

140th Anniversary

Covenant

CHURCH



Covenant Echoes
October & November, 2024



From the Pastor's Desk...

By Pastor Derrick Gutierrez

Many people love to get away during the summer months.. As summer draws to a close and the colors of fall begin to emerge, I am drawn to the quiet, healing presence of the woods. I have the opportunity in late October to step away from the noise of daily life and spend time in the wilderness on a silent retreat—a time of fasting, praying, listening, and seeking God's vision for our church.

In the quiet of the forest, there's a stillness that allows God's voice to be heard more clearly. I am reminded of how Jesus often withdrew to solitary places to pray. It is in these moments of separation that we can truly focus on what God is speaking into our hearts. The absence of distractions, the simplicity of nature, and the physical discipline of fasting create the perfect space for spiritual clarity.

During this retreat, I will dedicate time to prayer for our church—seeking direction, renewal, and fresh vision. It is clear to me that, just like the woods, where every tree and plant grows at its own pace, our church community is on a unique journey. The seasons of growth, change, and renewal each have their time, and it's through prayerful discernment that we can understand where God is leading us next.

Listening can be profound. Often in our daily routines, we fill the silence with activity or worry. But in the woods, I listen deeply. It's amazing what can be heard when we pause long enough to let God speak into the silence. I hope to satisfy a call to deeper connection—not only with God but with one another.

As we move forward together, I invite each of you to create your own moments of stillness, whether through a walk in nature, a time of fasting, or simply setting aside quiet moments in prayer. Ask God to reveal the vision for your life, for your family, and for our church. Let's commit to being a people who listen well and follow faithfully.

We are entering a season where God is preparing to do something new among us. I truly believe that as we seek God together, we will discern a shared vision that will guide us into the future He has prepared for us. I look forward to walking this journey with you, trusting in the One who makes all things new.

Sidelights

COVENANT'S VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

Our Vision Statement: **Bringing Christ's Light into the Community and Beyond.**

Our Mission Statement: **We Invite, We Welcome, We Nurture, We Serve.**

WAYS TO CONTINUE GIVING

Thank you to our faithful members who continue to support Covenant Church. Here are options for you to give your personal tithes and offerings:

- Mail checks to 110 N. Mulberry St., Lancaster, PA, 17603
- Give online. Go to our website www.covenant-umc.com and click on the GIVING link and follow the directions.
- Text 717-769-1063. After the initial setup, giving is easy.

Please call the church office with questions.

Sidelights

PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer request, please call Patti Willard at 717-872-7561. If she is unavailable, please leave a message. Also, if you are interested in being a member of the Prayer Chain, please contact her to add your name to the list .

HOSPITAL VISITATION

Don't forget to notify the church office when you or a loved one is in the hospital. Our Care Team is available to visit and share prayer.

UPPER ROOM

You can purchase the Upper Room daily devotional for only \$2. We have regular and large print in the office.

LOBBY GREETERS

1st Sunday of the Month
Bob & Cindy Hean

2nd Sunday of the Month
Carole Horn

3rd Sunday of the Month
Linda Henning

4th Sunday of the Month
Bonnie & Barry Miller

5th Sunday of the Month
Janice McElroy

We Worship Together

Sunday Worship

In-person worship will be held each Sunday at 10:30 am. The service will also be livestreamed on Facebook for those who wish to worship at home.

Additional Opportunities During the Week

- Wednesday at 10 am join our prayer group in the church library.

Child Care Center Report

The child care center has been buzzing with back-to-school season fun. Classrooms are full and staff are ready to welcome the new school year! There are some activities coming up that we would love your help with if you are able to participate.

Thursday, October 24th: Child Care Appreciation Staff Lunch

Thank you to all members of the congregation who have signed up to provide items for the Staff Appreciation Lunch. The staff put so much into caring for the center's children they definitely deserve some acknowledgment! If you would still like to provide a food item but have not yet signed up, there is a sign up sheet in the Gathering Area.

