



The Network

Winnetka Covenant Church

1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

March, 2013

Stations of the Cross

March 1, 8, 15, 22

Palm Sunday March 24

Seven Last Words of Christ March 29

Easter Sunday March 31

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Love, Longing, and Hope

"I suppose you have been homesick and lonesome today. It is good to know that we will not always be separated, isn't it?"

These words were written by my grandmother Lydia to my grandfather Eric just after their engagement in December of 1920. It had happened at Christmas, at home in California, but now Eric was on a train headed for Chicago to begin his training at North Park Seminary. So now there was both this promised future to share, and this present distance and separation. The promise makes the present so much more painful. Longing, deep longing is the fruit of love. Hope holds onto the separation and distance for dear life.

To live with a longing like toward a promised future with God is unavoidable for those who love, and have been loved by Christ. Saint Paul expresses this longing well: He writes to his friends about "seeing dimly" while also holding onto hope that one day "we shall see in full", completely. Life with God will one day be fully experienced: it will be strained clear of that difficult concoction of time and space. The promise, the hope, is that there will be nothing to get in the way of being with God, and that this marriage will never end. Again, Paul says it well, when he rejoices that nothing in life or in death will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. This is engagement language, in all its stunning pain and beauty. We, the sought, God the seeker. The beautiful words of the ancient prophet Isaiah were

written to the people exiled, scattered, held captive, far away from home:

For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. (62:5)

The promise is so beautiful! And the distance, because of the love, so painful. Do you ever feel homesick for God? Lonesome? Because of this love you have received and know in Jesus, what would it mean for you to say to the Lord, "*It is good to know that we will not always be separated.*" And the holy surprise might be hearing the whisper of God saying it to you.

A few days later Eric, now in Chicago, writes back: "*I'm so lonesome tonight that I must write to you and try to chase it away.*"

This Lent, nurture the longing that comes from the love you have for God. It will help you to hope in these days and years of distance and separation, as we who bear first fruits of the Spirit along with all creation "*groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.*" (Romans 8:23)

Love, and its companions, longing and hope!

Peter Hawkinson

VERITAS: A LATIN WORD MEANING "TRUTH"

Join this conversation in which we will seek the truth - with the Holy Spirit's leading - about where WCC is in our mission and what our vision is for the future.

Friday, March 8, 7-9 p.m. and Saturday, March 9, 8:30-Noon

Rotation Sunday School, March 10, 17 and 24



Crucifixion and Resurrection

Memory Verse: “Do this in remembrance of me.”
1 Corinthians 11:24

The Workshops:

Kingdom Characters: Kids will hear Andrew’s story and then create pysanky-style eggs as a reminder of the sacrifice of Jesus and the further ministry of Andrew.

Food: Kids will make Empty Tomb Buns to reinforce the Easter story and communicate the message of the New Covenant.

Faith Today: Kids will discover the history behind a variety of crosses. Each member will design and make a cross that expresses a personal understanding of the covenant.

Parents, encourage your kids to continue bringing their offering each week. They are continuing to give well to the North Park Friendship Center food bank!

Adult Christian Formation Options

Sunday mornings, 9:30 in the Upper Room

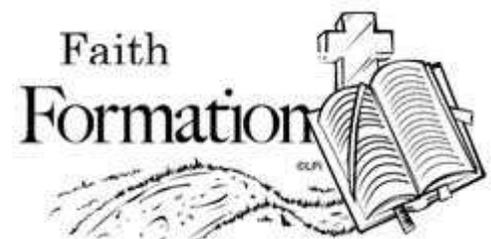
“Exploring Covenant Affirmations”

March 10, 17, 24 and 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.

**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.



Lent and Easter Week at Winnetka Covenant Church

Each Friday evening through Lent - 6-8 p.m.

Stations of the Cross (Art, Written Meditations, and Music)

March 24 - Palm Sunday

March 28 - *Maundy Thursday Worship Service*, 7:00 p.m.

March 29 - Good Friday

Seven Last Words of Christ, by Theodore DuBois, 7:00 p.m.

March 31 - Easter Sunday

Pancake Breakfast, 8:30

Worship Service, 10:45, with prelude music starting at 10:30

Stations of the Cross

March 1

Art Nelson, baritone; Janet Eckhardt, piano;

Dawn Pegis, soprano

March 8

Royce Eckhardt, organ/piano;

John Eckhardt, violin

March 15

Handbell choir, directed by Linda Johnson

March 22

Edens Brass Trio, directed by Mary Gingrich

Music Notes



*Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.
Verily, thou shalt be in paradise today with me.
See, O woman, here behold thy son beloved.
Father, why hast thou forsaken me?
I am athirst.
Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.
It is finished!*

These are the ‘seven last words’ Jesus spoke.

