



The Network

Winnetka Covenant Church

1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

November, 2012

Election Day
Communion
November 6
7:00 p.m.

Winnetka
Interfaith
Thanksgiving
Service
Tuesday,
November 20
7:00 p.m.

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Connection + Rest = Vibrant People

Connecting with God. Connecting with others. Connecting with your self. Getting rest for your soul. These are things we need to remain vital, functioning human beings who are made in the image of God and living abundantly as God's beloved children. Our congregation is committed to fostering such experiences. There are some opportunities coming up in the following weeks that are designed to help us remain vital and vibrant people.



We hope you'll take advantage of them.

Tuesday, November 6— Election Day Communion

On election day we will gather to celebrate our unity and to remember, together, that our primary allegiance is to Christ and his kingdom. Join us at the table at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. For more information, visit www.electiondaycommunion.org.

All are welcome.

Wednesday, November 28— 5:30-7:45 p.m.

Advent Activities for All Ages

Join us for a special Wednesday night for all ages focused on starting the Advent season. We'll have dinner together, have a brief time of singing and sharing about Advent, and make Advent/Christmas crafts to take home. Some crafts will be free, others may be made for a small fee to cover the cost of supplies. Join us for this special night! Sign up at church or online.

Saturday, December 8— 8:30-noon *Advent Unplugged: Preparing for the Holidays in a New Way, a half-day retreat for adults*

The holiday season is a lot like life, only more so. December often means there is more to do, more to buy, more to decide and more to feel. Advent is one of the most meaningful seasons in the Christian calendar, but how do we faithfully balance it with all the other demands of the season? The scripture stories are filled

with people listening for God's call, and we are invited to do the same. In this four-hour mini retreat, you will have a time to prioritize your time, learn a spiritual tool, engage with the advent stories from scripture, and connect more deeply with your church community.

Doug Wysockey-Johnson, Executive Director of Lumunos, will facilitate the retreat. The cost is \$15 and complimentary child care is provided. **Please register to attend on the church website as soon as possible.**

Rotation Sunday School, November 11 - December 16

The Covenant: Messengers of the New Covenant

In November and December, Sunday School will be slightly different than our usual rotations because the kids will be practicing for the Children's Christmas program (Sunday, December 9 at 5:00 p.m.). They will practice from 9:30-10:10 a.m. in the choir room. Then age 4 through grade 5 will be combined for 20 minutes of class time in room 203/205 (10:10-10:30) for this special workshop, following their Christmas program practice.

In this workshop, kids will hear the Christmas story, ponder the future life of Jesus Christ, hear the song, "Mary, Did You Know?" and create a slideshow for each of the scenes in the song. On December 16, the kids will get to see the premier of their completed slide-

show and have a Christmas party. We'll share the slideshow with the congregation at some point as well. On December 23, we'll combine kids and adults for a special intergenerational Sunday School hour in the Upper Room.

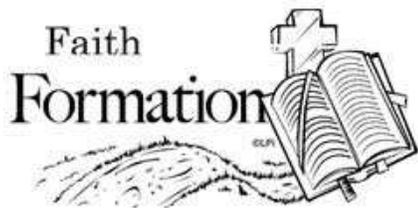
Thanks to Dwight and Sue Samuelson and Dave and Barb Scheibe for leading this workshop!



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, or on Wednesday nights, 6:45-7:45 p.m.



"Sharing Our Faith Stories" - 9:30a.m., Sundays

We all have stories that shape the defining narrative of our lives. As Christians, our personal stories are both shaped by and woven with the Biblical story - the story of God and God's people. There is power in sharing our stories with one another, for in sharing our stories - in the shaping of them, in the telling and in the listening - we have the opportunity to encounter the living God and to build relationships with others. Come and grow in your faith as you hear the faith stories of others in our congregation.

Jack Levison speaks on November 18, Upper Room

"The Holy Spirit for the Long Haul"

Called a "brilliant and spirited theologian" by author Phyllis Tickle, Jack Levison has a passion for ideas and an obsession with writing. Jack is an internationally recognized scholar, whose books have received wide acclaim. Scot McKnight, author of *The Jesus Creed*, called *Filled with the Spirit* "the benchmark and starting point for all future studies of the Spirit," and Walter Brueggemann hailed it as "inspired." Already Eugene Peterson has called *Fresh Air: the Holy Spirit for an Inspired Life*, a "rare and remarkable achievement." To support his writing obsession, Jack has received grants from the National Humanities Center, the Lilly Fellows program, the Louisville Institute, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the Rotary Foundation, the International Catacomb Society, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Jack directs an interdisciplinary, international research project, *The Historical Roots of the Holy Spirit*, and he is founding editor of a new book series, *Ekstasis: Religious Experience from Antiquity to the Middle Ages*. In the next few years, he will serve as vice-president and president of the Pacific Northwest Region of the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature. In demand as a speaker, Jack lives with his family and black lab mix in Shoreline, Washington, where he occasionally yearns for the blistering heat and frigid wind of Chicago, which he actually enjoyed when he taught at North Park University alongside his wife, Priscilla, its first female chaplain.

