



**Winnetka Covenant Church**  
1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

# The Network

April, 2018

April 1

## Easter Sunday

April 28

## Rummage Sale

May 6

## Confirmation Sunday

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## Connected to Life

*I am the vine, you are the branches.  
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,  
Because apart from me you can do nothing.  
(John 15)*

Things are beginning to come to life again. It's interesting that weeds seem to come first. They are hearty! Creation's miracle of spring reminds us again that even through bitter winter and under the frozen ground, life remains, waiting for just the right time to spring up out of the ground, reaching for the blessed warmth of the Sun, alive again. What we see is only part of the story. Life comes from what's underneath, down in the soil. Connection to the root is what matters. Without it, there is no beauty, no fruit, no life.

And so this word from Jesus to his disciples is worth contemplating; it comes naturally in the springtime of life. There is both here an invitation to life and a warning about death. Abiding is a possibility, and from it a new season of life, but death is also a possibility if the roots of our lives somehow get cut off from our source. Wild life ensues ... which way will things go?

Well, I'm struck by how much depends on my choices and decisions. Maybe rhythm is more like it. Just like the flowers power through the hard ground to breath in the sun and open up to the spring rains, there are obstacles aplenty for me and for you. The obstacles (time, space, energy, priorities) don't leave, they don't go away! No! Somehow it's up to me, to us, to figure out how to abide with Christ in the stressed, chaotic, and often dark and stifling days of life we have.

Abiding is about going, but it's more about returning again and again, about staying with Jesus – lingering, living with the One who is life for us. And the only way this happens is by habit, and with intention.

Are you connected to Christ, your life-line?

What needs to go for you to find time and space to abide with Jesus?

How might this be a growing season ahead for you?

*Peter Hawkinson*

# Christian Formation at WCC

## Sunday School for all ages from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

- Infant & toddler nursery care will be provided in the nursery (first floor)
- Sunday School for 2's & 3's is in the preschool room 101 (first floor)
- Sunday School for 4's & 5's is in room 104 (first floor, next to the elevator)
- Rotation Sunday School for grades 1-5 grade in various locations (see details below)
- Junior High Sunday School in the youth room (second floor)
- Senior High Sunday School in the youth pastor's office (first floor)
- Adult Sunday School in the Upper Room (details below)

## Children's Ministry

### Rotation Sunday School

In Rotation Sunday School, children in 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades focus on the same theme or Bible story over the course of three or four weeks, in a different workshop each week. They explore the story through art, drama, cooking, games, video, and other workshops that help them engage with the story in different ways. Each class has an adult "Shepherd" who accompanies them through the year and builds relationships with the children. Schedules are posted around the church building so that you can easily know which room your child's workshop is in on any given Sunday.

### April Rotation Unit – Images of Jesus in the Arts

**April 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>**

The Resurrection sets the stage for an image of Jesus to appear in forms that can be recognized. As wonderful as the accounts are of Jesus' personality and actions, there is nothing in the Bible that gives any indication of Jesus physical appearance. Because of this lack of physical description, artists in each culture have created images of Jesus reflecting their own culture. Over the centuries artisans have been inspired to create pictures of Jesus and of biblical stories in the mediums of their time. This month kids will explore images of Jesus seen in stained glass, music, and mosaics.

#### Workshops include:

**Garden of Eatin':** John 1:1-5 – Study the imagery in stained glass windows and then create an edible version.

**Faith Today:** John 20:24-29 – Explore Christian music and hymns as a vehicle that keeps the image of Jesus fresh in our minds.

**Art:** 1 Corinthians 12:12, 14 – Learn about images of Jesus in mosaics and create a mosaic of a Christian Masterpiece and your own work.

## Adult Sunday School

**The broad theme for this year is Reconciliation, based on 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.** In those verses we are drawn to the biblical mandate and invitation to be reconciled to God, others, creation, and ourselves. We are exploring this theme in relation to contemporary issues and subjects, including biblical exploration, in ways that will help us more fully live into the ministry of reconciliation that we have been given. **In April** we'll be entering our final component of our Reconciliation series, "Reconciling with Creation."

