



The Network

Winnetka Covenant Church

1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

April, 2013

**Rummage
Sale
Set-up,
April 15-19
Sale Day
April 20**

**Quarterly
Meeting
April 28**

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Empty Tomb, Open Future

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them,

“Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.” (Mark 16:5-6)

Notice the tenses of the white robed One who meets the women at the tomb on Easter morning in Mark's Gospel: WAS crucified, HAS BEEN raised, IS NOT here. I thought about those words two years ago while in Jerusalem, standing on the outer edges of the crowd pushing to get into the tomb of Jesus, within the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. I listened and watched the fervency with which folks muscled their way toward the narrow stone doorway. For a moment, I wondered what effect it would have to shout and get everyone's attention, and simply repeat, proclaim the words of who seems to be the Risen Christ: *“Hey everyone! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised he is not here!”* I wondered, would the crowd disperse quickly and run out into the streets of the old city to look for him? Flee from the tomb in terror and amazement, as did these women on the first Easter? Or, would the crowd simply end their silent pause with rolling eyes and turn back around to the task of muscling their way into the place where his dead body once was?

Crucifixion is the past event, and resurrection present and ongoing. It is truly the case, as we have sung once again on Easter morning: *Christ the Lord is Risen TODAY!* Our faith doesn't cause us to sing, *“Christ the*

Lord was risen back then.” No, theologically we believe in the “present risenness” of Jesus, and experientially our hearts tell us that Easter is not an old historic day, but one, unending day that began when the stone was rolled away, and God raised Jesus from death to life in time to greet the women who came prepared to preserve a dead body.

My father and I, we never made it into the tomb ourselves. I have some regrets about it. I wonder if I'll ever get back there again. Yet, there is a sense in which we didn't need to see for ourselves that the tomb is in fact empty. Christ resurrected, now ascended, Spirit-gifting, has promised to come back. How much I look forward with you to that day.

In the meantime, I wonder if the Risen Christ is found off in the corner, outside of the crowd, telling the world the astounding news in a still, small voice: *“Hey everyone! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He is not here!”*

May our beating hearts be full of joy. It's an empty tomb, and an open future.

Peter Hawkinson

The installation of Christy Bouris as Youth Pastor at Winnetka Covenant Church will take place on Sunday, April 14 during the morning worship service. Come celebrate her call to ministry with us.

Rotation Sunday School, April 7, 14, and 21



The Covenant:

The Early Church as the Body of Christ

Memory Verse: “There is one body, but it has many parts. Even though it has many parts, they make up one body. It is the same with Christ.” (1 Corinthians 12:12)

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Summary of the Workshops:

Food: Kids will make “dump cake” and then engage in some Bible study to compare the elements of the church to the ingredients just used.

Games: Kids will experience the inter-relatedness and value of each part of the Body of Christ through challenging and cooperative activities.

Puppetry: Kids will explore how the human body works as an analogy to Paul’s reference to the Body of Christ. Produce a puppet show to portray this scripture.

Coming soon: “Kingdom Parables,”

April 28, May 5, 12, and 19

Would you consider leading a workshop for 3 of those 4 dates? Here’s what’s coming up. If one of these looks interesting to you, contact Pastor Andrea for more information.

Faith Today: Kids will participate in some role-playing about inclusive/exclusive situations. Respond to the role-playing through a choice of art, journal writing or poetry.

Games: Kids will explore the story in scripture and play several games to express the different elements and ideas of the Parable.

Puppetry: Kids will enact a puppet show based on the book, The Next Place.

Where in the World Is?: Connect the Kingdom Parables to the efforts of Family Promise and Habitat for Humanity to create housing for everyone on earth and North Park Friendship Center to feed the hungry. Make Peace houses as a reminder that even in their own homes, they can create the Kingdom of God with a peaceful attitude.

Adult Christian Formation Options

The Story continues on Sunday mornings at 9:30 or Wednesday evenings at 6:45 in Room 203

The Story is scripture condensed into 31 accessible chapters. It allows the stories, poems, and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel. Each week we read a brief chapter, then gather to watch a brief video presentation and have a chance to reflect on our story and God’s story. Join us in room 203 on Sunday mornings at 9:30, or on Wednesday evenings, 6:45-7:45.