Thursday, October 31st : Trick-or-Treat

The children of the child care center will be celebrating Halloween by marching in a Halloween Parade. They will visit each classroom as well as the church office. We invite all members of the congregation who would like to watch the parade and/or hand out trick-or-treat goodies to attend. The parade will start at 10:00am and those who would like to participate can sit in the Gathering Area.

R&K Sub Sale

The child care center is participating in a sub sale to raise money for the ongoing costs of special activities and supplies for the center. Please join us by ordering a sub or pretzel sandwich for your family. Help the center even more by selling extra sandwiches to family, friends, or coworkers. Order forms are on the counter in the lobby. Please put order forms along with payment in Emily's mailbox #10 no later than Tuesday, November 5th. Sandwiches will be available for pick up on Wednesday, November 13th between 3:00-5:00.

Donations: The child care center is always in need of supplies that we use regularly. If you have any interest in giving a donation to the child care center, please see the items listed below. These can be left in the church office or gathering area with a note attached For Child Care. (See donations on next page.)

Here's to Good Health!

The lazy days of summer are gone, and the busy time of fall and winter loom ahead. Routines change and we become busier. Sleep is important to keep us going. How often do you get a good night's sleep? Why is sleep important? What can you do to have a better sleep each night?

What is sleep? It is the natural periodic suspension of consciousness during which the powers of the body are restored. For an adult that time for sleeping is 6-9 hours each night.

Insomnia is having chronic trouble falling asleep, staying asleep, or waking up too early. These problems last for months or longer. These people have trouble functioning during the day. So, as we get older it is reported that we get less deep sleep. That is REM sleep, the rapid eye movement sleep stage when we dream -- more awakenings, more light sleep, and more fragmented sleep. This can happen between the ages of 50 to 60 years old.

Talk with your PCP about any medications you might use to help with your sleep. There are a few things you can do to help aid in getting that good night's sleep. Let me share some sleep hygiene tips.

- Avoid caffeine. It takes 8 hours to wear off.
- Limit alcohol.
- Avoid bright lights, the phone, computer, and the TV for an hour before bed.
- Reduce noise. Use white noise machines or a fan for soothing sounds.
- Keep a routine. A pre- bedtime routine helps the brain recognize that it's time to go to sleep.
- Avoid naps after 3p.m.
- Avoid big meals late at night.
- Keep the bedroom cool.

Cindy Smith,
Parish Nurse

(Continued from previous page.)

Supplies for the Classrooms:

- Shoe boxes, Egg cartons, Paper lunch bags, Cotton balls, Scrap/drawing paper or coloring books, Dry erase markers

Snacks for Students:

- Pretzels, Goldfish, Animal crackers, Crackers, Cheerios or other dry cereals, Bananas, Yogurt sticks, Cheese sticks

Cleaning Supplies:

- Clorox wipes (other brand or generic is fine as well), Lysol aerosol spray (other brand or generic is fine as well), Clorox bleach, Gloves (Costco sells nitrile exam gloves in the pharmacy department which is the best deal I've found.)

Any donations are truly appreciated!

Thank you!

Sidelights

COVENANT MEMBERS IN BUSINESS

Aunt Sandy's Attic

Sandy Leonard—Antiques, Collectibles, Books, Art, etc.
545 W. Market Street, Marietta, PA 17547, 717-426-5091

Dale Building Designs

www.DonDaleDesigns.com

Groff Family Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc.

Thomas S. Buter, 394.5300
528 W. Orange St.

Miller Optical

Glenn & Maryanne Miller, 393.2020
Glasses, Contacts, and Exams
Lancaster & Willow Street

Willard Hypnosis Center

Roger J. Willard
3304 Main Street, Conestoga PA 17516, 717.872.7561 or willardhypnosis.com

A/V HELP NEEDED

There is room for you on the sanctuary sound board. Interested? Training will be provided. Please see Darwin Tyson for more information.

