



Winnetka Covenant Church

1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

The Network

October, 2017

October 13-15

Guess Who Dinners

October 20-22

CMMBC Work Trip

October 28

Harvest Dinner

October 29

Cong. Mtg.

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“Momentum”

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.
(Philippians 3:12)

Have you ever been talking with somebody when all of a sudden you realize that they have said the same word multiple times throughout the conversation? Maybe the word was “coincidentally” or “therefore” or “umm...” (just kidding on that last one!) I call these situations and these words, “crutch words.” Words that people rely on to carry them through conversations.

“Crutch words” are a problem for me; I rotate through them in my vocabulary on a semi-regular basis. From “totally” to “incredible” I’ve been through so many, but one has stood the test of time and remains in my vernacular throughout all seasons—“momentum.”

I love the word “momentum” because it is not about perfection, it’s not about a finished product, it’s about the journey and progress that comes in life over time. Each day I wake up with many specific goals for the day; there are emails to be sent, lessons to be written, meetings to be had. However, I always have one big-picture goal that I strive for each day: to be a healthy and thriving person - mentally, physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. No one trip to the gym, one book to read, one night with my friends or one devotional time will alone achieve this goal.

This goal only happens by “pressing on” to that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. When I was a sophomore in high school, the love and grace and freedom of God took ahold of me in an all-encapsulating way like it never had before, even though I was a child who was raised in the Church. The call towards discipleship was irresistible to me, and I have been pursuing that path ever since.

It doesn’t take too many interactions with any of us to realize that even though we are pursuing the love of God, we still get angry. Even though we seek to know the peace of God more each day, we still get worried and anxious. We have not “obtained all this, or arrived at my goal”, but the hope is that the momentum of our life is moving towards the life that the Trinity has for us. It is my prayer and invitation that we, as Winnetka Covenant, would walk this journey together, so that Christ Jesus would collectively take hold of our lives and transform us more and more into His image. I know God has incredible things in store for this community & I can’t wait to see them unfold!

Joel Brand

Christian Formation at WCC

Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:30

Infant & toddler nursery care will be provided in the nursery (first floor)

Sunday School for 2's & 3's is in the preschool room (first floor)

Rotation Sunday School for age 4 through 5th grade in various locations (see details below)

Junior High Sunday School in the youth room (second floor)

Senior High Sunday School in the youth pastor's office (first floor)

Adult Sunday School in the Upper Room (details below)

Children's Ministry

Rotation Sunday School

In Rotation Sunday School, children age 4 through grade 5 focus on the same theme or Bible story over the course of three or four weeks in a different workshop each week. They explore the story through art, drama, cooking, games, video, and other workshops that help them engage with the story in different ways. Each class has an adult "Shepherd" who accompanies them through the year and builds relationships with the children. Schedules are posted around the church building so that you can easily know which room your child's workshop is in on any given Sunday.



October 8-29 – Psalm 23

The 23rd Psalm is a classic piece of scripture that has spoken to people over the centuries. The agrarian culture, the fight for survival, the presence of enemies: these were realities during Biblical times. The images spoke to the people reading them; the customs were familiar. The affirmation of the presence of God in some tangible form was a much-needed litany. The words still speak to us as we enter the third millennium, but we need some education about the images. While we can picture the scene, it is pastoral, in contrast to the way that many of us in America live. Nevertheless, to know this psalm *by heart* is to carry with us a scripture that will speak to us in our times of need. While this lesson is based in the Old Testament, there are many allusions to Jesus Christ being the Good Shepherd. This is an image that we want to pass on to future generations so that rich, graphic metaphors for God and Jesus Christ can still ring true to our hearts today.

Workshops:

Garden of Eatin': Food is used as metaphor and memory aid as kids learn the 23rd Psalm.

Moved By the Spirit: With the psalm written on paper footsteps, kids walk the psalm.

Good News Games: The psalm in Olympic game format.

Disciples' Drama: While a narrator reads the psalm, reporters and people react.

