



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

The Network

May 2015

May 10-17

Family Promise

May 17

**Confirmation
 Sunday**

May 20

**Final
 Wednesday
 Night Activities**

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Favorite Hymn, Favorite Verse (at least for now ...)

*When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;
 Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,
 "It is well, it is well with my soul." (Covenant Hymnal, 451)*

*As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
 So the LORD surrounds his people,
 From this time on and forevermore. (Psalm 125:2)*

The hymn, "It Is Well with My Soul" was written by Chicagoan Horatio Spafford just after the great Chicago fire. Being an attorney and land investor, he quickly became destitute. In 1873, he planned to travel back to Europe with his family on the *SS Ville du Havre*, but in a late change of plan he was delayed and sent his wife and four children ahead. While crossing the Atlantic, the ship collided with another and sank rapidly. All four of Horatio's children were lost, and his wife sent him a telegram that simply said, "Saved Alone...". It was some weeks later, as he traveled to meet his grieving wife, that Spafford was inspired to write these words as his ship passed near the area where his daughters had died. Knowing that story adds to the power of the hymn's proclamation, that whether life's journey is like a peaceful river or a raging sea, my soul is well, because God is with me.

The Psalm is among those labeled as ascents (Psalms 120-134). These were the songs that ancient Israel sang as they walked the paths up to Jerusalem for yearly festivals. Having been there, I now understand that there is no way to go to Jerusalem but to ascend, go up – 20 miles west from the sea, and up 4,000 feet! And I have looked at, and stood on those hills surrounding Jerusalem, reminding me (as it did the ancients) of God's promise to surround and hold onto his beloved people, both now and in the future, forever in fact.

For me, this hymn and scripture arrive at the same holy spot, which is a moment in a day or a time in life when all is well, all is well – not because ALL in life is well, but because God is good, and with us, because the Lord of my creation and redemption is faithful and steadfast in his loving presence with me.

It's no wonder that the central biblical metaphor for describing God is SHEPHERD. "The LORD is my shepherd" is what David clings to. "I am the Good Shepherd" is what our Lord Jesus says. The reality is of PRESENCE – of God present, with us, to help us along and to see us through the journey. This truth, this reality, more than anything else about life, has the power to make it well with our souls. Now and forever, God is as close to us as God can be!

Hallelujah!

Peter Hawkinson

Christian Formation

Sunday Mornings for Children

Rotation Sunday School is for children age 4 through grade 5

Theme for the year: *Test of Faith*

Throughout the scriptures people faced many challenges to their faith. From Adam and Eve to you and me, there are times when we do well and live in ways that are pleasing to God. At other times we find ourselves in need of God's grace because we have missed the mark. Through the stories of faith, we learn that God's grace is always extended to us.



May 10, 17 & 24: "Jonah"

Memory Verse: "Lord, you are the one who saves." Jonah 2:9

Workshops:

Thou Art: From fuse beading and beaded jewelry kids will create symbols of the Jonah story, reflecting on how many small pieces come together to make a whole new creation.

Kingdom Characters: Jonah ponders how he ended up sitting in the belly of a big fish for three days. Kids will do Scratch Art to understand how God is a source of light in our darkest times.

Puppetry: Kids will make a giant fish puppet and create a puppet show using the song, "Jonah's Song."

We're currently looking for workshop leaders for Kingdom Characters and Puppetry! Contact Pastor Andrea if you're interested!

Sunday Mornings for Adults

May 3: Karla Fogel recently went to India to do mission work. We'll hear about her experiences.

May 10, 17 and 24: Circling back to issues of race and human sexuality: Where do we go from here? Led by Kurt Peterson



For all ages,

May 31, 9:30 a.m.: A Joyful Celebration!

All children and adults join together in the Upper Room for refreshments, singing, and sharing together about our Sunday School experiences this year.

Confirmation Sunday, May 17

We celebrate with our eighth graders as they are confirmed on May 17. In addition to the morning Worship Service, followed by a reception, all in the congregation are invited as the students present their papers on Friday evening, May 15, at 7:00.

This year's confirmands include:

- Micah Bowe
- Annabelle Fogel
- Annie Hogle
- Hannah Kelly
- IngMarie Schultz
- Soren Wiberg
- Matthew Wood

Music Notes



May! Glorious May!

Spring is bursting out all around us – an ever-present reminder of God’s gift of new life.

I don’t know when we’ve had so many anthems and praise songs in 5 weeks time. I’m coming to a fresh realization that most of our relationship to music in life is overwhelmingly passive. We’re entertained. We’re consumers. We can scarcely avoid being bombarded by music everywhere. This is a completely different experience than being participants IN music.

