

Covenant Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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A Christ centered covenant community;

Loving God,

Loving people,

Making disciples

December 2018

FROM THE CLERK

Haven't we been blessed by outstanding preaching at our worship services?!? Thank you, guest preachers and Dr. Bob Simmons and Elder Richard Taylor for making the arrangements. We look forward to hearing more! The Worship Team is busy planning our traditional Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 PM. Be sure to invite your family and friends to share in the readings, the traditional carols sung by both the congregation and some wonderful soloists, the children's nativity, the Lord's Supper and of course the lighting of the candles. The Advent candle lightings and readings are beginning too.

Pastor Bob challenged us recently for "Everyone to reach one." Be praying for your "one" and for God's guidance in looking for opportunities and the words to use. Keep in mind the command from Jesus that Pastor Bob reminded us of in Acts 1:8 that "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Christmas Eve and luncheon Sundays are especially good times to invite people to come to church. Offer to give them a ride if possible. Open that door to share the Gospel.

What a generous congregation we have! Its obvious Covenant wants to be a church that follows the directive of Jesus in Matthew 25:40 that "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." We were able to donate enough to keep a quadriplegic former coworker of one of our members with his caregivers until his insurance was able to take over. All the Angels have been selected from the Angel Tree. By the way, be sure to get your gifts in this week if you haven't already. We have also adopted a family that has been in our prayers (single mom fighting cancer with two young children) to help make Christmas special for them. We are continuing to support our local faith-based Seeds of Hope by being a sponsor for their upcoming 5K Run on January 5. We will be setting up a booth also to tell people about Covenant and ECO. Please see Everett Greenwood if you can help in any way.

If you are not already in a small group, or you are not sure what to study, we hope everyone will make a commitment to be in a small group to study a series that the entire church can do at the same time. We want to revitalize our small groups as we grow and move forward in our mission at Covenant. We are planning this for January-March so we hope our winter visitors will also participate.

Elders Everett Greenwood and Richard Taylor will be representing our congregation at the next ECO National Gathering in January in Colorado Springs. Every year this opportunity has been a time of inspiration, encouragement, and learning. We look forward to the things they will share with us.

Soon you will also have the opportunity to make a pledge of your gifts and abilities for 2019. Your Session, with the help of our Hope Presbytery, has been very busy making plans for 2019 and beyond to be the church that God intends us to be. Please keep praying for God's guidance for all that we do.

Deacons

Greetings and Merry Christmas from your Covenant Deacons!! We are excited for all the happenings planned for Covenant Presbyterian Church this month.

Holy Communion will be celebrated the first Sunday, December 2nd during service. We will be passing trays this month.

Our monthly luncheon will be held the second Sunday, December 9th immediately following worship. Deacons will be providing sliced ham in a crockpot and are asking the congregation to bring a dish to complement the ham. We hope everyone will be able to stay and fellowship.

We will be having our Christmas Eve service on December 24th in the evening. Hospitality will be providing hot cocoa and some special goodies for everyone to enjoy. We look forward to serving our members this month as we celebrate this wonderful blessed season of our Savior's birth.

Merry Christmas!!!!

Prayers of the People

We are trying to make the prayers of the people more relevant to the Christian church. We would like to include prayers and praises related to God's work in the world, our nation and in our local community. Many of the major news outlets fail to report significant events, especially when it concerns God's people. We very much want to focus our prayers and praises on what is happening in the Christian community regardless of where it is happening. We always inquire during service for additional prayers/praises or they can be forwarded to Rex Little during the week at rexjanine89@msn.com.

Men's Fellowship

The men of the church meet at the church each Thursday at 11:30am. All men are welcome and you can bring a sack lunch if you like.

December Calendar

- 1 Deacons Meeting
- 6 Worship Meeting, 1:00pm
- 9 Monthly Luncheon after service
- 9 Life Group (youth), 6:30pm-8:00pm at the Kirkbrides
- 12 Prayers around the flagpole, 7:15am, McCartney Ranch Elementary
- 13 Session Meeting, 7:00pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm
- 30 Life Group (youth), 6:30pm-8:00pm at the Kirkbrides

December Birthdays

- 6 Mark Hawrylak
- 13 Rex Little
- 14 Craig George
- 28 Cody Cowan

