

# Upcoming Congregational Meetings

On Monday, November 14, at 7:00 PM, the deacons will be leading an informational meeting about the 2017 church budget. The intent of the meeting is give all members of Covenant an opportunity to learn about the current finances of the church with regard to the 2016 budget and the changes to the budget the council is proposing for 2017. Because some of these changes are significant, the council determined that it would be well to give members an opportunity to ask questions about those changes well before the congregation actually votes on the proposed budget.

The annual congregational meeting to vote on the budget will take place on Monday, December 12, at 7:00 PM, with a lasagna dinner served by the youth group preceding it.

-Tom Clark

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## Holiday Service Schedule

We are quickly approaching the holiday season! Here is what's coming up in the worship life of our congregation in the coming months. As you make plans with family and friends, keep these dates and times in mind.

Thursday, November 24, 10:00 AM  
Thanksgiving Day Worship Service

Sunday, December 11, 6:00 PM  
Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 18, 6:00 PM  
Service of Lessons and Carols

Saturday, December 24, 6:00 PM  
Christmas Eve Service

Sunday December 25, 10:00 AM  
Christmas Morning Worship  
(no Sunday evening service)

Saturday, December 31, 6:00 PM  
**New Year's Eve Worship Service**

Sunday, January 1, 10:00 AM  
**New Year's Day Worship Service**  
Michael Ribbens preaching  
(no Sunday evening service)

# Notes from the Pastor



Mission: Reconciliation

**“The Spirit gathers people from every tongue, tribe, and nation into the unity of the body of Christ. Anointed and sent by the Spirit, the church is thrust into the world, ambassadors of God’s peace, announcing forgiveness and reconciliation, proclaiming the good news of grace. Going before them and with them, the Spirit convinces the world of sin and pleads the cause of Christ. Men and women, impelled by the Spirit, go next door and far away into science and art, media and marketplace—every area of life, pointing to the reign of God with what they do and say.”**

—Our World Belongs to God, article 30

I would suggest that from a historical perspective, God has used the Reformed tradition in astounding ways to bring about the fruit of the end of that paragraph. Institutions like Dordt and our other Christian Reformed post-secondary institutions (along with our Christian elementary and secondary schools) have imbued generations of **students with the knowledge of God’s activity** in every sphere of human activity. With the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we go without fear next door and far away into every area of life, pointing to the reign of God.

On the whole, however, I would suggest that our tradition has been less faithful at point-

ing to the reign of God as pertains to the work of reconciling every tongue, tribe, and nation.

That is a bold statement, and I realize that. I also know that there are bright spots in our tradition. The CRC has done much to overcome our historical ethnic separation to become a denomination that reflects the reign of God in our diversity. Yet much work **remains as we wrestle with God’s call to join** the reconciling work of the Holy Spirit that breaks down our divisions (Eph. 2:11-18).

The last year has brought conversations about racism to the forefront of the national conversation once more. How should the church approach racism? What calling is incumbent upon us as followers of Jesus Christ?

Following the encouragement of the executive director of the CRC, we will spend two weeks in November considering how God calls us to respond to the realities of racial disparity in our world today. We will ground the conversation in the hope of the Kingdom of God with a sermon on Revelation 7:9-10 and then look at the reconciling work of the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 2:11-18.

I do not promise to have all the answers. Nor, for that matter, do I promise to offer easy answers. Two weeks is not enough time to do justice to such a difficult issue. At the same time, I hope that we will benefit from the conversation and be empowered to dig deeper into how God may be calling Covenant to more fully point to the reign of God.

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## Notes from the Pastor

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For the CRC's statement on racism in light of recent events, visit <http://www.crcna.org/news-and-views/crc-statement-racism>.