As Christians we are called to be worshipers. One of the primary vehicles of worship is making music – expressing ourselves – heart, soul, mind, and strength to God through music. That is a primary focus emerging this month. In fact, on May 10 Royce will be in the pulpit to remind us of our scriptural basis and rich covenant charge to be worshipers.

May’s music highlights include:

May 3 – Dimitri leading the choir in Moses Hogan’s soulful arrangement, *Abide With Me* and John Helgen’s pairing of *Kyrie Eleison* with *Let us Break Bread Together*.

May 3 – 5:00 p.m. – Singing Together - our Spring Music Festival – is designed to allow ALL ages to experience the power and joy of just voices blending together in part singing, harmony, and the always captivating energy of rounds.

The first half will include Music4Kids accompanying all of us singing *Awake, Arise!* They will sing 2 songs from the musical *Good Kings Come in Small Packages: Celebrate!* and *Make Me a Servant*.

Men’s chorus with Jon and Nancy will reprise *The Hands That First Held Mary’s Child*.

Choir will recap two anthems we sang earlier this year with Andrea and Micah (clarinets) and Kira (violin): *Unto Thee, O Lord* and *Nothing But the Blood*.

Children’s Worship participants will share songs they’ve been learning the last several weeks.

The second half hour was inspired by an event I attended in March. Originally, I conceived our Spring program to be highlights of our favorite anthems this year, but after going to *The Big Sing* at the University of Northern Iowa featuring the legendary Alice Parker, I wanted to bring this rare sense to you. I’ll lead us in unaccompanied community singing – something that just seemed to disappear in the rush of modernity and making everything electric- and fast. We’ll sing: *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship; Shenandoah; Dos de la esperanza; Hallelu, Hallelu*.

More in May:

Psalms of Celebration – Mark Hayes; *Blessed Quietness* – Ed Kee; *Here I Am, Lord, Abba Father*.

So, go out and enjoy God’s beautiful creation – and *SING* His praises heartily! ! !

Let Everything that hath breath praise the Lord!

Dawn Pegis

Winnetka Covenant Financial Summary through March 2015

As of March 31, our financial summary is highlighted below.

➤ YTD Financials

- General Fund Giving through March 2015 - \$250,520
- Receipts to date are 14% below 2014 actuals but are on 2015 budget;
- Expenses are on 2015 planned budget;
- Operating funds and cash are good

Comparisons to Prior Year and Budget:

	2015 Actual	2014 Actual	%	2015 Bud.	%
Contributions (only)	\$229,674	\$266,627	86%	\$230,111	100%
Total General Fund Receipts (incl Contributions)	\$ 250,520	\$285,484	88%	\$259,494	97%
Expenses	\$ 269,664	\$ 291,141	93%	\$268,109	100%
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	(\$19,145)	(\$5,657)			

	<u>3/31/2015</u>	<u>3/31/2014</u>
<u>Cash</u>		
General Fund	\$(85,700)	\$(51,886)
Exchange Accounts	81,937	103,913
Petty Cash	125	125
Memorial/Bequest Funds*	<u>38,102</u>	<u>(7,188)</u>
	\$34,464	\$ 44,964
<u>*Investments</u>		
Memorial/Bequest Funds	\$ 92,951	\$230,669
Johnson/Gustafson Memorial	50,463	50,977
Sabbatical Grant ('15 AMJ)	22,442	0
General Fund	<u>512</u>	<u>36,948</u>
Total	\$166,369	\$318,593

➤ Capital Projects

- Preschool door roof gutter warmer (in work, planned project)
- Gym padding in plan (funded via special request/Men's basketball)

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

It's time for a new Winnetka Covenant Picture Directory

A picture directory is an incredibly valuable tool of connection for those new to the church and those who have been part of the church for a long time. We want everyone connected to WCC to be included. Photos will be taken by LifeTouch at no cost to you or the church, although you may purchase photos if you wish. You will receive a free 8x10 photo and a full-color, printed directory, which will also be available to members and regular attenders on our secure website. If you haven't yet had your picture taken, there are still two days at the end of May: **Friday, May 29, from 2-9 p.m. and Saturday, May 30, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.** Sign up for a time at church in the narthex or online.

Mission News and Opportunities

Local –

A Just Harvest – May 7 (Ted Garrison in charge) **& 21** (John Anderson in charge) at 1:00, cooking in our kitchen. New participants are always welcome to join the cooking crew. On the 21st we are also asked to send a crew to the Kitchen to serve the food. They will meet at church to depart at 4:30 and return about 7:00. There is a signup sheet for this on the bulletin board by the kitchen or contact Pastor Andrea to sign up or with questions.

