at Cornerstone Community Outreach (CCO)**
**October 14, 12 noon—4:30 pm**
Please be part of reaching out to the homeless right here in Chicago. We will be departing from the church around noon. While we are there, we will be assisting in serving a meal, passing out groceries, sorting items and visiting with the residents and neighbors. There is a sign-up sheet on the Mission Bulletin Board.
We will be bringing donations with us. Of course, there are many needs. We are focusing on men’s clothing, particularly socks, shoes, new underwear, boots, pants, warm shirts, and blankets.

**Additional Important Note!**
A few of us were privileged to spend time with two of the lead staff members from Cornerstone at the women's retreat in Lake Geneva. As many of you know, dozens of homeless people living in tents under the viaducts in the Uptown Neighborhood will be displaced. These two women expressed their deep concern about this situation! Several of the staff know everyone of these people, personally, and do their best to care for them. This will be an additional burden for CCO, which is already financially challenged. If you would like to make a monetary donation, it would be GREATLY appreciated. Checks should be payable to Cornerstone Community Outreach.

**Save the Date:  Friday, November 17, 8-9:30 pm**
The Mission and Outreach Board has reserved space on that date at Feed My Starving Children. We have 26 slots available. Feel free to sign up using link:  http://volunteer.fmsc.org/Register/Group/JoinGroup.aspx?gid=109728 or email Kattia at Kattia.jaramillo@gmail.com

**Clothing Closet Reminder**
Outreach & Evangelism Board has put out bins for 'gently used' children's clothing (elementary age) under the stairs by Fellowship Hall. Please drop off your items in the bins, and we will do the sorting. These clothes will be made available to our local Fairview community for those in need. Please consider donating.
Greetings from Ecuador! As we walked the kids down to school today, it made me think of days when we walked the streets of Mt. Prospect. Today feels more like a blustery Fall day in the Midwest than a ‘summer’ day in Ecuador. But, God must have known what I needed. I miss the changes in seasons. I grew up with that and it is always a good reminder for me that change is good. Summer to Fall means things are going to be sleeping (something I would LOVE to have more of these days), but after rest they open in to beautiful things, full of new life and color. As I anticipate this upcoming year (school just started for us here in Ecuador), I could be (and sometimes am) overwhelmed by what our calendar looks like. But I was pleasantly reminded today that outwardly life can be chaotic and loco, but inside, God continues His work in us. As we anticipate Fall and a beautiful change in seasons, I am trying to turn over a new leaf to give more to Jesus in the midst of the chaos. To breathe deep the breadth of our Lord when those moments of chaos come (and they WILL, I know they will). So, enjoy for us the beautiful Fall weather, the sweatshirts, the pumpkins, the cool breezes, the changing leaves, the fun Starbucks drinks (YES, we miss them), but may it be a reminder to say a prayer for us and to rest in the hope that God has us all in the midst of our crazy! Two quick prayer requests. First, in just a week or so we are going to be conducting a women’s holistic medical caravan here. It’s the first of its kind that we know of here. Pray that we can meet women where they are and plant seeds in their hearts toward Jesus. Second, we are hoping to move in to our new home in mid October. There is a LOT of change that will come a long with that, especially for the kiddos, but what a BLESSING, we are SO excited!

With Much Love from Ecuador,
Joel, Kim, Simeon, Esther and Ephraim

As always, you can keep up with us and our daily lives through our blog: http://blogs.covchurch.org/delp/

Want to know more about our project for a center for at-risk children and a medical clinic? Check out our website at: https://www.santiagopartnership.org/ or if you would like to donate you can go to our website or send a check to The Santiago Partnership, 23891 Airport Rd., Coshocton, OH 43812

CHRISTIAN RADIO FOR RUSSIA (CRFR)

We have heard much about Russia in the last few months, always with a negative slant. But how much have you heard about the Russian people hearing the Gospel? In fact, the Russian government has done many things to limit hearing of the Gospel. But there is a radio station which broadcasts via satellites and internet, and it has been doing this for more than 25 years. It is New Life Radio sponsored by CRFR. In fact, these broadcasts are heard by Russia speaking people all over the world, including the USA.