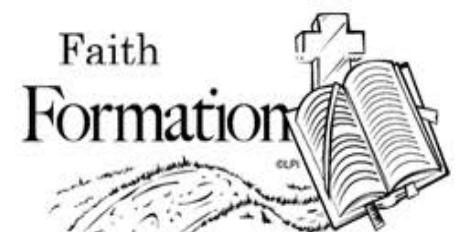
Adult Sunday School

The overarching theme for this year is Reconciliation, based on 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. In those verses we are drawn to the biblical mandate and invitation to be reconciled to God, others, creation, and ourselves. We hope to explore this theme in relation to contemporary issues and subjects, including biblical exploration, in ways that will help us more fully live into the ministry of reconciliation that we have been given.

September 17 – October 15 – In This Together: Videos On Loving Our Way Forward

This video series points to areas of fracture with ideas of how we can come together as one humanity for the healing of the world. Themes explored are: followers of Christ can grow into taking a healing versus hostile posture in the world for the greater good; regardless of opposition, we are called to honor everyone; we are led by the compulsion of our love; the way towards the very good news is connection; and we are all one and that sometimes love calls us to cross or reach through our perceptions to stand for kinship-us-ness.

Beginning October 22nd the theme will be Reconciling with Ourselves. These sessions will include conversations around self care, being in touch with our soul, healing from trauma, and dealing with grief and loss.



Wednesday Night Activities schedule

Food, fellowship and formation for all ages

5:30 – 6:30 – Supper in the gym (if you need to come late, you can still be served until 6:30!)

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

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

For Kids!

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

For Youth!

(Jr. and Sr. High)

Come eat dinner with your friends, join Wednesday Worship, then join Joel in the Youth Room for “The League.”

For Adults!

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

Youth Ministry News

New Youth Wednesday Night Programming

There is now age-specific programming for youth, grades 6th-12th, during our all-generational Wednesday night activities.

Join us for dinner starting at 5:30 followed by worship for all ages at 6:30! Starting at 7 p.m., all youth will join Joel in the Youth Room for what will be called, “The League.” Every week will be slightly different as we continue to see what this time should look like, but expect games, a lesson, and time to just hang out with your Winnetka Church friends. Exciting times to come for youth ministry at Winnetka!

High League: Day@CHIC at North Park University on Oct. 21st from 8a.m.-10p.m.

Are you interested in seeing a glimpse of what July 15-July 20th, 2018 will be like when Winnetka High League, along with 5,000 High School students descend on the University of Tennessee’s campus in Knoxville to go on incredible excursions, listen to nationally-renowned speakers & worship with well-known Christian Bands? Come join your High League friends for a day in Chicago, where we will get to meet up with other youth groups from the Central Conference and have a blast all day!

Food, fun and festivities are included in this great day for the low-cost of \$20 a student. The link to register, as well as more information about this event, can be found on the church website. Contact Joel with any questions & please RSVP to Joel if you plan on coming.

From the Worship Committee

Narthex Fall Art Display

We are pleased to feature the artwork of Gayle Bradley Johnson in the WCC narthex this fall.

Many of Gayle's paintings depict the seasonal beauty of the Northwoods where she resided for many years after retiring from North Park University as Professor of Art. She taught at NPU for 24 years, and is Professor Emeritus. Well known by many, a long-time member of the ECC and Winnetka Covenant Church, we welcome Gayle back as she is now local again. She became a resident of Covenant Village in Spring, 2016.

Gayle has participated in many previous exhibitions here, including the memorable series relating to St. Teresa of Avila's, *The Interior Castle*. We are grateful to have her share her gifted work in this new solo display.

Hello Wor-SHIP families!

On October 15 we will have A BYOB during children's Worship! (Bring Your Own Bulb!)

We will plant the bulbs right outside the church.

Please send your child to church with a tulip, daffodil, or crocus bulb. Come Spring time we will all smile!

Mission Opportunities

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

Greater Chicago Food Depository – Volunteer to help repackage food at the Greater Chicago Food Depository each month, 9:00 – 11:45 a.m. Our next volunteer day is **Saturday, October 21st.** **Volunteers must register and sign up online ahead of time (<http://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/>).** Contact Rachel Rescorl or Debbie O'Donovan with questions or for help with signing up.

Fall Work Trip 2017 –

Who: Anyone! Senior High Students, Individuals, Families and Friends

When: October 20-22, 2017

Where: Covenant Mountain Mission Bible Camp (CMMBC) in Jonesville, VA

Cost: Food and supplies for work projects will be covered by money raised at the Rummage Sale and Mission Committee funds. Participants will be responsible for the cost of food during travel as well as a minimal amount for extra activities, and travel expenses. Carpooling 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.