**April 1st:** Easter Sunday – no Sunday School

**April 8<sup>th</sup>:** Led by Pastor Meg, we'll open us our discussion on the topic by asking "Why should Christians be interested in Creation Care?"

**April 15<sup>th</sup>:** Join us for a conversation with Kaleb Nyquist, a board member of YECA, Young Evangelicals for Climate Action, as we talk about Climate Change.

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Led by Pastor Meg, we'll focus on Resource Stewardship and Sustainable Practices.

**April 29<sup>th</sup>:** Join us for a discussion on Invasive Species and Our Local Environment, led by Brian Winters, of the Cook County Forest Preserve,

**Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>:** Partner with Cook County Forest Preserve for a Creation Care Workday. More details to come.

# Wednesday Night Activities

Food, fellowship and formation for all ages

5:30-6:30 – Supper in the gym

6:30-7:00 – Wednesday Worship in the Upper Room

(singing, skits, “take-a-peek,” story and discussion for all ages. A unique intergenerational worship and sharing time)

## For Kids!

5:45-6:15: Music4Kids (eat dinner first)  
6:15-6:30: Kids Gather (in the Upper Room)  
6:30-7:00: Wednesday Worship  
7:00-7:40: Crafts and Games: divide into two groups (4 years-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, grades 3-5) and spend 20 minutes each in the gym and in the art room.

## For Youth!

### (Jr. and Sr. High)

Come eat dinner with your friends, join Wednesday Worship, then hangout/do homework in the youth office.

## For Adults!

6:15-7:00: Bell Choir Practice  
6:30-7:00: Wednesday Worship  
7:00: Options for adults:  
Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room  
Parent Fellowship, Upper Room  
Bible Study/Book Group, Prayer Room

## Youth News

### Junior High Lock-In: April 13th, 7p.m. - April 14th 9a.m

What a time to be alive! We have the whole church to ourselves and plenty of fun activities planned. Things you should bring:

#1 **Friends** (This is a great event to bring people who have never been to Winnetka before!)

#2 **Sleeping Supplies** (Whatever you need to be comfortable...potentially on the floor!)

#3 **Not Your Cell Phone** (we are going technology free tonight, so we can have a ton of fun together!)

We will eat snacks throughout the night & a light breakfast at 8a.m. We are asking that students be picked up at church by 9a.m. Get excited!!!

### Confirmands Presentation of Final Project & Reception with Refreshments: May 5th 3-4:30PM

The whole church is invited and encouraged to come celebrate the Confirmation journey with our four 8th graders: Payton Geake, Maddie Heintzelman, Brad Johnson & Owen McClellan.

They will present their final projects in the Upper Room followed by a reception with refreshments. Please join for this wonderful time!

## Documentary Event, Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

**Pastors Meg and Joel will be hosting a screening of the documentary “13th,” directed by Ava DuVernay.**

This film discusses the relationship between race, class, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States.

We’ll meet in the Youth Room from 2 – 4:30 p.m.

Snacks and good conversation will be provided.

This event is for high schoolers, young adults, and older adults, as the content of this documentary is intense.

If you have questions about the video or wonder if it might be acceptable for your children,

Common Sense Media is a good resource, and they’ve done a full movie review.

RSVP on Facebook or to Pastors Meg and Joel.

## Wednesday Night Need

We need four volunteers to help with kitchen cleanup after dinner on Wednesday nights. The aim is to get a committed group for the coming new church year, but help for the remaining seven weeks this season would be greatly appreciated. It’s easy and training will be provided to achieve the following:

- Packing up food after dinner, storing leftovers or selling them, wiping down counters in the kitchen, washing dishes and putting things away where they belong (just like at home)
- Cleanup begins roughly around 6:00 p.m. and takes about an hour
- Serving on this crew will relieve the cooks following a long afternoon in the kitchen. Some cooks may even want to attend other Wednesday activities.

If you have questions or think you may be able to help, please e-mail Kittie Steiner.