Sidelights

THE WOW FELLOWSHIP

The women and men's group that has been meeting once a month after church for lunch and Bible study is now called The WOW Fellowship, which means **W**orship God, **O**bey His Word, and **W**itness to others. The group will be meeting the second Sunday of every month in Bethany Hall following the Worship Service. Lunch is provided.

GROCERY CARDS

Please check the News to Go for Sundays when grocery cards will be available in the lobby.

You can also continue to support the Mission Outreach of Covenant by purchasing your grocery store gift cards through the mail. Please mail your check to Covenant UMC at 110 N Mulberry St 17603 with a note. We have \$50 Stauffer's cards; \$25 and \$50 Giant cards.

Please make your checks out to Covenant UMC. After receiving your check, we will mail your grocery store cards to your home.

Learn More from the Bible in Sunday School

Do you want to learn more from the Bible? Do you want to explore what the Bible says about how to live your life today? Then come to Sunday School. There are two adults classes from which to choose.

Every Sunday at 9:00 A.M. the Sonshine Class meets in Room B1 on the lower level next to the elevator, and the Faith Walk Class gathers in the Chapel/Library. All are welcome!

The Sonshine Class is currently studying "Loving the Jesus Way," based on I Corinthians 13. Following that study, they will return to watching the ministry of Jesus through the eyes of his followers in "The Chosen, Season 3." Ginny Brown and Patti Willard lead the class in their studies and discussions.

The Faith Walk Class is concluding their series of lessons from "On Purpose: Finding God's Voice in Your Passion," as presented on DVD by four different United Methodist pastors. Their next study, which will continue throughout October and November, is entitled "How (Not) to Read the Bible." Dr. Dan Kimball, a graduate of and professor at Western Seminary, will present via DVD an approach to make sense of various misunderstood and difficult Bible passages.

Discussion of the DVD presentations and further search of the Scriptures are led on a rotating basis by teachers Carole Horn, Chris Kimmich, Lois Neidermyer, and Cindy Smith. Come learn what the Bible teaches!



Bible2School Begins 5th Year at Fulton

For the 2024-2025 school year Covenant Church is hosting once again Bible2School, a released time religious education program, for Fulton Elementary School. Sessions start at the end of September and beginning of October. Second graders will come on Mondays and fourth graders on Tuesdays over their lunch and recess hours. Once enough adult volunteers are available, third graders will be able to participate in the program on Tuesdays also. Julie Pack is the site director for classes for Fulton Elementary and also for Lafayette Elementary, which begins its first year with Bible2School this school year.

Cindy Hean and Lois Neidermyer will work along side Julie to teach the Old Testament curriculum to the second graders. Third graders study the New Testament and fourth graders Christian Discipleship. Please notify the church office if you or someone you know could volunteer two hours over the noon hour on Tuesdays to make Bible2School possible for Fulton third graders this year.

The Bible2School outreach continues to grow. During the 2023-2024 school year there were 45 elementary schools with a total of 108 classes and 2,375 students involved in the program. Over half of those children, 53%, did not attend church on a regular basis. This January the program expanded beyond Pennsylvania with schools in Idaho and Tennessee. Schools in additional states are showing interest. Please pray for children in Lancaster County and across our nation to learn to know the Bible and Jesus as Savior this school year.

Giving Thanks for Our Church Family

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, it is important to give thanks for our church family that supports our ministry with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Your contributions enable Covenant to thrive and fulfill its mission of serving both its members and the broader community. Financial donations are a tangible expression of faith and stewardship, helping to sustain the church's programs, outreach efforts, and operational needs. Without your generosity, many ministries would be limited in their scope or cease to exist.

Volunteers are equally vital, as they offer their time, skills, and energy to ensure that Covenant remains a vibrant and welcoming place. From organizing events to teaching Sunday school, leading worship, or sharing food boxes for those in need, volunteers embody the spirit of Christian service. They are the hands and feet of Christ in action.