Sunday mornings, 9:30 in the Upper Room

“Exploring Covenant Affirmations”

The month of April

Kurt Peterson, teacher

If you are new to the Covenant, or have been part of it your whole life, this Sunday School Series is for you. Why does our denomination have “affirmations”? Why not a “doctrinal statement,” or a “confession,” or some other kinds of community agreement? Come and find out. We will discuss each of the 6 affirmations, uncover their biblical and theological underpinnings, and explore why they are significant for our common life together.



Music Notes



As I write this it is Maundy Thursday. The enormity of emotions of Holy Week are overwhelming. It really is impossible to grasp it all! Even knowing the outcome, the imagining - remembering - is awesome. We've had an enormous amount of music - and art - glorious art! - encompassing, yet expounding beyond the words.

When you read this, it will be Eastertide. Oh what hope, what joy! We're shattered. Shaken. Relieved. Rejoicing. And yet, wondering - what now?! Jesus says, "Peace, I give to you." We move forward as we must - but where and how?

Music and the arts are alive and well at Winnetka Covenant. But there are always new opportunities. I can tell you we've had 10 youngsters bounding into Music 4 Kids on Wednesdays with eager enthusiasm. Many had planned vacation which overlapped Palm Sunday, but they will ALL sing either Mother's Day (or best Sunday for all to participate), so there is plenty of time to join the fun. There are so many ways to sing the gospel story. (Music 4 Kids, Wednesdays at 5:00, for children from age 4 through third grade.)

Speaking of sharing the gospel with music, think for a few moments: HOW DOES MUSIC IMPACT YOUR LIFE? It seems everyone has their favorite kind(s) of music. Notice how it embeds your emotions and memory. Today, even just ads and ring tones totally saturate us with music. Movies and shows are entirely driven by musical score. We're all exposed - overly so. I very purposely concentrate on a rather narrow genre of "church music" - maintaining the focus on organ/piano based sounds with choral traditions, including unaccompanied and acoustic instruments. Even this is a VAST realm.

All this leads me to seek out; draw out those who might be called to participate. DO TEENS READ THIS? I know many of you have abundant musical gifts!! I know school keeps you ever so busy, but in what ways has music-infused-with-gospel settled in your heart? Has it? What sounds fill your mind in moments of stillness? Speak to me about your aspirations and dreams. E-mail me! Is there something I/we can do to serve your calling? As we continue on our corporate journey with Veritas and related stewardship goals, let's venture into the 'what might be' realm.

Peace ...
Dawn

Bullying: The 3 B's the Bully, the Bullied, the Bystander

**A community forum hosted by Winnetka Covenant Church,
sponsored by the Winnetka Interfaith Council**

Tuesday, April 23, 7:00 p.m.

Presenters:

Dr. Linda Yonke, Superintendent of the New Trier School District
Dr. Mark Smaller, adult/child psychoanalyst and internet/cyber expert

These experts will offer advice on strategies and prevention in schools as well as on the internet. A time for discussion will follow. This event is open to the community, including children and guests. Please consider joining us as we together discuss this growing problem.



Mission News

Summer Mission Trip 2013

Registration Information

Who: Anyone!

Senior High Students*, Individuals, Families and Friends
Be part of this intergenerational experience!

* Students attending without parents must be incoming high school freshmen or older.

When: July 13-19, 2013

Where: Covenant Mountain Mission Bible Camp (CMMBC)
Jonesville, VA

Cost: This is the exciting part... the cost is minimal! * Food during the week and supplies for work projects will be covered by registration deposits, money raised at the Rummage Sale and Mission Committee funds.

*Students will be responsible for the cost of food during travel as well as a minimal amount for extra activities. Families and individuals will be responsible for the same plus their own travel expenses. Carpooling and traveling together will be coordinated and the estimated driving time to CMMBC is 9 hours.

What: Work projects will be determined based on the number of participants and their specific skills. Possible projects may include light construction, landscaping, maintenance, cleaning, plumbing, electrical, and painting. There will also be an opportunity for relaxation and exploration of the local area. Places of interest include Cumberland Gap National Park, several state parks as well as a pool and bowling in nearby Pennington Gap.