# Trustee Notes

The Winnetka Covenant Church financial summary through February 2018:

February YTD Comparisons to Prior Year and Budget:

	2018 Actual	2017 Actual	%	2018 Budget	%
General Fund Total Receipts	\$149,373	\$163,254	91%	\$154,900	96%
Expenses	\$ 151,928	\$152,929	99%	\$153,477	99%
Net Operating Income / (Loss)	\$(2,555)	(\$10,325)			

	<u>YTD 02/2018</u>	<u>YTD 02/2017</u>
<u>Cash</u>		
General Fund	\$3,240	\$(57,301)
Exchange Accounts	62,118	82,585
Memorial/Bequest Funds*	<u>(2,307)</u>	<u>44,877</u>
	\$63,051	\$77,161
<u>Investments*</u>		
Memorial/Bequest Funds	\$188,194	\$85,772
Johnson/Gustafson Memorials	44,909	45,723
General Fund	<u>50,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	\$283,103	\$131,494

- **DID YOU KNOW?** That between church activities, AA, special events, the NSSD school, and more, that something is going on in this church EVERY DAY during the week? All that activity and we have Luke Knotts as the one person on staff to keep things ready and looking good for each group on site? YOU CAN HELP take care of YOUR church home by making sure to leave each space you use straightened up and ready for the next group. Pick up trash, wash the dishes, whatever it takes to keep our church looking good, and don't forget to turn off lights. Please contact Luke for more ways that you can help!

The WCC Board of Trustees financial reports and meeting minutes can be provided by the church office. Please contact Tom Sharp, WCC Treasurer or Kelly Quackenbush, Financial Secretary with any questions.

## Rummage Sale – April 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Rummage Sale 2018 is fast approaching!** This is an all-church effort, and always a win-win-win-win situation:

- A win for the church, providing funds which this year will be divided between our church mission support of the Kingdom Covenant Church plant and our youth attending CHIC.
- A win for the community, providing good merchandise at reasonable prices, helping those who need to watch their budgets (and for those who just love finding a bargain).
- A win for the church fellowship, providing opportunities for us to work side by side with our fellow church members, creating community as we work together. **To this end, we will welcome volunteers at any time of the day or evening hours during the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> to help fold, sort, and price as we prepare for the sale. We also will need workers for the day of the sale, both during the sale and for the cleanup afterward.**
- A win for our homes, providing each of us with an opportunity to go through and weed out our stuff, clearing unwanted items from our homes and knowing that we are supporting a good cause. **To this end, you may begin bringing your items to church on April 16<sup>th</sup> (please leave things on the stage in the fellowship hall). If you have larger items that will need to be picked up, please call the office to schedule a pickup time for Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> or Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.**

# Mission Opportunities

## LOCAL -

**A Just Harvest** – April 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m., cooking in our kitchen. New participants are always welcome to join the cooking crew. On the 19<sup>th</sup> we are also asked to send a crew to go to the Kitchen to serve the food. They depart from church at about 4:30 and return at about 7:00. Contact Mary Beth Kovacic to volunteer or with questions.

**Greater Chicago Food Depository** – April 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:30 – 11:15 a.m. Please help with this meaningful and rewarding ministry of repacking donated food and then join us for lunch! Everyone 14 and older is welcome. Please contact Rachel Rescorl or Debbie O'Donovan to register, arrange carpools, or ask questions. Next month's date is May 19<sup>th</sup>.

## NATIONAL –

### Mission Trip –

#### **Intergenerational Mission Trip to Covenant Mountain Mission Bible Camp (CMMBC), June 2018.**

- Winnetka Covenant will be providing 18-20 adults (high school age and up) to staff the Pathfinder Day Camp for grades K-5 at CMMBC, June 16 - June 23.
- **There is room for you to join us!** Teachers, craft and music leaders, kitchen staff, helpers, and a camp nurse are needed.
- Families are welcome to come and bring their K-5 children to be campers while the parents serve as staff.
- You can read about the camp here: <https://cmmbc.org/>
- Watch for more information and planning sessions soon.

To sign up or to ask questions contact Meg Dowling, Cindy Buettgen, or the Church Office.

## INTERNATIONAL –

### Mission Trip -

#### **Jitokeze/Kenya Trip**

Join us for a WCC **Vision Trip** to West Pokot, Kenya!