Music Notes

November is filled with special celebrations in our church year: All Saints, Stewardship, Thanksgiving, Christ the King. We are preparing music for these important times while we also look ahead to Advent and Christmas.

I am so excited to help our kids prepare another wonderful Christmas presentation! So that they have the optimal chance to do their best and enjoy it fully, please note the following dates AND rehearsal schedule:

December 9 at 5:00 p.m., Children's Sunday School Program - *How Far Is It To Bethlehem?*

CDs and lyric sheets are available TODAY after church in the narthex - one per family - October 28. (You may request an additional CD if it's helpful for your kids.)

Sunday morning rehearsals begin with their new rotation on November 11 at 9:30. I will also hold rehearsals

on Wednesdays at 5:00 in the choir room. This has been helpful to have more time to become familiar with their songs. With a week off for Thanksgiving, preparation time is so short so if you are able, make a concerted effort to bring your kids before Wednesday dinner beginning November 6 and certainly every Sunday.

Again, there will be narration parts as well as 5 songs. We will include the moving "Mary, Did You Know?" that they will be exploring in depth during their Sunday School rotation.

Also note: December 16 at 5:00 p.m., Adult Choir Christmas Concert, a Festival of Anthems, Carols and Readings.

May your heart be filled as we lift up praise throughout the whole church year!

Dawn Pegis



BELLS

The handbell choir has immediate openings for full time and part time ringers. We rehearse Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 6:45 in the choir room. Please consider joining us!

For more information, contact Linda Johnson.



Winnetka Interfaith Council Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 20, 7:00 p.m.

Winnetka Presbyterian Church
1255 Willow Road

Jill Brickman, Speaker
Northfield Township Supervisor,
Who manages the Northfield Township Food Pantry,
among many other responsibilities.

All are welcome to this interfaith service.
Childcare will be available.

Local Missions Page

We have ongoing opportunities to serve others locally in a variety of ways. This page lists some of them.

A Just Harvest

Did You Know??

As well as serving hot, nutritious meals to those in need every day of the year, the Just Harvest Community Kitchen also distributes several thousand pounds of food each month by hosting the Greater Chicago Food Depository's Producemobile, which distributes fruit and vegetables to more than 200 families. The Producemobile is stationed at the Community Kitchen on Pauline Ave. on the third Monday of every month (except January) from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

A Just Harvest is grateful to all who supported the 9th Annual Awards Banquet and Benefit on October 14. They almost met their fundraising goal for the event. Donations are still being gladly accepted:

A Just Harvest
PO Box 608033, Chicago, IL 60626
www.ajustharvest.org

WCC Just Harvest

Cooking Days:

11/1 - John Anderson, contact

11/15 - Ted Garrison, contact

Greater Chicago Food Depository Service Opportunity - November 10, 1:30-4:00 p.m.

On Saturday, November 10 we have our bi-monthly opportunity to serve at the Greater Chicago Food Depository to benefit the North Park Friendship Center food bank. This is a fun opportunity for adults and teens (minimum age 13) to serve. Long pants and closed-toe shoes are required. Sign up online (www.winnetkacovenant.org) or on the bulletin board outside of the church kitchen.



Family Promise

While we won't be hosting any families until after the new year, there are two opportunities in November to support the fundraising efforts of Family Promise Chicago North Shore. The first is with the Community Days at Carson's stores. Coupon books are available in the church office for \$5.00 (books include a \$10 off coupon). The event takes place November 9 and 10. The second opportunity is on November 13 at Lou Malnati's Evanston and Wilmette stores. On that day Lou Malnati's will donate 20% of total sales to Family Promise. There is a flyer that must accompany the order—flyers are available in the church office or on the Family Promise web site (www.fpcnorthshore.org).

On the middle bulletin board in the long hallway at church you will find a series of memories and thoughts from the various churches who have participated in Family Promise for the last few years. Please take some time to look at these and read what churches around our area have experienced while hosting Family Promise families.