Throughout Christian history singing traditions have developed to tell this gospel story - especially the passion of Jesus. In 1867 Theodore duBois composed a cantata of extraordinary drama to match the incredible poignancy of these words. Written for chorus, soloists and full orchestra it was almost as well-known at *Messiah* just decades ago. However, due to the large scale of the orchestral writing, it was rarely presented with orchestra. Even now, only one recording is currently available [by Exultate, a St. Paul, MN chorale, performed in March 2005].

Responding to numerous requests to reprise this wonderful work, I, of course, wanted to utilize our amazing member-orchestral musicians. As the score demands, we’ll be including 25 incredible players, including Joshua and Brittany Smith, Nancy Magill, Dan, Mary, and Dawn Gingrich, Jon Pegis, as well as many of their CSO and area orchestral colleagues to play for our **Good Friday presentation March 29 from 7:00-7:50 p.m.**

DuBois’ *Seven Last Words of Christ* opens with a haunting timpani and oboe solo. The soprano (Gina Hilse of Bella Voce) first beckons, then narrates, then identifies with the inestimable grief of Jesus’ mother. The tenor and baritone solos alternately expound Christ’s words; and further exchange narrations of the unfolding of our Savior’s passion with beautifully soaring melody. Pastor Art and Dominic’s voices will bring an awesome intensity to these roles. The choir becomes the angry crowd; then the pardoned thief, then the accusing thief; and finally - the adoring worshiper.

Sam Salker, tenor, will recount for us the stunning moments after Jesus utters his final word - *It is finished*:

*and it was about the sixth hour ... and the sun was darkened
until about the ninth hour ...
and the veil of the temple was rent; and all the earth did quake;
and the rocks were rent;
and all the gates were opened wide.*

Whereupon the orchestra embarks on a tumultuous interlude portraying the cataclysmic eruption of the earth that occurred in the fullness-of-time-moment following our Lord’s ultimate sacrificial obedience. This musical setting made such a deep impression on my young soul when I first heard my Dad sing this solo and experienced the musically heightened effect when I was just 8 and again at age 12. Like the epic movie portrayals of biblical drama, duBois’ *Seven Last Words of Christ* captures the omnipotent work of God in time and history. It’s the storied truth we need to face our daily storms of life.

Come. Be witness. Marvel.

Not performed at Winnetka Covenant in many years, you will not want to miss this RARE event.
Spread the word in the next 4 weeks!!

Technology Fast (there’s not an app for that)

an invitation to a conversation and a practice - attending to God by powering down

The high schoolers of Winnetka Covenant Church invite the congregation to join us in our Lenten practice – a technology fast. Though there will be similarities, this will look unique for each of us. Consider joining on this Lenten journey in attending to God by considering how you use technology, and have a conversation with your household/friend(s)/parent/child/children/pastor about what this could look like. You are invited to practice this with others, whether that is with a family in your home, a roommate, or a friend.

Keep your eyes open in your email for resources for Lenten practices – specifically related to paying attention to how and when we are using technology. We are trying to pay attention to our use of technology (and when it might get in the way of paying attention to God and each other). Hope you will join us! Contact a high schooler or Pastor Christy with any questions.

Mission News

Summer Mission Trip 2013

Who:

Anyone! Senior High Students, Individuals, Families and Friends

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 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.



Why CMMBC and Appalachia?

There has been a history of support to this area by Winnetka Covenant through several mission trips to the camp in the early 1990's and trips through Appalachian Service Project in the 1980's.

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.*

Interested?

An informational meeting will be held after church on **Sunday, February 24th** for anyone interested in finding out more. If you have questions, please contact Jed Bassett, Linnea Johnson, Jeff Johnson or Pastor Christy Bouris.

More Mission News

Prayer for Missionaries

Our Covenant Missionaries serving throughout the world need your prayers every day! To know who to pray for, consult a copy of the **Covenant Missionary Prayer Calendar**, which is available in the narthex. The calendar also lists e-mail addresses. It means a lot to a missionary to get a note of encouragement from back home!

Prayer Days for the Covenant Missionaries that we support are March 6 (Christine Buettgen, Democratic Republic of Congo), March 18 (Don & Lillian Dwight, Taiwan), and March 27 (Julio & Katie Isaza, Colombia). For more information on Evangelical Covenant Church Missions, visit www.covchurch.org. Go to **What We Do >Serve Globally>International Missions**.

Christine Buettgen was raised at Winnetka Covenant and is an active member. For more information about Christine's mission experience, visit her blog at christinemerle.blogspot.com. Her e-mail address is christine.buettgen@covchurch.org.