Register Now!* (Deadline May 1)

To register, please submit the name of each participant, along with the age of anyone under 18. Also please include the following individual or family contact info:

Name, address, e-mail and phone. Registration forms are available in the church office or may be done online at www.winnetkacovenant.org.

Deposit: \$50 per person or \$150 per family of 4 or more will hold your place and help towards the cost of food and project supplies for the week. Please make checks payable to Winnetka Covenant Church and return the forms to the church office by May 1.

CMMBC Mission

CMMBC offers affordable summer camp opportunities for the young people of Lee County, VA and the surrounding area. They rely largely on volunteers to staff the camps and to improve and maintain their facilities. We have the opportunity to come alongside them and help carry out their mission which is:

**To worship God and enjoy Christian fellowship and discipleship in the midst of his beautiful creation.*

**To present the gospel of Jesus Christ to youth, adults and families through the outreach and community involvement of our camp.*

Questions? Please contact Jeff Johnson or Christy Bouris.

Covenant Harbor Volunteer Day

BELIEVE, LOVE & SERVE

Saturday, May 11th, 2013

Spend a day at Covenant Harbor, working with friends and family. Help the staff prepare camp for summer by raising the worship tent, starting construction of the summer set, gardening and many other projects that will bring camp to life. Your help is needed to make this day a success. Free overnight housing (limited) and childcare is available for kids up to 5 years old. Call Jane at 262-248-3600 for housing reservations. Please contact Jeff Johnson with additional questions or concerns.

Ongoing donation opportunities

(all drop-offs in the mission display area of the narthex):

Used glasses: If you have glasses you are no longer using, a missionary medical team can take them to an area of need. These glasses are taken to our mission fields and are used by local residents in various countries.

Non-perishable food: Food is always being collected and given to the North Park Friendship Center food pantry.

Cell phones: Cell phones you no longer use are donated and used to benefit at-risk women and help the environment in the process.

Youth News & Dates

Junior High

Junior High Youth Ministry:

Wednesday evenings, 6:00-7:45p.m.

April 3, 10, 24

All 6th-8th graders (and friends!) are welcome!

Merge: Mondays, April 8 & 22, 3:30-5:00 at church

Video Scavenger Hunt!: after church Sunday, April 7th.

A Just Harvest: April 18th. Meet at WCC at 4:15, return by 7:30 p.m. Signups on the bulletin board.

*Christy Bouris, Youth Pastor
Winnetka Covenant Church
847-446-4300*

Senior High

Senior High Youth Ministry:

Sundays, 7-9p.m.

April 7, 14 & 28 - regular meetings

April 21 - North Side Youth Collision, this month at Ravenswood Covenant. Meet at church at 5:30, pickup at 8:15.

High School Sunday School offering: book group

Coffee: Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 24, after school

Girls and Guys Night: Friday, April 5th till Saturday, April 6th.

A Just Harvest: April 18th. Meet at WCC at 4:15, return by 7:30 p.m. Signups on the bulletin board.

Rummage Sale: Saturday, April 20th - all hands on deck as we raise money for this summer's mission trip.

Local Missions

A Just Harvest

Did you know A Just Harvest turns 30 this year? In 1983, Good News Community Church and the First Congregational Church of Wilmette began serving meals two times per week. Over the years, more congregations became involved. By 1991, the Community Kitchen was serving meals 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Last year we served 54,339 meals and distributed 296,000 pounds of food.

Volunteer opportunities:

A Just Harvest is seeking five dedicated administrative volunteers who are willing to come in on a weekly basis from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to answer phones, file, do data entry, and manage office supplies. A Just Harvest is also seeking one dedicated volunteer to help staff the Community Kitchen on Fridays from 3-8 p.m. Call Mary Frohna at 773-262-2297 x24 for more information.

WCC Community Kitchen Preparation Days
Thursday, April 4 - 1:30 p.m.,
John Anderson, contact person
Thursday, March 21 - 1:30 p.m.,
Ted Garrison, contact person

A Just Harvest Community Kitchen 30th Anniversary Celebration Winnetka Covenant Church Brunch

“Trading Spaces”

As the Community Kitchen celebrates 30 years of work - and with much gratitude to Winnetka Covenant Church for its many years of dedicated service and partnership, all within our church are invited to enjoy a special brunch after church prepared and served at the Community Kitchen on May 5th, 2013. If you have participated in the Kitchen's work over the years ... or, if you have never been to the Kitchen ... or, if you know nothing about this work ... or, if you'd simply like to enjoy brunch with friends in a special place - please come!