-Pastor Kory

## Church Office FAQs

Q. When is Sara usually in the office?

A. Barring sick kids, snow days, holidays, or **other unexpected schedule changes, I'm usually** in the office on Mondays (9:00 AM–12:00 PM), Wednesdays (9:00 AM- 1:00 PM), and Thursdays (9:00 AM-**4:00 PM**). **It's not uncommon** for me to be there a bit longer on some of those days or to show up for an hour or so on a Tuesday or Friday, but the times listed above are pretty dependable. It never hurts to **call first if you're stopping in!**

Q. If I want to include an announcement in the bulletin, what is the deadline?

A. Thursdays are the primary day that I work on the bulletin. Worship information should be in on Thursday morning by 9:00 AM. Bulletin announcements must be in by 12:00 PM at the latest on Thursdays. I prefer bulletin announcements be sent by email.

Q. What about the Courier? Can anyone send in an article in to be printed?

A. If you have something of interest to the Covenant congregation, I would love for you to send it in to the office to include in our monthly newsletter! The deadline is always the Monday before the last Sunday of the month.

-Sara Ploegstra



*Some WE Service photo booth fun.*

## Update on Mike Vanden Bosch

Mike has been moved to the Prairie Ridge Care Center in Orange City. He is in Room #3 in the Sunrise Cottage.

Thank you for all your prayers and support during these past very difficult weeks and months. A special thank you to all the men who so faithfully took Mike out for breakfast or coffee. Please continue to pray for him.

-Nancy Vanden Bosch



## Grandma Alert! Grandpa Alert!

Howard and Vicki Hall and Mike and Nancy Vanden Bosch are happy to announce the birth of their great-grandson, Jackson Brady Chicola, born October 14 in Knoxville, TN, weighing 8 lb. 1 oz. Parents are Stephen and Tara Chicola; grandparents are Jackson and Shelley Hall. Jackson also has a 2 year old brother, Trey. God is Good!!!

# November Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Jan B	19	Jo T	27	Bella D Tim K
2	Jeananne Kuiper	20	Verne M Duane & Jan B Paul & Ruth C		Ryan Z Phil & Marilyn M Jerry & Shonna P
3	Troy Bierma Natalie B Mary P	21	Cambri Z Alejandro & Isabel C Erik & Robin I	28	Neil Collins MC Doug & Marge DB
4	Austen G	23	Bob DS Sadie L Ryan & Tiffany P	29	Laremy DV Hannah L Jasper & Phyllis L
7	Micky T Jan V	24	Louisa DV	30	Esteban Gracia Jocelyn Z Ed & Mary D
8	Rebecca DS	25	Cara H		
12	Priya Bierma	26	Georgina Gracia Kate H David T		
14	Mark C Nancy VB				
15	Teo Crull				
16	Lauren VP				



## Offering Schedule

November 6

AM General/Building Fund,  
World Renew: World Hunger Campaign  
PM Zestos

November 13

AM Christian Education Fund  
PM Dordt College Fund

November 20

AM Mission Fund  
PM The Bible League

November 24 (Thanksgiving Day)  
AM Thanksgiving Offering

November 27

AM Tuition Assistance Fund

## Evening Worship Schedule

November 6 Teaching Service

November 13 Teaching Service

November 20 Communion Service

November 27 No evening service

# November Assignments

Here are the assignments for members to “practice hospitality” this month...

Remember to wear your name badges!



## Nursery

Parents of the month: Josue & Ana F

### November 6

AM INF Mike & Laura J, Sara H  
TODDLER Alejandro & Isabel C, Mark H  
PM Dave & Luanne G, Kathy DW

### November 13

AM INF Dave & Jeri S, Lee R  
TODDLER Jake & Trena VW, Laura L  
PM Bob & Rebecca DS, Eldon & Marcia W

### November 20

AM INF Lydia M, Ryan Z  
TODDLER Paul & Ruth C, Val Z  
PM Doug & Marge DB, Barb T

