

# WE Service: Listening

Please join us on Sunday, October 2 right after the morning service for our next WE service—an intergenerational worship/formation/fellowship experience. We will begin with a meal (provided by church) and then continue around the tables worshipping, learning, and growing together.

In previous WE services this year we have been together exploring various Faith Practices and we have learned about the practices of Remembering and Wonder. We hope you are continuing to find ways to include these disciplines in your daily lives. This gathering will focus on the Faith Practice of Listening, so get ready for a game of “telephone,” some story-telling, and some exercises on how to listen.

In his article “Training Ourselves to Listen Well,” ([www.crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject/listening/training-ourselves-listen-well](http://www.crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject/listening/training-ourselves-listen-well)) Chris Schoon, director of Faith Formation Ministries, says that as a faith practice, “listening involves training ourselves to recognize God’s voice (John 10:1-6) in the midst of all the other voices calling for our attention. It involves learning to be fully present in the moment, setting aside distractions that keep us from attending to and responding to God’s presence around us.” Further, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in a reflection on

Christian community in his book *Life Together*, writes: “Just as love to God begins with listening to his word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them.”

It is our hope that learning to listen well will help us practice loving God and each other better.

-Rebecca DeVries



# Covenant Sunday Morning

Covenant Sunday Morning is the adult education program at Covenant. This fall we will focus on Covenant's upcoming 50th Anniversary in 2023. In order to both remember and honor our past, and also look ahead to the future, we will have an opportunity to hear from members of Covenant who have been here since Covenant's doors first opened in 1973. You will have any opportunity to hear their responses to questions like:

- 1) What was Covenant like at the beginning?
- 2) What were the foundational underpinnings of Covenant?
- 3) What has Covenant meant to you over the years?
- 4) How do you view Covenant now?
- 5) What hopes do you have for Covenant in the future?

We invite you to join these speakers to engage in a valuable conversation about their experiences at Covenant, but also to have

time for dialogue with your questions/comments/other reflections.

We plan to have five sessions that focus on the stories of our Covenant members and then we will likely transition to a different format in November and December. If you are new to Covenant, or if you've been here for 10 or even 20 years, we encourage you to attend at least one of the sessions in September and October and learn more about Covenant's history, get to know other members of Covenant, and to be encouraged in our task of being the body of Christ together.

You are welcome to come to the Youth Room in the basement for the Covenant Sunday Morning sessions at 9 AM each Sunday morning.

*-Mark Christians*

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## GEMS

This year marks the 50th year since GEMS Girls' Clubs adopted Micah 6:8 as the organization's theme verse and aim. Since 1972, leaders have been asking their GEMS, "What does the Lord require of you?" And GEMS girls have responded, "To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8."



Act. Love. Walk. is the GEMS theme for this coming season. Our desire for our club girls is to help them understand that

they were created on purpose for a purpose—to make a difference in God's world. As girls understand who God is and that He gave them their purpose, it will make all the difference—in their own lives and in the world.

Imagine a world where girls believe they can make a significant difference in their homes, schools, community, and world—not just someday, but today. Let's not just imagine it; let's pray for it! May God raise up a generation of girls who are strong, secure, and confident in Christ.

*-Valerie Van Beek*

Club Coordinator for Northstar GEMS

# Pork 'N Bands

Thank you to everyone who helped make Pork 'N Bands 6 another successful evening! We literally could not have done it without the generous donation of time and pork from Marty Vander Plaats, Ryan De Kruyf, Robbin Eppinga, and David Kramer! We are also so thankful for our Covenant congregation and all the ways you make this night possible as well! Thank you for serving food, donating food, helping set up and clean up, and showing up to enjoy the food and fellowship. This year we made right around \$3300 dollars to put towards our Christian Education commitments. Can't wait for Pork 'N Bands 7!

*-Emily Kramer  
& the Christian Education Committee*



# October Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Judah Hawley	10	Samuel Westfall	24	Sophia Bailey Lydia Clark
2	Ethan Brue Ava Landman	13	David Westfall		Marv Wielard
3	Alleke Crull	15	Mark Horstman Dan & Sandi Altena	25	Layne Vos
5	Ed Brummel Anna Christians	18	Pam DeJong Cora Donahue	27	Dave & Emily Kramer
7	Eric Rowe	19	Pat Crull Laura Janssen	28	Julia Kramer Linda Vanden Hoek
9	Steve Holtrop Kara Maletoungou Samuel Maletoungou Ed & Natalie Brummel	20	Esther Eppinga	29	Nick Breems Jonathan Van Tol
		21	Erin Eggebeen	30	Emilyn Smit



## Pastoral Group Dinner Schedule

It's time to kick off our fall season of Pastoral Group Dinners! These potluck dinners take place around noon on Sundays in the fall and spring, and are a great opportunity to connect with your elder and deacon, and with others in your pastoral group. Your elder or deacon will send instructions about what to bring as your date approaches.

