

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKING OFFICERS



RESPONSIBILITIES:

ELDERS: Ruling body of the church. Responsibilities are:

1. Direct the activities and promote the spiritual interest of the church.
2. Be a faithful participant in worship.
3. Attend all Session meetings and assigned standing committee meetings.

DEACONS: They are to be the instruments of the church's ministry of compassion, helping the poor, visiting the sick and the lonely, following the example of Jesus Christ. Duties: Attend all Deacon Meetings, be a faithful participant in worship and participate actively in the Deacons' ministry.

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 Washington, PA
 Permit No. 29

Candidate's name and office: (You may volunteer yourself)

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY July 12, 2021

Name Office

Name	Office

Please pray about your choice(s) and then drop this form in the offering plate; bring this form to the church office; or e-mail your nominations to Donna Carlisle, committee chair, at: dcarlisle@comcast.net. All transactions will be handled with complete confidentiality. If you have any questions, please contact any of the members of the Nominating Committee: **Donna Carlisle, Chair; April Betzner, Emily Blose, Gordon Core, Ann Faust, Stephanie Silbaugh, Joe Losko, Rod Hardy.**

We thank you for your prayerful consideration.

PARISH NURSE CORNER SUMMER 2021



2020 was an unusual year. The pandemic has likely touched some areas of your life and you may be experiencing some effects on your mental health. Mental health and physical health are closely connected. Symptoms may include: fatigue, insomnia, weight gain, or change in menstrual cycles in

women. You can make lifestyle changes such as exercising, eating healthy and finding support from family and friends. However, you may need to seek professional help if you experience these warning signs: chronic sadness, misuse of drugs or alcohol, irritability or suicidal thoughts. Reach out to Samaritan Counseling with an office here at The Church of the Covenant if you feel you need someone to talk to about any of these issues. Call 412-741-7430 for more information.

Stop by and see me Sunday mornings 9:30-10:30am in Room 302. I can be reached at 724-263-7911. Have a safe and healthy summer! Linda Grimm, RN.

The Messenger
 c/o The Church of the Covenant
 267 East Beau Street
 Washington, PA 15301
Return Service Requested



The Summer Messenger

Newsletter of The Church of the Covenant
July 2021

BALLOONS

When my girls were young they just loved balloons ... I'm sure your children or grandchildren do, too. They can't get enough of them ... especially the helium-filled type that every store and restaurant in the world seems to hand out nowadays.



I don't know how or why, but someone came up with a brilliant idea that balloons are appropriate items for celebrating a wide variety of occasions and events. Balloons are released by the thousands at football stadiums and political rallies. Balloons show up at parties, anniversaries, store openings, and in hospital rooms to honor the birth of babies or to cheer up sick people.

I've never heard an explanation of the symbolism associated with balloons, but they appear to be a delight for all ages. Occasionally in the life of the church ... Pentecost, weddings, Easter ... balloons are released ... sometimes with little notes attached. As they sail away, they seem to lift the spirits of the onlookers. It is almost impossible to watch a host of balloons flying through the air without smiling and pointing.

I've noticed that while an inflated balloon is a joy to behold, a deflated balloon is something else. As a boy, there were times when my mother would see me with a gloomy look on my face and say, "It looks as if someone has let the air out of your balloon." But as long as I was doing something I liked to do, or felt I was doing it well, it was quite easy to remain inflated or pumped up!

One of the advantages of getting older is that I've learned that the real secret of life is to keep yourself pumped up when the going is rough and there isn't much to celebrate. I'm grateful for the heroes I have known (and there are more around than you might think) who were never deflated by life's hard knocks - like the Apostle Paul. He and others had the ability to handle life's downs as well as its ups and by so doing served as an inspiration to me and to a lot of others.

How's your balloon? I look forward to seeing you Sunday!
 Pastor Dan

The Church of the Covenant

267 East Beau St., Washington, PA 15301 - 724.222.0190
churchoftheco@comcast.net - www.churchofthecov.org

Worship Services; Sundays: 9:43 & 11:00am
 SUNDAY SCHOOL Will resume on September 12, 2021, "Rally Day"
 Church Office Hours Mon.-Fri. 9:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



In Memory Of

Jean Pence

Memorial Music- Choir Martha Paul Chapter #404, O.E.S.
Harry and Nancy Johnston

Jane Wagner

Memorial Mark and Kimberly O'Donnell

Mary E. Orme

Youth Christian Education Russell E. Orme

BAPTISM



Logan Brennen Ullom, son of Ron and Jessica (Brennen) Ullom was baptized during the 11:00 service on June 27, 2021. The Rev. Dr. Dan Merry officiated, with Elder Joan McCrory assisting.

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your prayers. During our illness with Covid, it was such a comfort knowing our church has a prayer chain and people were praying for us. We are so thankful God answered our prayers.
God Bless You, David and Cheryl White

ATTENTION TO ALL INTERESTED SINGERS!!!

On **Friday, July 30, 2021, from 9 AM to 4 PM**, Volkwein's Music will present a Sacred Choral Reading Session at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott. Several members of The Covenant Choir have already expressed interest in attending, and I am extending an invitation to anyone who has an interest in joining the choir to attend the choral reading with us and then to consider joining the choir. Each attendee will receive a packet of music and then we will "read" through the music. Anyone interested in more details, please call Darla Pepper-Miller at 412.997.9214 to reserve a spot!!



HELP WANTED

The church is looking to fill the position of Sexton (previously held by Cyndi Barney). This will be a part-time (24 hrs/ week) salaried position. The work includes cleaning various areas of the church, under the supervision of Ralph Farabee. Email George Jones - g.jones@comcast.net or call Ralph (724.222.0190x119), or leave your contact info with Debi at the church office (724.222.0190x111 or churchoftheco@comcast.net) if you are interested.