Date: October 11-22, 2018. Cost: Approx. \$3,000 per person

Pini Kidulah and Jitokeze Wamama Wafrika have extended an invitation to Winnetka Covenant Church to bring a group to West Pokot, Kenya. Our hope is to build relationships between our church and JWW, for Kenyans and Americans to grow in understanding another culture and to share skills and knowledge. Below is a list of skillsets Jitokeze has requested\* to teach other teachers:

- Sewing
- Computers
- English (ELL)
- Online business/marketing
- Videographer
- Photographer

*\*If you do not identify your skillsets on the list above, please still consider joining us as a learner and JWW advocate.*

Registration and deposit of \$500.00 due by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Please make checks payable to Winnetka Covenant Church, memo: Jitokeze/Kenya Trip. There are 9 spaces available, first come first served. To register or inquire further, please email Christine Moolo: [christine.moolo@covchurch.org](mailto:christine.moolo@covchurch.org)

# Women's Ministries

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

**Moms Together** – The Moms' monthly Friday morning group is taking the winter off and will have a special planning session to shape the future of this group. Watch the Network and bulletins for further information about this exciting new venture.

**The Next Chapter** - The April activity will include time spent working together to support the rummage sale. Please be sure that Kitti Steiner has your e-mail address if you would like to participate with the group. Wonderful conversation and camaraderie happen while sorting and pricing rummage!

**Quilters, Knitters, etc.** – Meet on the second Thursday of each month for fellowship and service. Watch the weekly bulletins for 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 26<sup>th</sup>** at Baker's Square. You'll enjoy the fellowship! Call Marian Eckhardt with questions.

**Stitch and Study** - Stitch and Study, combining prayer, conversation, and craft/needlework projects, meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the home of Marilyn Nelson. New participants are always welcome to come with or without a project. In **April we will meet on the 17<sup>th</sup>**.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** – We have completed our study in the book of James and with it our 2017-18 session. Our time together has encouraged us to mature in our faith as our friendships have deepened. Consider joining us this fall when our weekly study will be Psalms: Prayers of the Heart.

## Upcoming opportunities for women -

On **Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** there will be a wedding shower for **Kari Peterson and Dan Giacalone**. We look forward to celebrating with Kari and Dan as they anticipate their wedding. All women are invited. If you would like to be part of a group gift, please leave your donation in the church office or with Jeanne Couleur. Kari is the daughter of Lance and LoAnn Peterson.

Looking ahead, there is a shower planned for Liesel Magnusson, daughter of Mike and Robin Magnusson, on May 19<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help as a hostess, please let the church office know.

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**Wednesday, April 4, 6:45-8 p.m. OR Thursday, April 5, 1-2:15 p.m.**

**Book Discussion: *An Extra Mile* by Sharon Garlough Brown.** Join Judi Geake in the church library for a discussion of the last book in the *Sensible Shoes* series and say goodbye to the women whose spiritual journeys we have been following. If you did not pick up your book, or if you would like an additional copy to give as a gift, there are four books remaining in the church office.

# Men's Ministries

Join other men of the church on the first three Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m. for men's fellowship. This is a time of fellowship and discussion.

## Memor Group

**Monthly Memoir Group; Tuesday, April 10, 1:00pm**

Join this lively group in the church library to exchange memories of Easter Mornings. Did you attend sunrise services growing up? Were there special traditions around your family Easter celebrations? Were Easter baskets part of that tradition? Did you have to hunt for them? As always, you may write about anything April brings to mind. Showers? Flowers? Gardens? The final snow of Spring? Women AND men are part of this group. If you haven't attended but think you may be interested, you are welcome to come and observe for your first time. Contact Judi Geake or JoAnn Larson with questions.