Why CMMBC and Appalachia?: Winnetka Covenant Church has supported CMMBC since the 1980's with youth group trips and intergenerational work trips. CMMBC offers affordable summer camp opportunities for the young people of Lee Country, 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?: Contact Cindy Buettgen or the church office.

A Just Harvest Awards Benefit Dinner – Wednesday, October 18, 6-8 p.m.

We are invited to attend the annual Fall Fundraiser for A Just Harvest Community Kitchen. The event will be at the Wilson Abbey Auditorium (935 W. Wilson Ave. in Chicago). You may purchase your ticket at fundraiser2017.eventbrite.com.

Service Opportunities

Wednesday Night Dinners - It's that time again and we need your help. Wednesday dinners have begun. We would greatly appreciate your help from October through May. Can you prepare dinner? Do you prefer to be a shopper? If you aren't able to help ahead of time each week we need a crew to help clean up in the gym and kitchen. Please give some consideration to how you can help out with this wonderful opportunity to serve, eat and fellowship with us. As in the past, dinner will be \$5.00 per adult, \$3.00 for children age 5-12/\$12.00 max per family. Can't beat the price!

Please see Kitti Steiner if you can help. We will have a signup sheet posted in the kitchen for your convenience. If you prefer, we have an online signup as well. Check the church website or contact Joan in the church office for the link to the signups for both cooks and shoppers. Thank you in advance for participating in this wonderful service and sharing opportunity.

See you in the kitchen, Kitti Steiner

Tom & Cindy Buettgen invite you to join them on Saturday, September 30 at 12:30 p.m. for the Steve Fogel Memorial Bicycle Ride, a 30-mile ride from their home in Riverwoods to Great Lakes Naval Base and back. This ride was a favorite of Steve's. The route includes secondary roads and paved trail. This will be a group ride and all levels of riders will stay together. We'll stop to rest twice, at approximately mile 10 and at mile 20. Bring your own snacks. Suggested donation of \$20/person will be contributed to the Steve Fogel Memorial Fund. Questions, please contact Tom or Cindy.

Trustee Update

The Winnetka Covenant Church financial summary through August 2017:

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

➤ YTD Financials

- General Fund Congregational Giving through August 31 - \$593,564 (8% less than 2016)
- Total receipts to date are 5% under planned budget; Expenses are under budget by 9%; Operating funds and cash are much better than planned.

Comparisons to Prior Year and Budget:

	2017 Actual	2016 Actual	%	2017 Budget	%
General Fund Receipts	\$678,732	\$660,535	103%	\$709,824	95%
Expenses	\$621,847	\$686,913	91%	\$699,796	89%
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	\$56,885	(\$26,378)			

	<u>08/31/2017</u>	<u>08/31/2016</u>
Cash		
General Fund	\$ (7,936)	\$ (74,194)
Exchange Accounts	70,173	88,716
Memorial/Bequest Funds*	2,279	29,861
	\$64,640	\$44,508
*Investments		
Memorial/Bequest Funds	\$186,741	\$110,099
Johnson/Gustafson Memorial	44,481	44,652
General Fund	0	524
Total	\$231,222	\$155,276

➤ Special Thanks

- Thank you for your continued financial stewardship. We are slightly behind in giving, however other income and lower expenses have provided an overall healthy financial summary.

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

Covenant Companion

Our own magazine, the *Covenant Companion*, was named the best denominational magazine at the annual Evangelical Press Association convention for the second year in a row. The church provides subscriptions to the *Companion* for each of our member families, at a cost of \$18 per subscription. If you are able to reimburse the church for this cost it is much appreciated. If you would like to give an additional donation to cover the subscription cost for someone else who might not be able to pay for it right now, that is also much appreciated. This magazine is a valuable way to stay connected to the larger denomination.

Memoir Writing Group (open to men and women)

The Memoir Writing Group meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the church library. **Join us Tuesday, October 10th, from 1:00-2:30 p.m.** The writing prompt this month is *Anything You Think of When You Think About Fall*. Did your family burn leaves? Did you build piles of leaves to jump in? What did you do for Halloween? Did you have a favorite costume? As always, you may write about anything you wish. There are no critiques ... we just enjoy hearing each others' stories. If you'd like to come and see what we are all about, you do not need to write for your first visit. Questions? Contact Joann Larson or Judi Geake.