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.

March 6, 13, 20

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

Merge: Monday, March 18, 3:30-5:00 at church

Veritas: March 8 & 9. Join the church family Friday evening & Saturday morning.

*Christy Bouris, Youth Pastor
Winnetka Covenant Church
christy.bouris@gmail.com
847-446-4300*

Parent Gathering (for all jr. and sr. high parents)
Monday night, March 18, 7-8:15 in the Prayer Room

Senior High

Senior High League Ministry:

Sundays, 7-9p.m.

March 3, 10, 24 - regular meetings

March 17 - North Side Youth Collision, this month at JPUSA. (details to come)

High School Sunday School offering: book group

Coffee: Wednesdays, March 6, 13, 20 after school

Veritas: March 8 & 9. Join the church family Friday evening & Saturday morning.

Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.

A Just Harvest

2013 marks A Just Harvest's 30th year feeding hungry people. Demand for our emergency food service has risen steadily over the years and spiked during the Great Recession. Feeding people is a cornerstone of our mission, but we're also committed to working for a day when "all have plenty and no one is left in need". Changes in our economy over the last 30 years have deepened income inequality and pushed more people into poverty. We believe that organizing people to ensure that our elected officials implement public policies that serve the common good and promote economic justice is an important strategy for reversing this trend.

Northside P.O.W.E.R. - A Just Harvest's community organizing and leadership development arm - will hold its 2013 public meeting, **Common Sense, Common Good, on Sunday, March 10 from 6:30-9:00 p.m.** The meeting will start at the Willye B. White Community Center, 1610 W. Howard St., Chicago. The issues include preserving Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid benefits, fighting the rising cost of education for local college students and promoting affordable housing around the North Side and North Shore. We will also board buses to do an action opposing Chicago Public Schools possible closure of Gale Academy - the neighborhood elementary school. Buses will return by 9 p.m. We invite you to join us to learn more about this aspect of A Just Harvest's work..

WCC Community Kitchen Preparation Days
Thursday, March 7 - 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 21 - 1:30 p.m.

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.

Family Promise

Our next opportunity to host our Family Promise guests begins on Easter Sunday, March 31 and continues through that following week (March 31 - April 7). Please be thinking about that week and consider when you will be able to help out. The signup will be available soon.

Have you thought about volunteering with Family Promise but really don't know what it entails? Have you helped already but aren't quite sure what you are doing? **We will host a Family Promise training session with Tracy McKeithan, the Program Director, during Sunday School time on March 17.** Whether you've never helped or if you have helped each time but just want some clarity, please come to the training.

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 **March 28** 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 **March meeting will be on the 19th**. 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 as we begin our new 7-week study, "Discovering the Voice of God: How to Recognize When God Speaks", by Priscilla Shirer.

Beginning Thursday, March 7th through April 25th (we will not meet March 28). 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 Showers:

All women of the church are invited to bridal showers for **Britta Olson** (Tuesday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m.) and for **Lindsay Macfarland** (Saturday, March 2, at 9:30 a.m.).

Plan to join us for these fun times of celebration. For bridal showers at WCC, you don't need to know the bride or her family to attend. Showers are given as a way to support our young church members as they embark on a very important new step in their lives.

ROOTED, Triennial xiv - The Women Ministries triennial conference will be in San Diego, California, August 15-18, 2013. Informational posters are up at church, there are a couple of brochure booklets in the office and registration information at www.covchurch.org/triennial. Early Bird registration cost (\$325) will be available until March 20.

Men's Ministry News

MEN'S RETREAT

Counting Our Days:

A Lumunos Men's Retreat on the Psalms

March 15-17th, Covenant Harbor Retreat Center Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

There isn't much of men's experience that can't be found in the Psalms: Busy-ness, Anger, Lust, Love of the Outdoors, Setting Priorities, Comparing Ourselves to Others, Dealing with Change ... it's all there. At this year's Lumunos Men's Retreat, Doug Wysocky-Johnson and Hugh Magill will use the Psalms to help you reconnect with God, friends, and yourself.

For more information and to register, visit the Lumunos website: www.Lumunos.org

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

Dear Church Family,

Many thanks for the cards, messages, and visits during my recent hospitalization. I'm deeply grateful for the encouragement.

Paul Koptak

Family News

Congratulations and best wishes to:

- Jane Ricci and Eric Steinhart on the birth of their daughter, Anja Miriam Seinhart. Anja was born on February 14. Frank and Margot Steinhart are her grandparents.

Rummage Sale Coming Soon

Saturday, April 20

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.