Parenting Progress

Elsa Johnson is the Director of Parenting Progress, a ministry of Ravenswood Covenant Church that supports teen moms in their efforts to stay in school and learn the skills to become effective parents. The quilting group here at WCC has contributed baby quilts to this program for the last few years. Right now they are in need of boys clothes, size 18 months and larger. Please contact Elsa Johnson at parentingprogress@ravenscov.org or 773-784-7091 if you are able to help.

Youth News

Junior High

Junior High Youth Ministry:

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

November 7, 14, and 28 (none on the 21)

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

Merge: Mondays, November 5 and 19, 3:30-5:00 at church

Retreats for 2012-2013: Jr. High

Winter retreat: *Deep Freeze*, January 18-20, Covenant Harbor

Contact information for Christy:
Church phone number: 847-446-4300 (ext. 16)
Christy's day off is Friday.

Junior and Senior High Parent Gathering - Monday, December 3rd, 7-8:15 p.m.

Senior High

Senior High League Ministry:

Sundays, 7-9p.m.

November 4, 11, and 25 are regular meeting nights

November 18 is North Side Youth Collision

All 9th-12th graders (and friends!) are welcome!

High School Sunday School offering: This fall, we are holding a **book group** during the Sunday School hour for all high school students in Christy's office. Come join Pastor Christy on Sunday mornings and immerse yourself in some good words, and discussion together. Hope to see you there!

Coffee: Wednesdays, meet at church at 3:30 p.m.
November 7, 14 and 28

Retreats for 2012-2013: Sr. High

Winter retreat: *Onelife*. February 15-18, at Covenant Point

Men's Ministries News

Opportunities for service and fellowship occur throughout the year. Some activities occur on a regular schedule and others arise periodically.

Men's Fellowship

The group usually meets on the first three Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m., in either the Upper Room or the Prayer Room. During the month of November we will have another presentation on Hymnology by Royce Eckhardt, and we will begin a series of presentations by members of the group. This is primarily a discussion group and is worth the effort it takes to rise a little early in order to participate. Questions should be addressed to Paul Christmas.

Men's Singing Ensemble

Recruitment and planning for this group is still underway. Tenors, basses, and baritones of **all ages** are welcome. Occasional performances in church are planned. Rehearsal times are to be announced. Our communication is by e-mail. Please e-mail Gary Stenstrom to express an interest in participating. Our first contribution to worship will be announced later this month.

Men's Work Crew Call

Painting parties, carpentry projects, and service projects are a regular part of the Men's Ministries. Workers will be recruited as the needs arise. Please contact the church office to be put on this e-mail list. Answering the call for participation is purely voluntary and always for a good cause.

Church membership -

New members will be welcomed into the Church on Sunday, December 9. If you have interest in taking this important step, contact Pastor Hawkinson or the church office. Welcome!

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. and Sharing Group -

The Women's Sharing Group and the Quilting Group will meet together on Thursday, November 29 at noon for a Christmas luncheon. Please watch the bulletin for particulars as we get closer to the date.

Stitch and Study -

Stitch and Study, combining Bible Study, conversation, and craft/needlework projects, **meets on the first Tuesday of each month** at the home of Marilyn Nelson at 7 p.m. The November meeting will be on the 6th. We are now 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 being led this fall by Joann Larson and the women are 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. Books are available in the church office.

Lucia Breakfast, Pageant and Boutique are scheduled for December 1.

Planning for our Lucia Festival is well underway. We will take reservations for the breakfast on November 11 (and on the 18th if there are any open spots). The Pageant, following the breakfast, is open to all with no reservations. The boutique, featuring Swedish deli and bakery items, as well as hand-crafted items by our own congregation's friends and members, will follow the pageant. Contact Jane Rivi if you are interested in having a table in the boutique. In addition, please watch the bulletins for the times and dates for baking cookies for the breakfast and the sale.

BSF Seminars

Bible Study Fellowship has been meeting in our church on Thursday mornings for many years and would always be happy to have participants from Winnetka Covenant join them.

In addition to the Thursday morning Bible Study, they offer a series of monthly seminars which are open to women from Winnetka Covenant. They are held from 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. in room 204.

Seminar dates and topics are:

Thursday Afternoon Bible Study -

"If you've ever experienced doubts, temptations, losses, family problems, or personal inconsistencies, join Beth Moore on an exciting journey to know King David and discover how you too can have a heart like our own God."

