



The Network

Winnetka Covenant Church
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October, 2014

**October
17 & 18
Guess Who's
Coming
to Dinner**

**October 25
Harvest
Dinner**

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The Command to Sabbath *“Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it Holy.”* (Exodus 20:8)

As we head into another busy new fall with our relentless schedules, this command haunts me. There's no question that this one is harder for us than any of the others, murder, lying, and adultery included. Why is that?

I know about the tensions we are facing these day as cultural Christians living in 21st century America. I struggle with you in the middle of the reality that Sunday, even for us as Christians, no longer plays out for most of us as a Sabbath day. These days we must, or we choose to work. All kinds of activities, which are wonderful, call out to our children, and many of the sign-ups say Sunday morning.

Nevertheless, the command remains, that somehow, and maybe nowadays more than ever before, we need time to stop from work, from life's busyness, and be present to the God who loves us, and to those who we love. The great Jewish Philosopher, Abraham Joshua Heschel, says that "Sabbath is the Spirit in the form of time ... detachment from things, instruments, and practical affairs, and attachment to the Spirit ... Sabbath is the presence of God in the world, open to the soul of a human being." What an invitation that is! Just think of a day, or a time set aside to cease from our normal life's pattern, to rest and be renewed in body

and spirit, to feast, celebrating the goodness of God and the blessings of life, and to embrace again the love God has for us.

My hunch is that because Sabbath comes as a command, we don't reflect enough on its essential blessing. All the commandments are that way, after all. They are not punishments by which we suffer, but patterns of life that set us free to live the life of joy that God has in mind. It's worth considering, struggling with, this question: In the midst of all the wonderful things our lives have going, what is it that we're missing?

Our Lord created the Sabbath and consecrated it, made it holy. It was the exclamation point of his creating. God stopped, and God ceased, so that he could take joy in his creation. And we are created in God's image, which means we need Sabbath time too. We can learn from our Jewish brothers and sisters that Sabbath, when protected and cherished, and held holy, is the best day and night of the week, and once a week at that! Don't let it go, friend. Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.

Peter Hawkinson

Christian Formation

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.



Unit 2: Ruth - October 12, 19, 26, and November 2 Workshops:

Disciples' Drama: Using props and costumes, kids will act out seven scenes from Ruth's story.

Garden of Eatin': Kids will hear the story of Ruth as cooking ingredients are arranged to make scones. Kids will create recipe cards for the scones that include personal blessings and share scones in class and with their families.

Faith Today: Kids will hear the story of Ruth and learn about pockets of emptiness and pockets of fullness. They'll create reversible pockets that are filled with love, hope, kindness, joy, patience—and hugs and kisses.

Moved by the Spirit: Kids will play a variety of games to discover what it is like to work in pairs, equating their feelings to the long walk home from Moab to Bethlehem.

If you're interested in using your gifts and interests by leading one of these workshops for three of the four Sundays, please contact Pastor Andrea.

Adults

Adult Sunday School this fall - September 14-October 19

Kurt Peterson is leading us on a six-week exploration of "Living the Spirit of the Early Church in Today's World." Join us in the Upper Room, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Wednesday night opportunities for adult formation: 6:45-7:45 p.m., beginning September 17

Called to Be Church— The Book of Acts for a New Day

This is a simple time of Bible reading and reflection on the life of the early Church and our own journey together in Christ's community these days. Using the Acts of the Apostles as our text, we wonder together:

- What was at the heart of their life together?
- What challenges did they face?
- What was their mission?
- How did they approach ministry in their culture, time and place?
- Who were the characters active in the infant Church?

Of course, as we do this, we are reflecting also on our life as the Church these days, and our own stories. We read and reflect together. Come and join us!

Women Walking Together into the Heart of God

13 weeks, beginning Wednesday, September 17th
Sensible Shoes is a fictional story written by Covenant Pastor & Spiritual Director Sharon Garlough Brown, of four women's walk together on a spiritual journey. You are invited to walk that same three month journey with Judi Geake, who recently completed her certification as a Spiritual Director at North Park Theological Seminary. There are daily scripture reading, prayer, reflection questions, and journaling (5 days a week), then group discussion of the covered chapter on Wednesday nights. We will look at how the women are responding to (or resisting) the presence and love of God, allowing them to become windows and mirrors into seeing ourselves more clearly as we consider our own life with God.

Questions? Contact Judi

This current group is now full and closed to new participants. If you are interested in a future session of the same topic, please leave your name in the church office.

Concerns Group

Prayer Room
This group is for anyone in the church, ranging from the curious to the passionate, who is interested in exploring current issues of compassion, mercy and justice. In this group we will talk about the issues and listen to each other's opinions and ideas, using books, films, articles, and special guests as resources for discussion. The group decides whether and how they can or will take action together or as individuals to make a difference.