On October 8 we will be privileged to have the founder of this ministry, Daniel Johnson, in our worship services on that day and in the Lecture Class. He will tell what is being done to circumvent the hurdles which the Russian government has imposed and about the impact of the station on the lives of particularly young adults.

The format is contemporary Christian music and short “God Spots” which are dramatic presentations of the Gospel. In the evening they broadcast longer messages from the Bible by noted preachers and teachers. The station is having an impact as evidenced by the email and text messages which are received from all over the world.

Our church supports CRFR through an annual contribution, and you are invited to pray for this ministry performed by five (5) Christian artists of which four (4) are part-time. These young believers are doing what a half-dozen career missionaries could do.

—Robert Larson

Saturday, October 28 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Kids in the church and community are invited to come trick or treat from car to car in the church parking lot. We would like to have many decorated vehicles parked in the parking lot with the trunks open, distributing candy as the kids go from car to car.

We will also have a chili cook-off during this event. If you are willing to participate by decorating your car or making a pot of chili, please contact Kim Johnson or the church office.
Northwest Covenant Church Family,

There is so much I can say, so many memories and emotions going through my mind today as I sit in my office on my final day serving as one of your pastors.

I can spend hours writing about the memories we have created together…the meals shared in people’s homes, the visits to Covenant Village with my family, meetings, search teams, the many worship services shared together, funerals, baptisms, weddings, retreats, celebrations, welcoming new members, mission trips, CHIC, youth group nights, outreach events, time spent at the schools at sporting events or concerts, time spent with students over lunch or coffee, the many meals and meetings at our home spent with leaders and students from the church. I can go on and on and write about how each of those events have been significant to me and my family.

We’ve shared a lot of life together…we have grown together in our relationship with Christ and as a church family. In the midst of it all, I want to say thank you because you have cared for us well. You have loved us, and you have shown us grace.

On behalf of Sara, the boys and myself, I wanted to say “Thank You.” The past four years have been a blessing to us! Thank you for loving us and being family to us!

As we return to Kansas, we are going to deeply miss those that have become family to us. We have shed tears thinking about leaving the amazing group of students from this church and community which we absolutely love. We are excited to see the kingdom impact that these students will continue to have.

As I was reading my devotional this morning, I read from Philippians 1:3-6, which is also my prayer for you and the promise which I hold onto, “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Thank you for your continued partnership in the Gospel!

Pastor Mark Peterson

Director of Student Ministries Announced

The Church Council has announced that Drew Edstrom has accepted a call to Northwest Covenant Church as full-time Director of Student Ministries. Many of you remember Drew as he and his family attended Northwest for many years. Drew’s first day on the job was Monday, September 18. In Drew’s own words: “After months filled with prayer and discernment, God opened a door at the perfect time. I believe that God has a way of calling you back home …. This is a prime example of that truth. I’m coming home. Let’s dance.”

Welcome Home, Drew!

Upcoming Events

Winter Retreats

January 12-14th — Middle School Winter Retreat (Covenant Harbor)
February 17-20th — OneLife (High School Retreat at Covenant Point)

Be watching in the coming months for opportunities to sign up to attend.

More details coming soon!

CHIC 2018 — July 15-20, 2018

Get ready…it’s time to begin kicking off CHIC 2018! CHIC is a youth conference which takes place every three years in the Covenant denomination…we’re excited to be a part of this, to join together with thousands of other students from across the United States to hear great speakers, to worship together and have fun together. CHIC takes place at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN. It is open to all those that are currently in high school for the 2017-2018 school year. Mark your calendars now…July 15-20, 2018 (please note that we may be leaving in the morning on July 14th and returning very late on July 20th). Be watching for more information in the coming months!!