As we give thanks for the generosity of donors and volunteers, we are reminded that their contributions are not just to the church, but to the Kingdom of God. Every gift, whether of money or time, furthers the mission of spreading God's love and grace. Gratitude inspires continued generosity, and we are called to celebrate and uplift those who so freely give of themselves.

Sidelights

COMMUNITY AID

Covenant Church is in partnership with Community Aid. In addition to adding specific items, as needed, to our Community closet they send us checks for a percentage of any items dropped off at Community Aid by our members. Give them our #40070 when you drop off donations.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

75 Year Members

Michael Rohm

50 Year Members

Patrick Bateman

Dale Book

Stephen Fegley

Kenneth Gebhard

Kay Gehman

Lisa Guthrie

Linda Henning

Louis Henning

Carole Horn

Mike King

Dale Miller

Glenn Miller

Mary Ann Norman

Linda Rotz

Jeanne Schall

Denise Troop

Jeffrey Troop

David Walsh

Janet Wendler

25 Year Members

Beth Allison

Richard Bender

Kathy Benner

Carol Brower

John Brower

Bob Galen

Denise Galen

Samantha Gebhard

Audrey Grugan

Mike Lare

Tracey Lare

Kim McCaughey

Joshua Smith

Sharon Snyder

Celeste C Stalk-Ortenzio



We are in a season of change at Covenant United Methodist Church. The means by which we funded ministry in the past will no longer sustain us into the future. As such, the church is looking at various methods to make sure we continue to serve God's mission at the corner of Mulberry and Orange in the city of Lancaster.

The Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation offers the Financial Leadership Academy, a program designed for clergy and laity committed to advancing the financial health of their churches. In today's dynamic economic landscape, it is essential for all of us as church leaders to

manage resources effectively and make sound financial decisions to support our ministries.

The Financial Leadership Academy equips participants with practical skills and tools to build strong stewardship practices, develop sustainable budgets, and lead with confidence in areas of church finance. This 18-month program is structured around in-depth workshops, expert-led seminars, and peer-learning opportunities. Participants will explore key topics such as strategic planning, fundraising, endowments, and legacy giving. Additionally, the academy emphasizes creating a culture of generosity, ensuring that your congregation's financial practices are mission-driven and future-focused.

As part of the program, Covenant receives a coach to work with the pastor and small core team to implement the strategies learned during seminars hosted by the Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation. We hope that small changes lead to significant results as we continue to meet the challenges of ministry as we continue to Invite, Welcome, Nurture, and Serve new disciples of Jesus Christ.

140th Anniversary Campaign

Covenant has a long legacy of providing worship, learning opportunities and outreach to our community. We want to continue supporting our ministries for a vital future and build on this legacy. To help us sustain, improve, and grow, we encourage you to contribute to our 140th - Anniversary Campaign fundraising goal of \$140,000.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE HELPING US REACH THAT GOAL

Lynn Arnold	Greg and Kathy Smith
Bethany Beznoska	Connie Schmidt
Joel & Katherine Fox	Gail and Glen Walz
Sylvia Frey	Betty Jane (BJ) Wolfgang
Glen & Darlene Greenly	Joan Miller
Lois Neidermyer	Bob and Cindy Hean
Sally Wismer Ott	Carole Horn
Jackson Sinor	Ron and Chris Kimmich
Cindy Smith	Glenn & Maryanne Miller
Karen Schneider	Ruth Neuman

There is still time for you to join this fundraising effort. Please call the church office with any questions.