Music Notes

Miracle of fall!!

Don't you just love the gorgeous color changes?! Driving through farmland - through suburban neighborhoods - I marvel at the beauty of colorful change, like the monarch that 'miraculously' appeared where the cocoon had been the day before (thank you, Dan, for letting us 'adopt' it)!!

That is enough joy to SING and praise God about ... but now the choir has reassembled AND this Fall we have 16 children in Music4Kids!! They are eagerly learning songs that they can share in worship.



October 5 we'll be observing World Communion as we 'break bread' together; the choir will sing "The Whisper" and "Finally Home" as we celebrate knowing God makes his home with us!! (John 14:23)

October praise continues with "Rejoice In the Lord Always," "Jubilate, Sing Joyfully," and "You Alone Will Be Exalted."

"Know ye, that the Lord is God" and keep a song in your heart.

See you in worship, *Dawn*

Experience the joy of spending time with kids and using the gifts God has given you!

Consider giving your time and presence to the children of the church in one of the following ways in which adult help is needed:

- 1 adult to help with 2- and 3-year-olds during worship approximately once every other month (this is a helping role, not a teaching role)
- 1 adult to team with Dan Hoglund as a Trailblazer Guide (grades 3-5) on Wednesday nights, 6:45-7:45 p.m. (no preparation required)
- Sr. high students and adults to be on a rotation to help with Children's Worship on Sundays during worship (help once a month, once a quarter, or as often as you like!)

Contact Pastor Andrea if you're interested or would like more information.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Friday Night Fellowship

September 12, 2014 through January 30, 2015 - 7:30 p.m.

Come and fellowship with your Church family! Get to know new friends, and enjoy dessert! Each week a gathering will take place in someone's home. The host provides coffee and lemonade, and the rest of us bring a dessert to share. There will be time for informal conversation, and we will gather together for a time at the end for group conversation and prayer for the Church and for one another. Here's the best part ... no RSVP needed! Just come and join us when you can.

Guess Who's Coming To Dinner?!

Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18

This is an opportunity to get to know a small group of people in homes of our members and friends. It works like this:

- People will be randomly assigned to their dinner parties by the Diaconate committee
- Hosts will plan the menu and set the hour
- Guests will each contribute to the menu as requested by the host.

Join the fun! Meet new people or renew old friendships. Sign up to be a part of it by visiting the website (www.winnetkacovenant.org) or filling out a form in the Narthex and leaving it in the basket. Deadline is October 10.

Harvest Dinner

Saturday, October 25, 5:00 p.m.

This fun all-church potluck dinner has been a fall tradition at Winnetka Covenant for many, many (MANY) years. We begin in the Sanctuary with "Winnetka's Got Talent". If you'd like to share your talent, please contact John Wallgren. Following the program we move to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy dinner together. We ask everybody to bring a dish to share. Beverages, dishes and utensils, and dessert will be provided by the serving committee.

Being Present: A Faithful Response to Mental Illness

November 8 at North Park University

North Park University's symposium on the church's role in mental illness to consider how congregations and healthcare professionals can accomplish together what neither can do alone. Full conference information is available at www.northpark.edu/Events/Mental-Health/Symposiums. Questions: (773)244-6214 or faithandhealthsymposium@northpark.edu.

"And on the 7th Day God played bocce ... again!"

November 16, 4:00-7:00 p.m., at Pinstripes in Northbrook

Please save the date for the 2nd annual Lumunos Bocce Event. This year there will again be wonderful food, drink, fellowship, and bocce, along with a terrific auction and a chance to rub elbows with members of the Lumunos Board of Directors. While Lumunos has been involved primarily with our men's retreat, this event is for couples, singles, and anyone interested in learning more about finding God's call in your life.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 25, 7:30 p.m., hosted by the Baha'i House of Worship.

Rehearsal at 6:00 for those wishing to join a combined group from the choirs of the various faith communities. All singers are welcome and ALL are welcome to join the service. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

Youth Notes

As the school year gets under way the Junior and Senior High Youth Groups gear up also for a fun and busy fall season of activities. A full fall calendar will be communicated to the students and their parents but here are some of the highlights:

1. **Sunday School** - There are offerings for jr. and sr high (separately). The High School class meets in Christy's office, and the Jr. Highers are in the youth room upstairs. 9:30-10:30 on Sunday mornings before worship. Sunday School has a different feel than youth group gatherings - hope the students can be part of this time.
2. **Youth Group Meetings** -
 - Sr. High - regular meetings on October 12 and 26. The 19th will be Covenant Youth Collision - Retro Olympic Night at Helwig Gym, NPU. Gathering for coffee on Wednesdays, October 1, 8, 15 and 22.
 - Jr. High - regular meetings on October 1, 8, 15 and 22.
3. **Retreats** - Jr. High Fall Retreat at Covenant Point (October 10-13) and Sr. High retreat at the Warren Dunes will be the weekend of October 4-5. Friends are welcome!
4. **CHIC: Covenant High In Christ** - This is our denomination's triennial youth conference that is happening again this coming summer - 2015, in Knoxville, TN! It is open to students who have completed 9th-12th grade by summer of 2015. We have a registration and deposit (not total registration fee - just a deposit) due in September. CHIC is happening the week of July 11-17, 2015. Go here for more information (<http://chic2015.org>). Start talking with your kids about this opportunity!

Christy Bouris

Local Missions and Other Opportunities

Within our church we have ongoing opportunities to serve our local community. One of our longest standing local mission endeavors is cooking for **A Just Harvest Community Kitchen** two times a month. You are invited to participate on Thursday, **October 2** at 1:00 in our kitchen. John Anderson will be the coordinator that day. Then on **October 16** we gather again to cook. Ted Garrison is the coordinator that day. On the 16th 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 on the bulletin board by the kitchen.

A second opportunity that comes around four times a year is when we host the families in the **Family Promise** program. This is a network of local churches who take turns hosting, for a week at a time, temporarily homeless families as they get back on their feet and move back into stable housing. We will be hosting families the week of **October 12-19**. There are signup sheets in the Narthex near the missions table or you can sign up online (www.winnetkacovenant.org).

In conjunction with Family Promise, here's an opportunity for children:

Cooking for Love ♥ and Life

Creative Kids Corner will be preparing dinner on Tuesday, October 14th for Family Promise (5:00-6:30). Kids seven years and older who enjoy working in the kitchen will receive a "Cooking For Life" class, combining professional cooking instruction with healthy life long food knowledge. Participants enjoy a full dinner for themselves and moreover they help to support this important ministry.

Join us by registering at www.creativekidscorner.org or contact - Linda Kusel, CKC Director

A Just Harvest 11th Annual Awards Banquet and Benefit

Sunday, October 26, 5:00 p.m., at Galleria Marchetti

Here's your opportunity to support A Just Harvest with attendance at their annual banquet and benefit. The keynote speaker will be Bishop Sally Dyck of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Ticket price is \$150 and you can reserve by going to www.ajustharvest.org. The website also lists sponsorship opportunities.

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 **October 23** at Baker's Square. You'll enjoy the fellowship! Call Marian Eckhardt with questions.

Stitch and Study -

Stitch and Study, combining Bible Study, prayer, conversation, and craft/needlework projects, meets on the **third Tuesday of each month** at the home of Marilyn Nelson at 7 p.m. 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. The **October meeting will be on the 21st.**

Tuesday morning Bible Study -

The Tuesday Morning Women's bible Study meets weekly from September thru April, at 9:30 a.m. We invite you to join us for this year's study of the Gospel of John. This gospel has always been a favorite. It is familiar and simple, yet so profound. You will also enjoy the fellowship! Study Guides will be available in the church office and in class. Questions: contact Joann Larson.

Girls' Night Out -

On Thursday, **October 9 at 7:00 p.m.**, all women and girls are invited to an evening of fellowship. We will have an opportunity to hear Jen Brunzell and her mother, Kelly O'Brien, tell about their family's travels this summer to Tanzania to work with the school founded by Kelly. Bring yourself and invite a friend to come with.

MOPS Comes to Winnetka Covenant

The Winnetka Covenant Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group started in September and will continue through the year.! The theme of this years' MOPS group is entitled *Be You, Bravely*.

It meets the first Friday of each month from 9:30-11:00 and is open to mothers and their children, ages birth to 5 years. For more information about MOPS you can contact Elizabeth Schwartz or visit mops.org. Childcare will be provided while mothers in the community connect and better equip themselves for the journey of life. If you would like to volunteer for childcare, please contact Elizabeth. Cost will be \$50 for the year.

Women's Retreat—February 6-8, 2015

It seems a long way off, but the women's retreat will be February 6-8, and we are pleased that Judi Geake will be our speaker again this year, and the theme is "Happiness Is a Choice." We will begin taking registrations in October. You won't want to miss this, so get it on your calendar now.

Men's Ministries News

Men's fellowship will again meet 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.

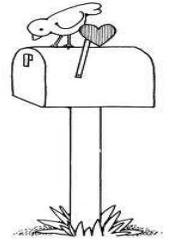
Watch also for information on opportunities to participate in work projects and for singing together. If you would like to be included on an e-mail list for notifications of events, please contact Paul Christmas.