All are welcome - there is no cost to attend. Car pooling from church is suggested and street parking is available.

Here are the details:

When: Sunday, May 5th, from 12:45 - 2:00 p.m.

Where: The Community Kitchen, 7649 N. Paulina St., Chicago [Rogers Park]

If you would like to join us you can sign up online, call the church office or e-mail Kelly Quackenbush. Please do so by April 26th so we can plan food.

Women's Ministries Notes

Following are ongoing groups for the women of the church. They all welcome new participants at any time.

Quilters, Knitters, etc. -

Meet on the **second Thursday of each month** for fellowship and service. Watch the weekly bulletins for details and location of the meeting.

Sharing Group -

We cordially invite all WCC women to join us on the **fourth Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon** for lunch and fellowship. We will meet on **April 25** at Baker's Square. You'll enjoy the fellowship! Call Marian Eckhardt with questions.

Stitch and Study -

Stitch and Study, combining Bible Study, conversation, and craft/needlework projects, is now meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at the home of Marilyn Nelson at 7 p.m. The **April meeting will be on the 16th**. We are using the texts for the coming Sunday as a resource for the study. New participants are always welcome to come for the study and conversation, with or without a project.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study -

The Tuesday morning Bible Study is studying the book of Genesis. The study begins at 9:30 a.m. but come at 9:15 for coffee and conversation. Meetings are in the Trailblazer Room and books are available in the church office. Joann Larson leads this study.

Thursday Afternoon Bible Study -

Please join us for our study, "Discovering the Voice of God: How to Recognize When God Speaks", by Priscilla Shirer. Through April 25th, at 1:00, we meet in the church Library for prayer, discussion of light homework & to view the 30-minute DVD teaching.

When you hear that "still small voice", are you certain it's the Holy Spirit? In this updated guide featuring personal insights from Philip Yancy, Max Lucado, Kay Arthur & other trusted preachers, Priscilla Shirer guides you through the Scripture to heighten your spiritual senses so you can distinguish the voice of God

Member books are approximately \$10.95 plus tax/shipping. Any questions, contact Claire Macfarland. All are welcome!

Bridal Shower:

Thursday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. All women of the church, along with hi-leaguers past and present (male and female) are invited to a shower for **Eva Larson and Brent Strobel** as we offer thanks and gratitude for their commitment during the last four years as high-league counselors. They have provided unwavering continuity supporting our youth during the staff changes of the last two years!

Join us to help them celebrate their upcoming wedding. If there are any who would wish to help host, please contact Colette Quackenbush.

Men's Ministry News

Opportunities for service and fellowship occur throughout the year.

Men's Fellowship -

The group usually meets on the first three Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m. The men's fellowship is primarily a discussion group and has been a rewarding way for men to probe and share their spiritual lives. Questions should be addressed to Richard Spears.

Men's Singing Ensemble -

The group will be part of worship services occasionally, as needed. Tenors, basses and baritones of **all ages** are welcome. Communication is by e-mail. Please e-mail Gary Stenstrom for information.

Men's Work Crew Call

Painters, carpenters, and service project workers will be recruited as the needs arise. Answering the call for participation is purely voluntary and always for a good cause.

Mailbox

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the care and concern you extended to us during Dorothy's recent hospitalization. The visits by our pastors were greatly appreciated. For your calls, cards, and prayers we are truly grateful and we are grateful to be a part of Winnetka Covenant Church.

Love, Dorothy & Ed Train

Dear Friends,

I, together with my children and grandchildren, can hardly even begin to express the gratitude we feel to pastors and congregation of Winnetka Covenant for hosting the memorial service for Marilyn on February 9th. It was most generous of you, and those who served, to provide the luncheon following the service.

What you have done for us is a great comfort and support in a time heavy with our grief and loss. May God bless you all.

Lowell Drotts

In January, after an illness, Paul spent a month in the hospital and in Brandel. Mary had hand surgery during that time and also was found to have breast cancer. After successful surgery she now will begin a 12-week chemotherapy regime.