# Mailbox

Dear Winnetka Church Family,

*The last few months have been challenging, with my car accident and then cancer diagnosis. Thank you for always staying by our side with your cards and encouragement. God is so good! You are Christ's hands and feet!*

*Thank you,  
Laurel Thomas*

*We would like to express our sincerest gratitude for all the generous time, energy, and gifts that were shared with us this past month. It is such a blessing to be reminded of all the support from the Winnetka community. We look forward to our wedding this May and will think fondly on all the warmth we received from you all. We are hoping for any opportunity to thank you in person while in Chicago or in the future as we make our new home in Portland, OR.*

*With love,  
Tyler Nelson and Siobhan Larsen*

*To the Winnetka Covenant Church Family,*

*I have been sustained these past few weeks by the prayers and well-wishes of my Winnetka Covenant Church family. I am so thankful for your faithfulness, love, and support for me during my unexpected health crisis. Throughout these days, I have had a keen sense of God's hand on my life and am thankful for His grace to me in allowing me to recover my health. I am reminded from Psalm 90:12 as I reflect on my experience "Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom." The measure of a life is very short in God's economy of time. I need to use what days I have been given wisely.*

*Pastor Pete has been a gift to me during this ordeal. His many visits, encouragement and prayers have brought comfort and hope. Many thanks to all for your incredible love and partnership in prayer.*

*Gratefully,  
Carl Balsam*

*To our dearest church family,*

*Words cannot fully describe our utmost gratitude for all the love and prayers through this past month. We are blessed to be a part of such a wonderfully supportive church. Your calls, cards, messages, and prayers have been Aidan's best medication. We are truly grateful for each one of you.*

*With all our love,  
Nadia & Aidan Jimenez*

# Family News

Congratulations to **Ryan and Jess Isaacson**, who were married on March 10, at the Carnegie Building in Lawrence, Kansas. After a honeymoon in New Orleans, they will continue to live in Lawrence. Ryan is the son of Gary and Karen Isaacson. At the wedding, he had family from Oklahoma, Idaho, Chicago, and Virginia and Jess had family from Missouri and Connecticut in attendance.

## **Opportunities at Moody Bible Institute:**

**MTS Mental Health Fair – Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Your mental health and well-being is critical in your advancement and fulfillment in life, which is why the Moody Theological Seminary is hosting this mental health fair, free and open to the public. For information, go to [moody.org/Chicago](http://moody.org/Chicago).

**NEXT Children's Ministry Conference – Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Moody Bible Institute.** The NEXT Children's Ministry Conference is an annual event hosted by Moody's Children's Ministry majors. Its goal is to help equip and encourage people involved with ministry to children. This year's theme is "Cultivate: Growing Seeds of Faith in Children and Families." For information, go to [NextConference.info](http://NextConference.info).

## 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.

### **We Welcome You to Winnetka Covenant Church**

We are a community of diverse history, ethnicity, viewpoints,  
gender identity and sexual orientation, status, ability, and  
challenges. We invite you to join us wherever you are on your  
spiritual journey and to participate with us in the life of the church.

## Upcoming Opportunities

### **Vacation Bible School:**

VBS has been scheduled for **June 25-28, 4:15-6 p.m.** As in the past few years, it will be a combined VBS with several Wilmette churches. This year it will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Wilmette. More information will come in the next few months.

### **CPBC Triathlon Fundraiser: August 5, 2018**

Looking way ahead (and giving you time to train).

Come join our ministry and race for a cause! The CPBC Triathlon is an exciting opportunity to raise funds for the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Family Camp. Go to the Covenant Point website ([cpbc.com](http://cpbc.com)) for more information and to register.

### **Hands of Peace:**

Hands of Peace (HOP) is a unique interfaith program developing peace-building and leadership skills in American, Palestinian and Israeli teens through the power of dialogue and personal relationships. This Glenview-based non-for-profit was created in 2002 and now serves 46 teens (ages 15 – 17) every summer. We carefully select a group of Israeli and Palestinian teens, as well as a group of local American teens from many different faith backgrounds, to take part in this transformative experience. We are looking for families who can host one or two teens during the 2018 summer program (July 11 to July 30). It is a very rewarding experience whether you have teens at home or are empty-nesters. The HOP program creates a cohesive and dedicated group of youth committed to each other and to peace in the Middle East. Please visit the HOP website ([www.handsofpeace.org](http://www.handsofpeace.org)) for more information and an Application Form, or contact me (Kim Sterling) at [ksterki@gmail.com](mailto:ksterki@gmail.com).