Mailbox

Dear Winnetka Covenant Church friends,

Thank you for helping us say goodbye to our Mom, Verna Fogel. We are very grateful for the love and support of Winnetka Covenant Church over many years. "Miss Verna" loved this church very much and so do we.

*Love,
Marilynn, Steve, and Mark*



A new directory will be printed in October. If there are any changes to your current listing please give them to the church office. If you don't currently have your cell phone number or e-mail address listed and would like to, please let us know that information. You can e-mail information to wccjoanwallgren@gmail.com.

Network by e-mail -

Some people like to read things on paper and some prefer to receive information online. We would like to be sure our friends and members receive the Network in the form they are most likely to read it. If you would prefer to receive the Network by e-mail, please send your information to Joan at wccjoanwallgren@gmail.com.

Covenant Companion -

Winnetka Covenant church values our denominational magazine, the Covenant Companion, which often includes articles written by members of our church. We participate in the every-member subscription plan, providing subscriptions for each of our member families at a reduced subscription rate of \$18.00. We welcome reimbursement, if you are able, to help us cover the cost to the church. This can be done online or in the Sunday offering.

Steven Ministry Meeting Dates:

Sunday, October 5 - 6:00-8:00 p.m., at church

Sunday, November 2 - 6:00-8:00 p.m., at church

Winnetka Covenant Church Network

1200 Hibbard Road
Wilmette, Illinois, 60091

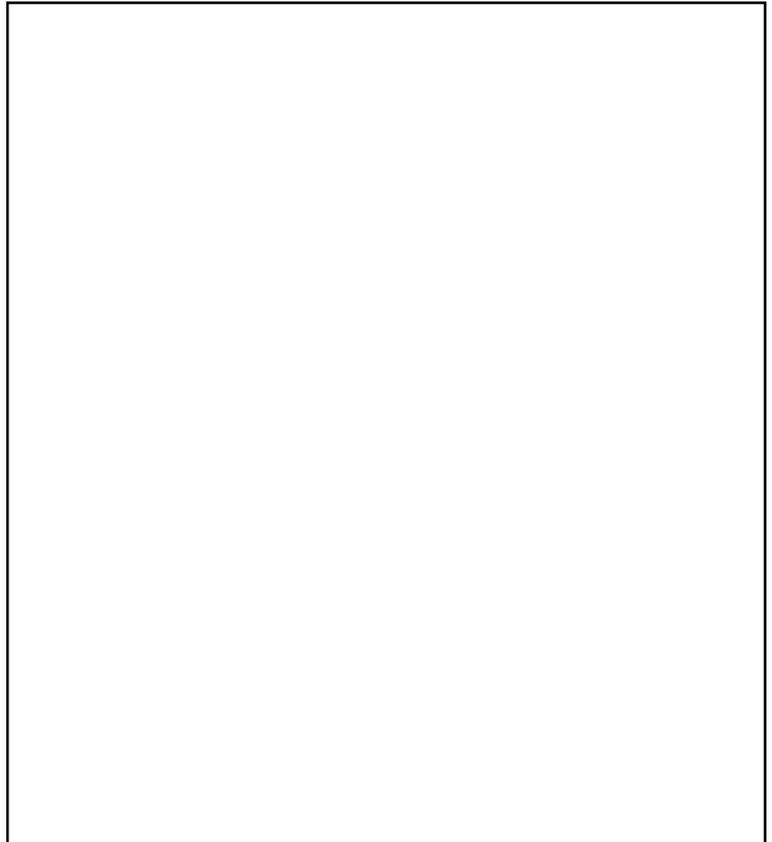
847-446-4300
www.winnetkacovenant.org

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.



Preschool News

Winnetka Covenant Preschool is officially entering its 40th year! That's 40 years of providing that precious first school experience to both the children in our church and our beloved community.

There are two important ways you can help support the preschool:

The first and easiest way you can help the preschool is by using *Fundico* for all of your Amazon.com purchases. Just follow these easy steps:

1. Go to our website (www.wccpreschool.com)
2. Select the **Mission** tab
3. Click the **Fundico** button at the bottom of the page
4. Click the **Amazon.com** button and shop as you normally would.

That's it. 3% of your purchase will go directly to the preschool. If our entire church community utilized this feature when doing their Amazon shopping, that 3% adds up quickly.

The second way to help - look for the **giving tree in the Narthex**. Each leaf of the tree is a specific donation/item for the preschool as we update and improve our classrooms for the 2014/15 school year and beyond. Please consider making a donation.

Thank you so much for considering helping the preschool in these ways. Here's to 40 more years of first school experiences.