"David, Seeking a Heart Like His", by Beth Moore.

The current study continues through November 29th, and meets in the church Library from 1:00-2:45 p.m.

We gather weekly to discuss homework, view Beth Moore's DVD teaching segments, enjoy fellowship and share prayer requests.

Member Books are available from Lifeway.com, Christianbooks.com, and Amazon. Cost is approximately \$15; however, shipping does vary. Please ensure you order the updated version. We look forward to sharing this time with you. All are welcome and please invite friends to join us. Any questions, contact Claire Macfarland.

Retreat, February 1-3, 2013

The speaker for this year's retreat is Jane Hutchins-Peterson and her topic is "Finding the Sacred in Your Ordinary: Connecting your story to The Story." Register in the narthex - last day for registration is November 4. Plan to join us - it's a great time to connect with other women.

Sharing the Gospel—November 15

Gain assurance of what the Gospel is; be prepared to share it when opportunity arises

Personal Quiet Time—January 17

Build a plan for personal Bible study and prayer to daily know God and worship Him

Serving the Church—Seek—February 28

Learn God's vision for the local church; discover His preparation and equipping to serve (1 of 2)

Service the Church—Open—March 7

Discern God's call to specific tasks and ministries within the church; learn how to get started (2 of 2)

Leading a Small Group—April 18

Practice skills and methods needed to lead a small group

Mailbox

The playground committee would like to send a big THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered, came to and donated money or items for our Fall Fest and Concert on the Steps. Thanks to all of you the event was a big success and not only did we raise money for the playground, we had fun! It was especially great to see so many new faces who came to enjoy a beautiful afternoon and become a part of our community.

Thanks also to all who participated in the Soup fundraiser. Thanks to the many people who purchased soup and especially to the women who prepared it.

If you look at the playground plan, which will remain posted in the narthex, you can see that there are several different elements in the space (2 different equipment

areas, a playhouse, shed, riding path, seating for adults, balance rocks, a dry river bed, a small hill and a reading area) and this will allow us to complete the project in phases. Thanks to the donations from these events and a memorial fund contribution, we should be on track to start the first portion in the spring. It's exciting to see the pieces starting to fall into place but we still have a long way to go!

We will be coming up with a list of items and their costs and we hope that you will begin to consider sponsoring a specific item or making a donation. We are excited about the potential for this new space and its benefit for so many age groups in the church. Thanks in advance for all your support!

The Playground Committee

Directory Changes and Family News

Congratulations to John and Sara Glade on the birth of Addison Therese Glade, born August 2, 2012. Her grandparents are Barbara and David Scheibe. Best wishes to this new family.

New directories are printed and available in the narthex. If you are out of town and would like a directory, please contact the church office.

Network by e-mail?

Some of us are happy to receive correspondence by mail and eagerly read our Network each month as soon as it comes (or set it aside to pick up and read when convenient). Others of us love to read as much as possible on our computers, blackberries, phones, etc. If you fall into the latter group and are not yet receiving the Network by e-mail, please let the church office know at wccjoanwallgren@gmail.com and I will switch you to the Network-by-e-mail list. Don't worry if one half of a couple reads electronically and the other prefers paper. We can do both. Our aim is to get the monthly Network to you in the format that you are most likely to read so that everyone in the congregation is getting all of the pertinent information in a timely manner. It's also posted monthly on the website.

Congratulations to Art Nelson, recipient of the 2012 Spirit of Compassion Award from Swedish Covenant Hospital.

In addition to Art's position here at Winnetka Covenant and his past Pastorates around the country, he has done community service work throughout the Chicago area with various organizations, including Urban Outreach, Commission of Christian Action, Chicago Metropolitan Mission, Congress of Evangelicals for Social Action, and Habitat for Humanity. Serving the underserved has characterized Art's entire career. His advocacy for the most marginalized has been his passion.

He is the author of numerous tracts and the book, "*Prayers: Public and Personal*." He has just completed his second book to be released in early 2013, titled a

"Book of Prayers, A Guide to Intercession Public and Personal."

Art has been associated with Swedish Covenant Hospital in some capacity since the 1940's when he began working at age 13 doing general maintenance throughout the Hospital. He was a member of the Hospital's Board of Directors from 1982 to 2009 and Nelson Hall is named after his father. Art holds degrees from Augustana College and North Park Theological Seminary and in 1981 was awarded an honorary degree from North Park College and Theological Seminary.

(this was adapted from a publication of Swedish Covenant Hospital)

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.