Women's Ministries

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

Moms Together – The **Moms' Group** will meet Friday, October 13th from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Join us for coffee and conversation in the narthex. Childcare is provided. Please let Judi Geake or the church office know the number of children you will bring so we have enough volunteers.

Service Opportunity – Do you have 90 minutes to spare on an occasional Friday morning? The Moms' Group needs several volunteers to help with childcare on the second Friday of the month from 10:00-11:30 a.m. It is a much appreciated opportunity for young mothers to get together ... and a great opportunity for members to be of service to our church. Contact Judi Geake if you are able to help on any of the remaining days this year. They are October 13th, November 10th, or December 8th.

Next Chapter meets every other month to hear a speaker and on the alternate months to enjoy an activity together. Our next gathering will be Thursday, October 19th. We will meet at the church and travel together to the Corn Maze at Kroll's Harvest Farm on Town Line road in Waukegan. (We promise to bring back as many women as we take!) Watch for more specific information in your e-mail. If you are not on the Next Chapter e-mail list, contact Judi Geake to be added.

Quilters, Knitters, etc. – Meet on the **second Thursday** of each month for fellowship and service. Watch the weekly bulletins for location of the meeting.

Sharing Group - We cordially invite all WCC women to join us on the fourth Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon for lunch and fellowship. We will meet on **October 26th** at Baker's Square. You'll enjoy the fellowship. Contact 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 Marilynn Nelson. New participants are always welcome to come with or without a project. Due to the Covenant Women fall meeting, watch the bulletins for the date of the October gathering.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study – meets each Tuesday morning at 9:30. This fall we are taking on a challenging 13-week study in the book of JOB. It is a book that brings us face to face with the personal and perplexing question of why meaningless and senseless tragedy comes into our lives. This study is not just about Job and us but ultimately about God. Join us as we seek out timeless truths from one of the Bible's oldest books. Coffee and conversation always! Study Guides will be available in class. Questions: Contact Joann Larson

Covenant Women Fall Meeting – 'Speed Dating', Women's Friendship Version Tuesday, October 17th, 7:00 p.m.

Based on the book "The Friendship Crisis" by Marla Paul, Judi Geake will give a brief introduction to the theme of the evening, Women's Friendships. With all of the directions women are pulled (kids and their activities, work, church commitments, etc.) and changes in life status (becoming widowed, divorced, empty-nester, stay-at-home mom, moving, etc.) friendships may be hard to maintain. After Judi's talk, we will hold our own version of 'speed-dating,' women's friendship version. We will have a chance to move from one table to another, sitting with different groups of women and talking together. If you are newer to the church this is a great opportunity to meet other women. If you have been at WCC forever, you might be surprised to find that there are women you have never talked with. Come, join us, and bring a friend.

Fall Retreat Opportunities at Covenant Point

October 12-15 – Fiber Arts Retreat (quilting, knitting, etc.)

October 12-15 – Fall Outdoors Retreat (hunt, fish, hike, explore)

December 27 – January 1 – Christmas Camp (for all families, friends & individuals)

Information for each of these retreats can be found on the bulletin board in the main hallway.

Mailbox

Dear friends of Winnetka Covenant Women,

Thank you so much for your generous gift! It means the world to me to have your love and support as I head into this new adventure! Your gift will entirely cover an unforeseen \$500 addition to my bill, and I am so incredibly grateful.

You have nurtured and loved me for so many years as I have grown in this church community, all the while showing me through your words and actions how to live and love as Christ. Thank you for your constant love and overflowing grace. I will miss you all so much, but I look forward to keeping in touch.

*Thank you,
Hannah Hawkinson*

My dear Winnetka Covenant family,

I want to thank you so very much for your prayers for my sisters through their cancer battles.

Peg has completed chemo, but now faces seven weeks of daily radiation treatments. Please remember her through this.