Family Promise Hosting Week – May 10-17

Family Promise is an organization of local congregations who take turns for a week at a time hosting temporarily homeless families in our buildings. We provide dinner, evening hangout/homework time, overnight accommodations and breakfast each night of our week. About 45-50 volunteers are needed over the course of the week. There is a signup schedule in the narthex or signups can be done through the website, www.winnetkacovenant.org.

National –

Intergenerational Mission Trip. Please consider joining us this summer on an intergenerational mission trip to the Covenant Mountain Mission Bible Camp in Jonesville, Virginia. The Bible Camp has been serving the children of Appalachia since 1950 and several work crews have gone from our church over the years, including the summer of 2013. The camp only has two full time staff members and relies on the generosity and willingness of volunteers. This year's trip will be from June 27 to July 3. We're calling all workers to build, paint, plumb, landscape, or whatever else needs doing. All are welcome, including families with young children. Costs are minimal, as we carpool to the camp, our housing is free, and we pay \$10-15/day/person for food. So that's about \$100/person plus shared gas for an opportunity to serve a very important mission of the church. What's more, it's a beautiful part of the country which many of us have never seen. Please come! Questions? Interest? Talk to Terese Hunt.

Also, Covenant Mountain Mission has received a gift that allows them to hire two staff members this summer. They are looking for individuals who are at least 19 years of age. If you, or someone you know, is being called to serve youth this summer, CMMBC can offer a broad experience in camp ministries. A job description and requirements are at cmmbc.org/employment-opportunity/

International –

Covenant Kids Congo

Praise God! Now 40 Congolese children have been sponsored by members of our congregation. May the lives of these children, and our own, be transformed by new relationships, new hope, and God's love.

It's not too late to sponsor a child. For more information, please contact the church office, pick up a brochure in the Mission area in the Narthex, or check out <http://www.covchurch.org/covenantkidscongo/>. For up-to-date 'on the ground' news about CKC, visit the blog <http://blogs.covchurch.org/covenantkidscongo/>.

Preschool News

Winnetka Covenant Preschool turns 40 this year and we need your help to celebrate! Join WCP families on Sunday, May 3rd, from 12:00-1:00 p.m. for an ICE CREAM SOCIAL fundraiser. Enjoy our ice cream sundae buffet, blow giant bubbles and participate in a hula hoop dance party. Everyone is invited, so spread the word! Hope to see you there.

Village Fellowship

After taking a break during the Community Bible Experience, Village Fellowship will resume in May with a new day, a new time and a new location. Village Fellowship is an opportunity for relaxed conversation together, open to all members and friends of Winnetka Covenant Church who live at Covenant Village in Northbrook. Here are the details:

When: Friday, May 22

What time: 4:00-5:30

Where: Village Room South

Women's Ministries

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 **May 28** 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 for the prayer and conversation, with or without a project. This month we meet on **May 19th**.

Tuesday morning Bible Study -

The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study's has concluded their meetings for the year.

Upcoming Showers:

All women of the church are invited to the following showers:

Please help us shower **Rachel Carlson Curran** with baby blessings! **10:00 brunch on Saturday, May 23** at the home of Terese Hunt. RSVP to Terese. Rachel is the daughter of Carolyn Carlson.

There will be a bridal shower for **Susan Macfarland on Saturday, June 6 at 10:00**. The shower will be in the church narthex. Susan is the daughter of Clare and Sandy Macfarland.

These are important opportunities to show our love and support to Rachel and Susan as they enter into new chapters of their lives.

Fall Fellowship – Central Conference Women's Retreat, September 18-20, 2015

The Fall Fellowship Women's Retreat is a fun-filled get-away for women to come, know, or to grow in their relationship with the Lord. Through joyful worship, engaging workshops and rejuvenating fellowship, women make lasting connections with each other and with their heavenly father. A ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church Central Conference Women Ministries, Fall Fellowship is a retreat for women eighteen years and older. It's an opportunity to step away from everyday demands for a time of refreshment and renewal.

The theme this year is *"Together We Are One – A Cord of Three Strands is Not Quickly Broken."* Renee Shepherd is the speaker and Katie Isaza, missionary to Colombia, will be the Missionary in Residence.

More information about the retreat and registration forms can be found on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Registration opens June 1. Scholarship help is available.

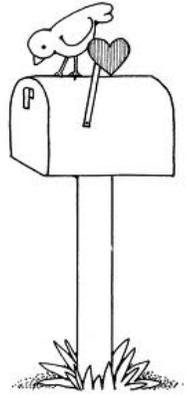
Men's Ministries Notes

Men's fellowship meets the first three Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m. Men, watch your e-mail messages and the bulletins and Network for details. Watch also for information on opportunities to participate in work projects. For men who are singers but can't commit to choir there are occasional opportunities to sing in a men's chorus. If you would like to be included on an e-mail list for notifications of events, please contact Paul Christmas.