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>12:05p Bible2School 3r</p> <p>1p Staff Meeting</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>10a Conference Call Pra</p> <p>10:15a Prayer Group</p> <p>5:30p Covenant Ringers</p> <p>7p Chancel Choir Rehea</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>7:30p Praise Team Rehe</p>	<p>Homecoming</p> <p>7a MOOS</p> <p>6p Chocolate Chip Cooki</p> <p>12p Care and Share Lun</p>	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<p>Homecoming</p> <p>Holy Communion</p> <p>9a Adult, Children & You</p> <p>10:30a Worship & FaceE</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>10:40a Bible2School 2n</p> <p>7p Narcotics Anonymou:</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>12:05p Bible2School 3r</p> <p>1p Staff Meeting</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>10a Conference Call Pra</p> <p>10:15a Prayer Group</p> <p>7p Chancel Choir Rehea</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>7:30p Praise Team Rehe</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>10a Food Box Distributic</p>	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<p>8a Nurture Team Meetin:</p> <p>9a Adult, Children & You</p> <p>10:30a Worship & FaceE</p> <p>12p WOW Luncheon & B</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>7p Narcotics Anonymou:</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>12:05p Bible2School 3r</p> <p>1p Staff Meeting</p> <p>7p Trustee Board</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>10a Conference Call Pra</p> <p>10:15a Prayer Group</p> <p>5:30p Covenant Ringers</p> <p>7p Chancel Choir Rehea</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>7:30p Praise Team Rehe</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>6p Family Movie Night</p> <p>9a IMPACT! Missions Wor</p>	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<p>9a Adult, Children & You</p> <p>10:30a Worship & FaceE</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>8a Community Table</p> <p>10:40a Bible2School 2n</p> <p>7p Narcotics Anonymou:</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>12:05p Bible2School 3r</p> <p>1p Staff Meeting</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>10a Conference Call Pra</p> <p>10:15a Prayer Group</p> <p>7p Chancel Choir Rehea</p> <p>7p SPRC Quarterly Meet</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>12p Child Care Staff App</p> <p>7:30p Praise Team Rehe</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p>	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
<p>9a Adult, Children & You</p> <p>10:30a Worship & FaceE</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>10:40a Bible2School 2n</p> <p>7p Narcotics Anonymou:</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>12:05p Bible2School 3r</p> <p>1p Staff Meeting</p> <p>7p Finance Committee M</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>10a Conference Call Pra</p> <p>10:15a Prayer Group</p> <p>5:30p Covenant Ringers</p> <p>7p Chancel Choir Rehea</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>7:30p Praise Team Rehe</p>	<p>7a MOOS</p> <p>6p Chocolate Chip Cooki</p>	

November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Holy Communion 9a Adult, Children & Youth 10:30a Worship & FaceE	7a MOOS 10:40a Bible2School 2n 7p Narcotics Anonymou:	7a MOOS 12:05p Bible2School 3n 1p Staff Meeting	7a MOOS 10:15a Prayer Group 11a Care Team Meeting 5:30p Covenant Ringers 7p Chancel Choir Reheal	7a MOOS 7:30p Praise Team Rehe	7a MOOS 6p Chocolate Chip Cooki	12p Care and Share Lun
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Holy Communion 9a Adult, Children & Youth 10:30a Worship & FaceE 12p WOW Luncheon & B	7a MOOS 8a Community Table 10:40a Bible2School 2n 7p Narcotics Anonymou: 7p SPRC Meeting	7a MOOS 12:05p Bible2School 3n 1p Staff Meeting 7p Church Council Meet	7a MOOS 10a Conference Call Pra 10:15a Prayer Group 7p Chancel Choir Reheal	7a MOOS 7:30p Praise Team Rehe	7a MOOS 6p Family Movie Night	9a IMPACT! Missions Voi
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Holy Communion 9a Adult, Children & Youth 10:30a Worship & FaceE	7a MOOS 10:40a Bible2School 2n 7p Narcotics Anonymou:	7a MOOS 12:05p Bible2School 3n 1p Staff Meeting 7p Trustee Board	7a MOOS 10a Conference Call Pra 10:15a Prayer Group 5:30p Covenant Ringers 7p Chancel Choir Reheal	7a MOOS 7:30p Praise Team Rehe	7a MOOS	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Holy Communion 9a Adult, Children & Youth 10:30a Worship & FaceE	7a MOOS 10:40a Bible2School 2n 7p Narcotics Anonymou:	7a MOOS 12:05p Bible2School 3n 1p Staff Meeting	7a MOOS 10a Conference Call Pra 10:15a Prayer Group 7p Chancel Choir Reheal	7a MOOS 7:30p Praise Team Rehe	7a MOOS	