Many thanks for visits from our pastors, as well as friends. The meals provided were a great help to us. Most of all, we thank you for your prayers. God continues to answer our needs.

Mary & Paul Nilsen

Family News

Congratulations and best wishes to:

- Dave & Ruth Johnson on becoming grandparents. Ezekiel (Zeke) David Wilson was born on February 27, 2013 to Aaron & Janine Wilson, weighing 7 lb., 15 oz and 21 inches long.

In May we would like to recognize all of our college graduates. Parents of graduates, please let the church office know their information - what school they are graduating from, their degree, and what their plans are for the future if known.

Rummage Sale Coming Soon

Saturday, April 20 - 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Proceeds from the Rummage Sale this year will benefit the all-church mission trip to Covenant Mountain Mission Bible Camp in Jonesville, Virginia. Every year the rummage sale is a wonderful endeavor, bringing together many of our congregation members to help in many different ways. As always, it will be a win-win-win experience. The first 'win' is the money raised to help fund the mission trip. The second 'win' is for the many people who are able to donate unused clothing and household goods, helping them to clear out their houses. The third 'win' is for the people who are able to shop the sale, many of whom depend on finding low-cost clothing and goods to be able to stretch their income.

We will start collecting items on the stage on April 8 and the set-up work will begin in earnest on Monday, April 15. During that week anybody can come to church at any time and there will be work to be done. In between now and then, please go through your houses and decide what you can give away. Please also spread the word to your friends and family that we are looking for donations of clothing, furniture, and household items of all types. (We will not be able to accept mattresses for sale.) As we get closer to the week we will announce a pickup schedule for those who will need help transporting larger items to church.

There are signups in the Narthex for you to indicate your availability to help, both during the setup and on the day of the sale.

Opportunities and things to note:

- Quarterly Business meeting on Sunday, April 28, following church. Plan to join your fellow congregation members as we conduct the business of the church.
- We are welcoming our Family Promise guests this evening (March 31) and each evening and overnight until next Sunday morning. There will be a total of eight guests joining us and many volunteers helping with this important ministry. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.
- WCC participates in the every-member subscription plan for the Covenant Companion, our denomination's monthly magazine. If you are able to reimburse the church for the cost of your subscription (\$18) it is greatly appreciated.

Winnetka Covenant Church Network

1200 Hibbard Road
Wilmette, Illinois, 60091

847-446-4300

www.winnetkacovenant.org

Our Mission

To be a Christian community and to proclaim
the gospel, Worshiping together in love,
Nurturing people in faith,
serving others as Christian disciples,
And building a world of justice and hope
in the name of Christ.

Guidelines for Loving Relationships

We hold grace as our highest value.
We practice honest, open, direct communication.
We speak the truth in love and listen in love.
We believe the best about each other, valuing
others above ourselves, as Christ does.
We allow room for mistakes, acknowledging that
mistakes are part of the growth process.

The Marriage Course is coming! Join us!

A fun and informative way to grow in your relationship!

Hosted by Winnetka Covenant Church as a complimentary service to the community....Seven nights set in a fantastic atmosphere...Candlelight dinner at a table for two...Listening to practical talks that are informative and fun, played on DVD and facilitated by a couple...Time for just the two of you...Free childcare. Will you join us?

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! All couples are invited. You don't have to be a Christian or a member of Winnetka Covenant. Any married or cohabiting couple is invited. Whether your relationship is strong or struggling, we welcome you with no preconceived notions – period! We're folks just like you, wanting a better life together.

WHAT IT TAKES: An openness to grow in your relationship. Seven nights that will require two-and-a-half hours – dinner included! You have time to eat, talk and reflect. Thousands of couples around the world have already participated. Seven sessions will include:

Building Strong Foundations, The Art of Communication, Resolving Conflict, The Power of Forgiveness, The Impact of Family - Past & Present, Good Sex, and Love in Action

When: Fridays, 6:30-9:00 p.m., April 5 - May 17

Where: Winnetka Covenant Church, 1200 Hibbard Rd., Wilmette IL

Cost: \$50.00 per couple for the entire course: Includes dinner, child care, and materials.

How do we register? Go to www.winnetkacovenant.org.