Going Green Matters

Sunday, March 10, from 1-5 p.m. at the Woman's Club of Wilmette, 930 Greenleaf. This is Wilmette's 7th annual environmental fair, with opportunities for recycling of electronics and styrofoam. (www.goinggreenmatters.org for info)

Taste of Family Promise Dinner

Sunday, March 3 at 5:00 p.m.

Northfield Community Church

Join us for Good Food, Live Music, Fun & Raffles

Family Promise will be celebrating its 3rd anniversary of service to families! Donations will be accepted at the door. All proceeds of the event will go towards helping to maintain the mission of helping families return to stability.

Music will be provided from the "Billy Blues Band" with acoustic rock, jazz and blues. Food will be provided by individuals from within the many congregations that serve the Family Promise guests. Come and meet or catch up with current and former guests. There will be raffles and fun for the whole family.

Are you looking for a fun evening out?

If you are looking for a "great night out" event, look no further! The Provision Theatre in Chicago has a very moving play entitled "Fish Eyes". It is the story of disciples Andrew and Peter, and their lives as followers of Christ. The language is modern-day and while it is full of humor, it is also thought-provoking. It shows how these two regular guys (fishermen) struggled with understanding Jesus' unusual way of teaching through parables. The theatre is located at 1001 W. Roosevelt Rd. and has free parking - now where do you get this in Chicago? The show runs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through March 31. Tickets are \$28-32 on their website, www.provisiontheater.com. Half-price tickets for most performances are available on www.goldstar.com (you have to scroll down a ways to find it on this site).

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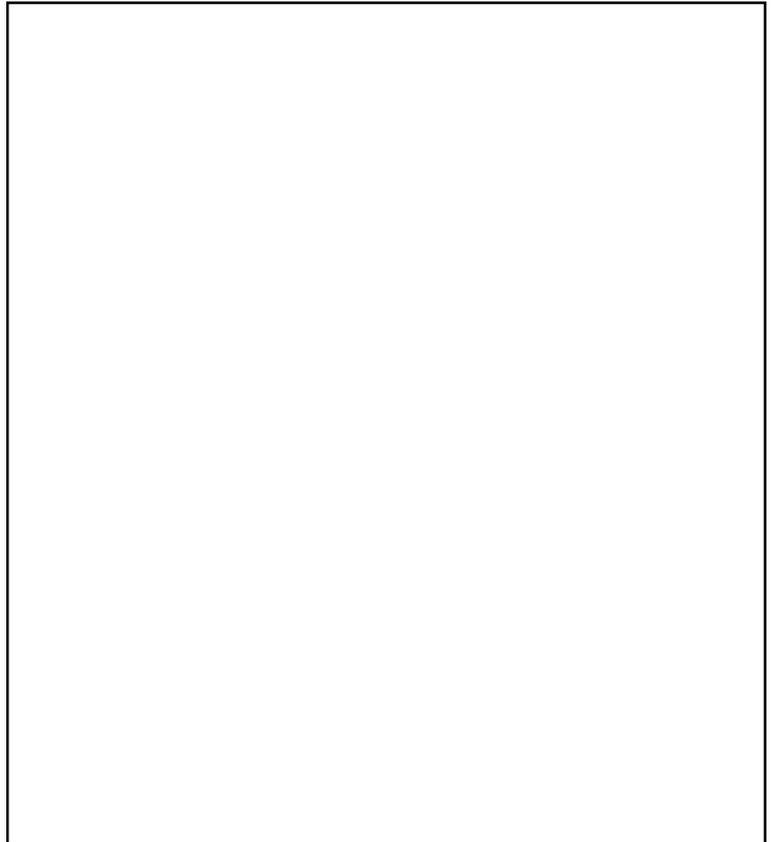
www.winnetkacovenant.org

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.



Veritas Is Coming!

What is Veritas???

“Veritas” is a Latin word meaning “truth”. You are invited to enter into a conversation in which we seek the truth about where our congregation is in our mission and what our vision is for the future. Together we will discover the marks of a healthy, missional church.

We will ask questions:

- What do we need to continue and strengthen?
- What should we stop doing?
- What new opportunities should we engage?

The conversation will be led by Peter Sjoblom from the Central Conference of our denomination. There is no fee - the cost is covered by our church’s giving to the Central Conference.

WHEN

Friday, March 8, 7-9 p.m.
AND Saturday, March 9, 8:30-Noon

WHO

Everyone in the congregation teenage and older.
Your perspective and voice are important!
Please make this a priority and join us.

WHERE

At Winnetka Covenant Church
Care for children up to age 11 will be provided.

Sign up in the narthex or on the church website:
www.winnetkacovenant.org