### November 24 (Thanksgiving Day)

AM INF Ryan & Angela H, Jason W  
TODDLER Erik & Barb H, Dani W

### November 27

AM INF Tom & Ruth C, Jan B  
TODDLER Joe & Erin E, Duane B

### December 4

AM INF Rob & Megan H, Rachel L  
TODDLER Mariellen H, Andy L  
PM Mark & Cheri H, John & Linda V

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\*\*\*Do you consider yourself a snowbird?\*\*\*  
Are you planning on taking off for a month or two or for most of the winter? Please notify the office **with the dates you'll be gone and I will avoid scheduling you during that time!**



## Coffee Servers

Laremy DV, Sharon D, Josue F,  
Erik I, Merrill MC, Phil M



## Greeters

AM Vicki H, Gidge M, Trena VW  
PM Cal J, Kris VP, John V



## Ushers

AM Ruth C, Erik H, John Z  
PM Kathy DW, George F

## Substitutes

*If you are unable to serve on your assigned date for coffee, usher, or greeter, contact*

Steve C, Andy L, Lydia M,  
Fednel T, Jake VW, Jan V

## Courier Copy—It's up to you!

The *Courier* is issued monthly at Covenant church. If you have copy that you wish to be included, send it to the church office. Each issue is distributed on the last Sunday of the month. Copy deadline is Monday, November 21 for the December issue.

# Notes from the Deacons

The Covenant congregation has committed to support missionaries through financial support, prayer, and encouragement. We have been trying to support all of our missionaries when they come to visit us.

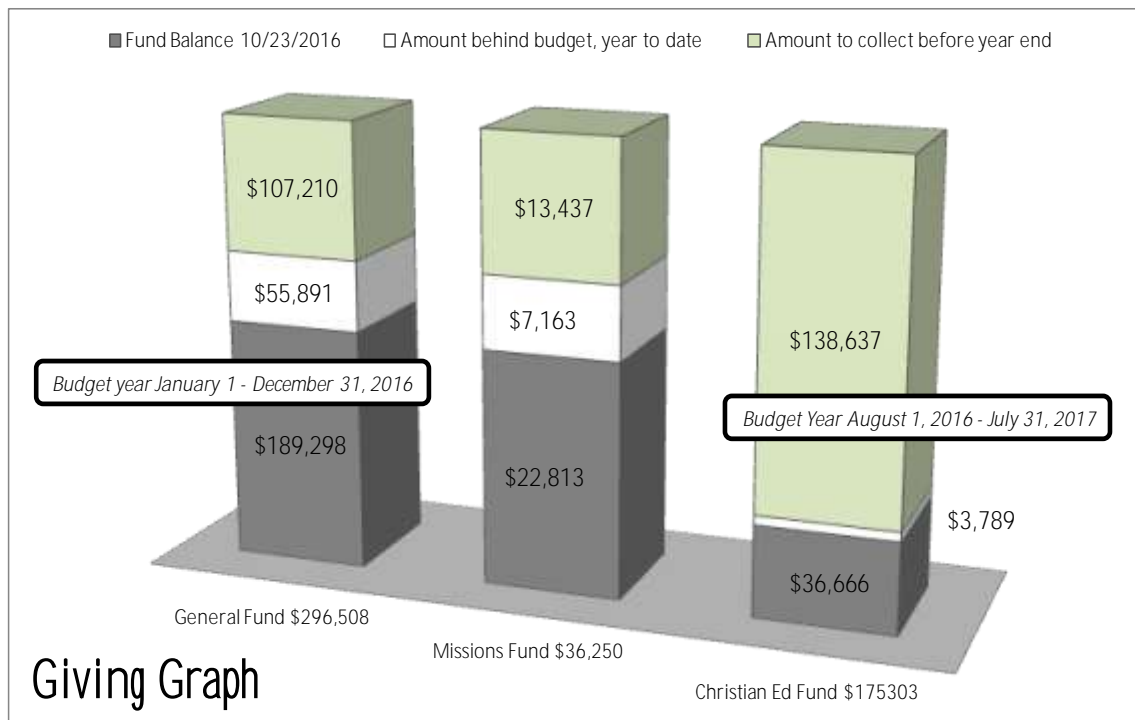
Remember, we are all missionaries where God has placed us, but families that are called to **follow God's leading in faraway places need** our love and support on these mission fields. One of the missionary families that we support financially through ministry shares and financial support from our church is Mike and Megan Ribbens, who are serving in South Africa. The Ribbens are currently back in the United States on home service. While they are here, we have arranged a time for our congre-

gation to meet and encourage them.