Mailbox

Thanks to Pastors Andrea and Peter for their visits, the Diaconate for their lily plant, and all the get well wishes. The therapy is rough, but I think I'll survive. Thanks for good care at Brandel and therapy at home.

Marion Christensen



College Graduates

Please join us in congratulating our students who are graduating this spring. They are:

- **Luke Xin** will graduate on June 19 from the McCormick School of Engineering, Northwestern University. His degree will be a Master of Science in Biotechnology. Following graduation he plans to work as a Bioprocess Development Scientist at Cook Pharmica in Bloomington, IN
- **Andrew Kovacic** is graduating May 16 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: College of Engineering, with a BS in Agricultural and Biological Engineering. He is currently searching and interviewing for positions in environmental and renewable energy-related companies across the U.S.
- **Maren Magill** graduates on May 24 from St. Olaf College with a History degree. She will work for two years with Americore, working for the Schuler Scholar Program as an academic coach at Maine East High School.
- **Billy Rivi** will graduate May 9 from North Park University with a major in English.
- **Abbey Schmitt** is graduating from Dartmouth College on June 14. Her major is Economics modified with Anthropology and she starts a job with JP Morgan in New York City in July.

Youth News

Sr. High League May Schedule:

Youth group – May 3, 10 (Senior Night), 17, 24, 31 (Last high league of the year)

Coffee – May 6, 13, 20

Senior Night, May 10, will begin at 6:00

Sunday School, all Sundays

Jr. High Youth Group Schedule:

May 6, 13, 20 (Last Wednesday night), 27 (Last jr. high youth group)

Sunday School, all Sundays

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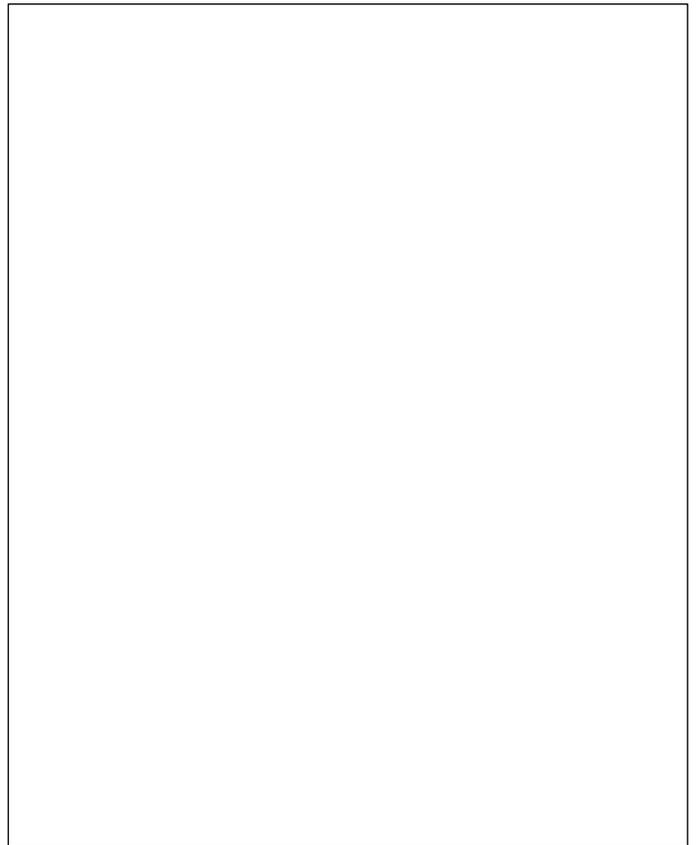
www.winnetkacovenant.org

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.



Stanley C. Golder Interfaith Lecture Series

“Ancient Answers to Good and Evil That Were Cut From the Bible”

Featuring Dr. Joel M. Hoffman, author of

“The Bible’s Cutting Room Floor: The Holy Scriptures Missing from Your Bible”

**Saturday, May 2; 8 p.m. at Temple Jeremiah
937 Happ Rd., Northfield**

We’ll dive into the compelling account of Adam and Eve’s life in exile, Abraham’s troubling childhood, and the intriguing saga of Enoch – ancient material from the Bible’s cutting room floor that fills in significant blanks in the formative texts of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In addition, these offer three starkly different answers to good and evil. As we explore the diverse approaches, we’ll discover some surprisingly relevant answers to the most fundamental human questions.

The mission of the Golder Interfaith Lecture Series is to promote understanding among every faith and embrace the unifying spirituality of all religions. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, call the temple office at 847-441-5760, e-mail lia@templejeremiah.org, or visit <http://www.templejeremiah.org/learning/adult-learning/golder-lecture>.