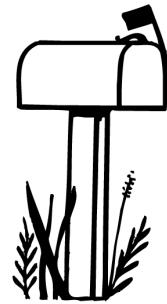
*Thank you,
Kitti Steiner*

Dear friends,

Our sincerest thanks to all who made the Celebration of Marti's life on September 16th memorable: Pastor Peter, who visited her frequently during hospitalizations, rehab and hospice care, was entirely flexible and encouraging as we worked to develop the service for which Marti had left instructions; Pastor Art whose message was so wonderfully crafted; Josh and Brittany whose music resonated magically; Judy and Joan whose administrative support was outstanding; Luke who arranged everything beautifully; Bernie who managed the sound; the deacons who provided refreshments after the service; all the congregants whose cards, notes, phone calls, meals, and visits were appreciated, as was attendance at the celebration and Memorial Garden inurnment. The service can be seen on line at www.winnetkacovenant.org.

By way of background:..at 7:12 a.m. on August 31, 2017 Marti breathed her last and entered eternal life with her Lord and Savior. This ended a 2 year battle with an auto-immune disease, otherwise characterized as PAIN throughout all body systems. The past 8 months have been brutal with 5 hospitalizations, 100 days allowed by Medicare at Brandel Rehab/Covenant Village, Northbrook, discharged 7/6 to Mark and Amy's (daughter) adapted home in St Charles which turned into Hospice care under Covenant Care at Home on 8/1 and death 31 days later. The Neptune Society stewards transported the lifeless shell of the most wondrous woman known as Marti/Der Hart/Grammy/Mom to the crematorium where from dust to dust she will exit. To celebrate her life we invite you all to visit the WCC columbarium, where she is inurned in a niche in the Memorial Garden.

Mer Crow



Next Steps in our LGBTQ Conversation: Crafting a Statement

Please join us after dinner on October 4 to continue our discussion about welcoming all people into our church with a particular emphasis on LGBTQ persons. We will meet in small groups to read over a variety of statements that other churches have put together for the purpose of beginning the discernment process of what should be included in a WCC statement.

In June, we met for the 8th conversation about LGBTQ people and our church. During that meeting we summarized all we had discussed and put together a list of questions to lead us forward. The list is long, and that is good! For the complete list, please contact Polly McClellan. Below is a summary of the “threads” which wove their way through.

Threads that are apparent:

- 1) We need a WCC statement for ourselves
- 2) Welcoming
 - a. What language do we use?
 - b. What does it look like? What does it feel like?
 - c. How do we consider the youth of our church in terms of how we talk about LGBTQ, how we support LGBTQ, and how we welcome LGBTQ individuals? (Would an LGBTQ youth feel “safe,” “welcome,” “free” to ask questions?)
- 3) How do we proceed together even with our different “reading” of scripture?
- 4) We need to keep discussing this issue; we shouldn’t stop
- 5) Gay marriage - how can we welcome and celebrate? Do we want to offer our space – without our pastors officiating?
- 6) Discussion about WCC statement/challenge to the Covenant denomination

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.

Upcoming Opportunities

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? On October 13th, 14th, and 15th we are all invited to participate in a "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" (or lunch). This is an opportunity to get to know a small group of people over dinner in each other's homes. You let us know which time you are able to attend, whether you want to be a guest or host and how many will be coming. The people are then randomly assigned to their dinner/lunch party, hosts will plan the menu and set the time, and guests will contribute to the meal as requested by the host. You can either fill out a form and leave it in the basket in the narthex or call the church office. The deadline for responding is Sunday October 8th.

Harvest Dinner - Saturday, October 28th at 5:00 p.m. Our evening begins with a celebration of the 90th anniversary of Winnetka Covenant Church. There will be a video presentation of photos from past and present and a hymn sing of special hymns through the years. A potluck dinner will follow. Bring a dish to share that will feed your family plus five. Dessert and table service will be provided. Questions about the dinner – contact Gary & Karen Isaacson or Dave & Barb Scheibe. An offering will be taken to provide Christmas gifts for the career missionaries supported by WCC.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - Our church is hosting the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service to be held on Tuesday, November 21 at 7:30pm. The speaker this year is Rami Nashashibi, executive director of the Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN). He is a nationally known advocate for social justice and human dignity.

There are opportunities for you to participate. The choir will join with other choirs from member congregations to sing for the service. We need ushers and greeters to welcome and direct our guests. There will be a reception following the service. We appreciate any baked goods or other food items you can provide.

This is our chance to show hospitality to our community. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. See Denise Johnson or Judi Geake if you have questions or to offer your help.