October
Chocolate Chip Cookie Concert
Laus Deo
Friday, October 4 at 6 pm

Laus Deo means "Praise be to God". This name was chosen for the chorale because it encapsulates their purpose of giving honor and praise to the triune God. These choir members are part of the developing vocalist program of the Lancaster Art Song Society. They receive intense vocal training, have the opportunity to attend concerts and vocal workshops, as well as observe and glean from professional guest vocalists. All members of Laus Deo are given a tuition scholarship and pay only a small registration fee. Laus Deo performs for retirement communities, churches, and presents concerts at various venues.

The chorale is directed by Heidi Shannon, a highly esteemed chorale conductor in the area. She was the first recipient of the 2009 "Music Teacher of the Year", awarded by Music for Everyone, and was awarded a commendation by the superintendent of the School District of Lancaster, Pedro Rivera. Special guest for the evening will be local vocalist Brenton Megee. Brenton is well-known to Covenant, as he has shared his talent and love of God during our Sunday worship service during the summer months. He is best known for his solo concerts and as a choral/opera artist. The music of Brenton has a way of touching the listener's heart.

Please join us and invite your family and friends to a wonderful evening of music (AND chocolate chip cookies).



November Chocolate Chip Cookie Concert
Music for Everyone Community Chorus
Friday, November 1 at 6 pm

The MFE Lancaster Community Chorus was founded in May 2010 to give people an opportunity to sing for the sheer joy of singing. We are a non-audition, all-age, multicultural, secular chorus. If you are interested in joining the chorus, please send an email to mfechorus@gmail.com and make Joining Chorus the subject line. Our New Member Coordinator will contact you and arrange for you to attend a practice to watch us in action. If we are a fit for you, we will guide you through the next steps. The chorus is directed by Darla Bair, who brings a wealth of professional choral conducting to this special ensemble.

COVENANT

United Methodist Church

110 North Mulberry Street

Lancaster, PA 17603-3507

Office Telephone: 717.393.1561

Senior Pastor's Phone: 717.682.2374

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Church Staff

The Reverend Derrick Gutierrez, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Sally Ott, Visitation & Witness

The Reverend Dr. Guy Carrigan, Dir. of Evangelism

Jeffrey McGary, Echoes Editor

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Admin. Asst....nicole@covenant-umc.com

Echoes Editor...jcmcgary@comcast.net

Web Page...<http://www.covenant-umc.com>

First Friday CCC Concerts

As a part of our 140th celebration, we are hosting musical concerts here at Covenant on First Fridays. Please mark your calendars for Fridays, May 3 through Dec 6, at 6:00 PM. The first Friday of each month we will have a "Covenant Chocolate Chip Cookie Concert" series. You know what that means... cookies for everyone!! Watch the bulletin for a full insert of the musicians that will be highlighted during our concerts. If you would like to assist with making cookies, please see Cindy Smith. In addition, there will be artwork displayed by local artists for viewing and for sale in the Gathering Area. If you have any other questions about other ways you can be involved please contact Chris Kimmich.

Friday, October 4 - **Laus Deo**—Youth and Young Adult Chorale

Friday, November 1—**Music For Everyone Community Chorus**

Friday, December 6—**Christmas Carol Sing-Along**

Return Service Requested

Covenant United Methodist Church
110 N. Mulberry St.
Lancaster, PA 17603-3507