Additional Youth News on Page 8
CHRISTMAS ENSEMBLES – Please think about joining the Christmas Ensembles for the Ault Choir and Praise Band. With the Christmas season right around the corner we invite those of you who don’t have the time to commit to rehearsals and services every week to come and sing in one of the leadership music groups. We will begin rehearsing on Saturday morning October 21 (Choir) and Thursday October 26 (Praise Band). Rehearsals will take place each week and culminate with a performance at our all church Christmas concert on December 17 at 4:00pm. If you can carry a tune or play an instrument we hope you will think about joining us for the Christmas Season.

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<td>November 18 (Sat) 9:30-11:30</td>
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<td>December 17 (Sun) 4:00pm</td>
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The Praise Band and Adult Choir have begun the fall season. The Adult choir rehearses on Wednesday night and the Praise Band rehearses on Thursday nights. Rehearsals for both groups begin at 7:30 and go until 9:00. The Praise Band plays and sings for the 9:00 Contemporary Worship service and the Adult Choir sings for the 11:00 Traditional Worship Service. New Members are welcome and encouraged. If you are interested in joining one of the groups please talk to Director of Music Mike Nelson.

The Chapel Choir (Children’s Choir) has begun rehearsing for the fall season. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 6:00-6:30. This choir is for ages K-5th grade. If you are interested in joining the Chapel please come to rehearsal or contact Children’s Choir Director Jennifer Swanson for more information.

Music Staff
Mike Nelson Director of Music mikenelson71@comcast.net
Jennifer Swanson Hillbo Children’s Choir Director
Karen Lindquist Organist and Accompanist

GUITAR CONCERT--Jack Cimo
October 29 at 4:00 pm
Fellowship Hall Coffee House

Join us on Sunday afternoon October 29 for a special Reformation Sunday concert featuring Jack Cimo on Guitar. The concert will be in Fellowship Hall and coffee will be served during the concert. More information about Jack can be seen on his website at www.jackcimo.com. Please join us!
**Fall 2017 Message Series: Living Wisely**

In this eight-part series, *Living Wisely*, we will look closely at The Book of Psalms and four books of Wisdom Literature from the Old Testament (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs) to learn how to live wisely and, therefore, skillfully under God’s direction.

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**Bible Study: Living Wisely**

Beginning Wednesday, September 27, Pastor Kurt will guide us through a study based on the sermon series Living Wisely. We will meet at the back of the Sanctuary at 6:30 pm. Study guides will be provided.

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**Northwesterners**

**Save the date—December 4**

to attend The Lakeside Singers concert at The Metropolis

**All Church Work Day**

**Love your Church WORK DAY**

Saturday, October 7 from 9:00 am until noon
Dear Northwest Covenant Church Family,

We are so grateful for your outpouring of love and support over these past months. Thank you for greeting Alyona so warmly and graciously upon her arrival. Thanks, too, for the sincere welcome you extended to her mother, Irina (she was absolutely astounded by your hospitality). Thank you for “showering” Alyona (and me) with such wonderful gifts and cards, all filled with “sage advice” and good humor. And finally, thank you for attending our wedding celebration on Saturday, September 9. We truly felt like we were surrounded by family (and yes, thanks for even more gifts and cards).

Beth, Karen, Mike, Amy, and Carol, please accept our special “thanks” for your unique contributions to our special day.

Through each of you we have experienced (and continue to experience) God’s grace and goodness. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity and, at times (like this) cannot find the words to express our profound gratitude. It is a joy to know you, to serve you, and to walk with you.

We thank God for you . . . “remembering your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 1:3).

With Much Love,
Pastor Kurt and Alyona Carlson

Congratulations to Pastor Kurt and Alyona Carlson who were united in marriage September 9

Thank you notes have been received from Lois Sundquist and Scott Wallgren. They are posted on the church bulletin board.