We will have the opportunity as a congregation to offer them encouragement and to hear about their work on Wednesday, November 2. We will share a meal with them starting at 5:15 after which we will have time to hear about their work. We want to encourage all members of Covenant to come and join them. We realize that many people have other obligations that evening, so we would like to end the evening about 6:45.

In the past couple of months, the congregation has given care packages to two of our supported missionary families, the Biermas in Nepal and the Crulls in Spain. Each of these families had parents coming for a visit, so we had a great opportunity to send something.

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# GEMS Splash Party

The GEMS girls were invited to a Splash Party for their 'Theme Night' on Wednesday, September 28. Theme night is a night when we dig deeper into what our theme, "Love Overflows" means to us.

The girls started the night playing some fun games including a frozen water balloon! The girls worked through booklets in their small groups learning about God's love for us. We talked about the need to feel loved, how God shows His love to us, and our need to love others. We also talked about friendships and what makes a good friend. Each small group took the friendship promise to be "the best friend possible to my small group. With God's help I will think loving



thoughts about them, speak kind words to them, and show them how much I care." The cool part about the small groups is that they are a mixture of grades 4th-8th—they are making this promise to girls in other grades, not just their close friends! The girls also started learning our theme song, "One Thing Remains." The night ended with yummy beach cups and orange beach balls (cheeseballs).

Please continue to lift up each of these 70 girls and their counselors.

## Notes from the Deacons

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We hope to do this again with other families in the future. Please keep all of the missionaries that we support in your thoughts and prayers. If you feel God is calling you to contact them and want to hear more about their lives, their addresses are in the church directory. This would be very appreciated by them and they also want to pray for our congregation and would like to know our needs.

-Jan Bajema  
(on behalf of the SAM Committee)

## Thank You

God bless everyone for what you did for us throughout the illness and death of our father and husband, Enrique Acosta. Through you, God showed us his great love for us by his closeness and moral and financial support. May the light of our Lord forever illumine the path of the people who for more than six years were there to take him to the Dialysis Center to receive his treatment. May the love of God fill you with blessings for such kindness to the needy.

-Acosta Rosales Family

## Children's Choir

We are already making plans for the Sunday school Christmas program for children ages 3 through 8th grade to be held on December 11. And we are excited that Katy Wilson, a Dordt music education student, will be helping by directing a children's choir for children in grades 3-8. All children will be singing hymns and carols during the service, but those interested in singing choral pieces should plan to stay after church on November 13, 20, and December 4 for a half-hour rehearsal. Contact Rebecca De Vries if you have questions.

## Lessons and Carols

All singers high school through adult are invited to sing in the choir for the Lessons and Carols service on the evening of December 18. Practices will begin early December.

## Welcome, Riley!



Riley Irene Inlow was born on September 6 to Erik and Robin Inlow. She weighed 6 lbs, 15 oz, and was 20.2 inches long. After a brief NICU stay after her birth, her family is thankful to have her home!



*Above: Hendric Vande Kraats gets some love from the "big" kids at the October 9 WE service.  
Below: Lewis Clark reminds us of the fulfillment of hope Simeon and Anna found in Jesus Christ.*



## Welcome, Judah!

Judah Steven Charles Plockmeyer was born on August 24 to Pastor Kory and Lauren Plockmeyer. He weighed 7 lbs, 5 oz, and was 19 inches long. Judah surprised his parents with his early arrival and a NICU stay. Shiloh is loving being a big sister to her new little brother!