DEADLINE FOR THE August MESSENGER IS July 15



DO YOU HAVE ROOM IN YOUR HEART FOR A HAITIAN CHILD?

This past year has been challenging for everyone, but for the people of Haiti it has been more than worrying about a pandemic. They have had to deal with corrupt political leaders, rival gangs being at war with each other, kidnappings, murders, extreme poverty, and starvation, on top of the corona virus. The LaCroix New Testament Mission is a light in this very dark situation. Many individuals and groups of The Church of the Covenant have sponsored children for the past several years. This allows the children to attend school, receive two meals a day (which is probably the only meals they get), learn about Jesus, and feel safe. For whatever reason, we have lost eight of our sponsors. So I am asking you to pray and ask God if He wants you to step up and provide for a child. The cost is only \$20 a month. Even in these troubling times, most of us probably waste more than that in a week. According to the scriptures, caring for the needy is not optional. God has given us a heart for the "least of these". James 2:26 says "faith without deeds is dead". You don't realize how much \$20 can make an impact on a child's life. It will be the best \$20 you ever spent. Interested in sponsoring a child, please contact Donna Carlisle at dcarlisle@comcast.net or 724-228-3616.

MISSION TRIP 2021

As of now, we have confirmed five persons for the Sept 2021 Mission Trip. There is still room for you. Commitments can be made until Aug 1, 2021. Our final payments need to be made by 8/18/2021. We still do not know where we will be going. We do know it will be to the area of greatest need, and we are convinced God will take us to where we need to go, and He will be with us. For info call Pat Boyer (724-335-5374).

UPDATE FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)

Midway through June, the church's Ministry Information Form (MIF), posted on the PCUSA website, has been viewed 200 times. The MIF is a document outlining, for prospective pastors, the qualities, experience, and character traits the Church of the Covenant is seeking in a Senior Pastor. Since the MIF was posted in April, the PNC also has received several self-referrals, those being pastors who personally notify the PNC of their interest in our position.

The PNC has considered over 40 total references from the PCUSA for our position thus far. All references - called Personal Information Forms (PIFs) - are carefully considered by the PNC. Less than 10 of the references considered thus far have been determined to be qualified for our position. Those candidates will be further interviewed by phone and ZOOM interview. Further interviews of possible candidates is just the next step in our search and should not be construed as the

Committee nearing the conclusion of its search. The PNC is also networking some other sources to complement the services provided by the PCUSA. We have registered our MIF with the alumni relations departments of 10 major seminaries that are affiliated with the PCUSA. Those agencies have information about, and contact with, pastors who may be looking for a new situation.

Another networking tool the Committee will use will be to send letters to pastors of churches similar in size and demographics to ours in our region. The purpose of the letters is not to lure those pastors from their churches but to ask them to recommend other pastors that they know who might be qualified for our vacancy.

Your PNC continues to need your prayers and ideas. Please contact anyone on the Committee if you need info about our search status. Chuck Neff, Lynn Sylvis, Gordon Core, Rachel Gladden, Beth Smith, Jason Dille, Deb Evans, Steve Johnson.



Knights of North Castle VBS -- July 19-23
Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power!
~Ephesians 6:10

In just a few short weeks, 70 brave knights-in-training will walk through our church doors and into the frozen land of the North Castle. The children will embark on their quest for the King's armor, with the help of some fun and eccentric characters along the way! Each day, children will encounter different pieces of protective armor at work in the lives of bible characters, and explore how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God.

What a blessing it is to bring the love and power of Jesus Christ to the children of our community this summer. Please continue to keep the VBS volunteers, little knights, and parents/caregivers in your prayers for a fun, safe, and meaningful week.

ASSISTANT NURSERY NANNY NEEDED!

Beginning **September 12th, Rally Day**, a second nanny will be needed in the nursery to help with our children up to and including 3 years of age. This is a paid position of \$40 per Sunday, approximately 3½ hours each Sunday. Applicants must be 18 years of age with experience and child protection clearances. If interested, please notify Yvonne Gayle at yvonnegayle20@gmail.com.

CRADLE ROLL

The COTC has an active Cradle Roll! Through the Cradle Roll, the Church shares ministry and support materials with parents of babies born into our Church family, assisting them in sharing the love of Jesus with their children from the very start. The Cradle Roll also serves as an outreach to young families, keeping them apprised of the Christian Education opportunities available to them at the Church. Please let the Christian Education Committee know when we have added a new blessing and miracle to our Church family by contacting Tara Dyer at TaraD@ReifersonDec.com.



NOTICE FOR THOSE WHO LOVE BOOKS

There's no summer vacation for the Carnahan Library.

It's open for your visit 6 days a week: M – F 9:00 – 3:00 & Sundays 8:30 – 12:30 Plan to stop by to select books for your summer reading. There are best sellers (both fiction and non-fiction), books by well known authors such as C. S. Lewis, Henri Nouwen, John Ortberg, David Baldacci, John Grisham, Karen Kingsbury, Kristin Hannah and David McCullough.
THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE'S READING TASTES & INTERESTS.

P.E.P.P.I. HAS MOVED



The P.E.P.P.I. senior exercise program has moved to the Redstone Community Room at 820 S. Main St. Please contact Connie Hornickel with any questions at 724-747-0581.

STEWARDSHIP STIMULUS UPDATE

Thank you for your **REenergized, REcommitted** response to the Stewardship Stimulus Giving challenge!
To date, we have received 45 gifts totaling \$26,241.04.