

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

We are on a mission for God! Thanks to God, our church and your generosity, we are supporting many mission trips.



1. In June four amazing men: Eric Meyers, Renny Domske, Ed Moore and Bill Payne worked to help rebuild homes in Mayfield, Kentucky that Spring tornadoes destroyed.
2. On July 23, fifteen of our youth, with Yvonne's leadership, will travel to SC. They will spend a week running a Vacation Bible School and making care packages for service workers.
3. Yvonne and Yone Gayle with Calvin and Tenitsha Blunt will travel to Duanvale Baptist Church, Jamaica, in August. For a week, they will be hosting a church camp serving 40 middle schoolers. This project is laying groundwork for future mission trips to that area.
4. Heading to Menaul School, Albuquerque, NM in September, a team of 18 will donate their time, talents and hard work. With their service the school can provide needed scholarships to local students.

The Church of the Covenant is extremely blessed to have such focus and support in the area of Mission work. Thanks be to God!

TEEN EXTREME 2022

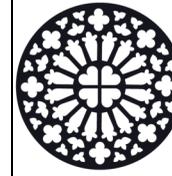
Teen Extreme wrapped up last week. We had a total of 9 kids participate this summer. Our theme of "Never Give Up" led us to some amazing discussions. Through those discussions we developed 7 steps that help us stay on course to finishing our goals.

Our last week included volunteering at the Washington Outreach, swimming and a visit to Hershey Park. Each summer Teen Extreme becomes our summer family. Getting to know each other and form bonds we will never forget.



The Messenger
c/o The Church of the Covenant
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The Summer Messenger

Newsletter of **The Church of the Covenant**
August 2022

Dear Church of the Covenant,

There was an interesting article in the New York Times a few years ago. The title was "The Enduring Hunt for Personal Value." Here's the theme sentence: "Our shared core hunger is for value. We desperately want to matter and to feel a sense of worthiness." So, why is the hunt for value a desperate and enduring thing? If you look across cultures and time, you find there is hunger for something. It gets packaged differently: glory on the battlefield, or to save face, or moral scrupulousness, or in our culture, self-esteem. But it's there, everywhere you look. It's a hunger for approval and acceptance.

Why is this? Genesis 1 tells us. In the beginning, when we were absolutely certain of God's approval, we lived naked and unashamed. What that means is that we didn't need to spin or control what others thought of us. We didn't need to hide who we really are. When we lost the certainty of God's approval, we developed a problem. We developed an acceptance and assurance hunger, a self-esteem hunger that never seems to be satisfied.

In my life, and in your life, there is always the question before us: what are you looking for? Or, another way to put it: what is it that you most fundamentally love? What are the things you most fundamentally hope in? You have to set your heart on something as your ultimate hope, the thing you are looking for to make yourself happy? Have you ever found yourself thinking, "If I just have that? If I was more beautiful? If I had that job? If I had that much money? When I get married to that love partner, then I'll be complete." So, what's our hope?

Jesus said in John's gospel, "Moses gave you bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. I am the Bread of Life. You people are looking for food that spoils." In those days only the very wealthy ate meat. In ancient times bread kept you alive. Bread is also a metaphor for spiritual fulfillment, spiritual satisfaction and spiritual contentment. God offers that. Then Jesus says all of us are seeking satisfaction and contentment in things that will spoil or disappoint. Maybe not right away. Food that spoils doesn't spoil right away. Food that spoils is Jesus' way of saying we all have spiritual hunger. And we look for it in the wrong places.

God offers you the Bread of Life. Do you want contentment and fulfillment? A life that is marked by consistent, relentless joy? It's not in your bank account, your spouse, your family. If Jesus really is the Creator-King-Lord even the best this life has to offer cannot give the significance, security and affirmation that you so crave. Your spouse, your children, your career cannot die for your sins. Our souls simply cannot be filled up by anything else.

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What we need, desperately need, is a living, breathing, vibrant relationship with our Lord and Savior: the meaning and reason for our existing.

Grace and peace, Billy



In Memory Of

Marguerite Bellinger

Youth Education -Jack Dagg

Harriett Johnson

Memorial Fund - Mark and Kim O'Donnell

BAPTISM



Baptized on July 10, 2022, **Ty James and Ivy Lynn Lacock**, born February 26, 2021 of Kerri Ann (DiGiovanni) Lacock and Ty William Lacock. The twins are the grandchildren of Dan and Judi DiGiovanni.

Their baptisms were officiated by Pastor Scott, with Elder Joan McCrory assisting.

FUNERALS

On July 17, 2022, **Dr. Thomas "Tom" Snee** passed away. The Rev. Dr. Billy Younger officiated at a funeral service at Warco-Falvo Funeral Home on Thursday, July 21, 2022.

On July 17, 2022, long-time member **Lois Morton** joined the Church Triumphant. Arrangements are incomplete at this time. There will be a Memorial service in the future, at the family's convenience.

On July 18, 2022, **Barbara Baughman** passed away. Pastor Scott Shetter officiated at a funeral service on Wednesday, July 27th, in the sanctuary.

Margaret "Anne" Haines died on July 20, 2022. Her funeral was held on Saturday, July 23rd, at Piatt and Barnhill funeral home, officiated by the Rev. Dr. Younger. Interment at Washington Cemetery was private.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, 2022, July 18-22nd

Over 100 "Buccaneers" left their pirate ships and boarded Captain Goldheart's galleon bound for adventure. During the week, they made crafts, learned music, played games, did science experiments, ate snacks and saw Bible stories acted out, all with the help of 60 volunteers. It was a great, fun week!

Check out these pictures!



Games



Captain Goldheart and First Mate Lauren accept a gold doubloon



Science experiments



Story time



Crafts

TUESDAY EVENING SPEAKER SERIES

2022 Tuesday Speaker Series-Dr. Jim Platt

July 26 - August 23

This series will be "Hybrid" - you may attend in person or virtually via Zoom. Dr. Platt plans to be here in person.

The Bible tells me so... "A Time to Laugh"!

History. Archaeology. Theology. Laws.

As the writer of Ecclesiastes affirms: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" and among those "matters" is that "time to laugh"! Join us as we look at Scripture through the long-neglected lens of—humor!

VOLUNTEER OFFICE RECEPTIONISTS NEEDED!

Have you been wishing there was some way you can help The Church of the Covenant? We are in need of volunteer receptionists for the church office. The receptionist greets the people who come into the Commons, answers the phone, opens the doors from the Commons to other parts of the building and may be asked to help with mailings, the bulletin, or the Messenger.

The amount of time involved is 9:00 am to 1 pm., weekdays, mainly to answer the phone (training is given for anything you would be asked to do). If you read, knit or have other portable hobbies, bring it along to pass the time.

We have been blessed to have several long-time, faithful folks, some of whom come in for four hours on a particular day (four days a month), others who rotate with a partner to cover every-other week (two days a month), and one or two who are gracious about filling in when there are gaps in the schedule.

Unfortunately, lately there have been unfilled gaps, as some of our office helpers have needed to step away, due to health concerns or other needs.

If you have a heart for serving the church, enjoy greeting people and have a few hours a month available, please call the church office and talk it over with Debi or Pat.

PARISH NURSE CORNER

As children return to school later this month, the weight of children's school backpacks is a concern of healthcare professionals. Backpacks that are too heavy can cause back, neck and shoulder pain in still-growing children.



Here are some tips to lighten the load:

- 1). choose the appropriate size-no wider than the torso and no more that 4 inches below the waist.
 - 2). padded shoulder and back straps
 - 3). waist and chest straps to evenly distribute the weight.
 - 4). multiple compartments to help position the weight more effectively.
- Backpacks that are too heavy have caught the attention of lawmakers in some states. To learn more go to the National Safety Council website at nsc.org. Any questions? Please contact me at 724-263-7911 or stop by Room 302. Office hours will resume in September on Sunday mornings from 9-10am. Good Health to all!

Linda Grimm, RN