Wondering what Pastoral Group you're in? The Pastoral Group lists are on our website:

[covenantcrc.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/22-23-Pastoral-Groups.pdf](https://covenantcrc.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/22-23-Pastoral-Groups.pdf)

October 16—Friend/Hibma

October 23—Van Wyk/Van Tol

October 30—Schelhaas/Feikema

November 6—Stiemsma/Clark

November 13—DeWit/DeJong

November 20—Rhoda/Sybesma

# October Scheduling



## Coffee Servers

Jenni B, Cal J, Merrill MC, Ron O



## Nursery

### October 2

AM Joe & Erin E, Dennis & Pam DJ

### October 9

AM Lee & Jenni M, Jason & Dani W

### October 16

AM Jeff & Sara P, Paul & Ruth C

### October 23

AM Tom & Ruth C, Eldon & Marcia W

### October 30

AM Jacob & Trena VW, Rob & Megan H

PM Chris & Rin G, Bob & Rebecca DS

### November 6

AM Kurt & Sharon V. Lee R



## Greeters

Faby A, Paul C, Jeremy H



## Ushers

Mark C, Pat C, Chris G

## Substitutes

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

Jan B, Megan H, Rachel L,  
Rockne MC, Don TN, Stan VB

*Thanks for serving!*

## 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, **October 24** for the November issue.

## Formation Sunday Evenings

Join us for our 6:00 PM gatherings this month:

**October 2:** WE Service following morning worship (no evening Vespers)

**October 9:** Vespers

**October 16:** Vespers

**October 23:** Vespers

**October 30:** Joint CRC Reformation Day Service at Covenant



# Service & Learning Trips

Looking for another service opportunity? Justice For All is very excited to announce dates for upcoming 2023 Service and Learning Trips! Please prayerfully consider joining us on one of these trips. The trips are designed to be an opportunity to use our hands and feet to bless others through work projects, but also to learn and experience a different culture than our own and see what God is doing through the incredible ministry partners serving in these communities. Here are the dates and sites for 2023:

- January 20-27, Harvest Hands Ministries, Juarez, MX
- February 3-10, Voice of Calvary Ministries, Jackson, MS
- February 11-17, JVM Perkins Foundation, Jackson, MS
- March 3-10, Grace Covenant Ministries, Annville, KY
- March 24-31, Grace Reigns, Hildale, UT

There is more information about each project on the JFA website ([www.jfa-niowa.org](http://www.jfa-niowa.org)). If you would like to sign up or want more information on any of these opportunities, please contact Nick LeLoux at JFA (712-476-2804, [nickl@jfa-nwiowa.org](mailto:nickl@jfa-nwiowa.org).)

Update  
your  
Information!



It's time to update the directory again and I need your help!

A printout of the directory contact information pages is on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Can you take a few minutes to check our your contact information? Do you have an address/email/phone number change? Do you have kids that have added a cell phone number or email address and you'd like to include those? Do you want to add a number or email address that's currently not listed? Write in any additions/corrections or simply add an "Ok" if all the information is correct.

If you haven't checked off your listing on the paper copy in the next few weeks, watch for an email from me—I'll catch you one way or another!

Thanks for helping our church family stay connected in this way!

*-Sara Plaeystra*

## Giving Graph

Fund	Budgeted	Received	Difference
General	(1/1/21-9/18/22) \$230,813	\$226,096	-\$4,716
Christian Education	(8/1/21-9/18/22) \$25,618	\$42,335	+\$16,717

As you read this latest newsletter from the Crulls, we hope you will continue to keep Kelly, April, and their kids in your prayers as they transition from Spain to the US:



Greetings from Des Moines, Iowa! Although the next season of life has brought us to Iowa, our passion and heart for the church in Europe has not changed. A few short weeks ago, we gathered with over 50 church-planters and their families from around Europe for a time of encouragement. I joined British theologian Andrew Perriman in speaking on the topic “Is there hope for the church in Europe?” Many people comment on the rate of change facing people today. And in Europe the impact of war, climate change, and the pandemic has left many feeling hopeless about any future. As church-planters, our focus is often on the transformation we desire to see in people’s lives and in local communities, most particularly in new churches being born. In Europe those “successes” can be few and far between. And yet we hope. We stand as communities of hope. Because we know, we know that God is the God who does a new thing. Our God is a God who preserves a remnant, who brings shalom, who resurrects life.

Personally we were encouraged to see the Europeans who participated in this conference. About a decade ago, one of our goals in ministry was for Communitas to become an organization that supported Europeans in church-planting in their own countries. Our retreat in August was mostly Europeans or life-long transplants who have found Communitas. We spent time with Elise and Marcelo who minister in a local church in Italy and dream of starting a Christian school that will impact their local community. Stefan and Rochelle who have spent many years building

relationships in France and communicating the grace of Christ through serving in hundreds of small and large ways. Sheila who invites the youngest Germans to encounter God through storytelling and art. Remko who’s vision for transforming the 14,000 neighborhoods of the Netherlands never wavers. And so many more. We are grateful to continue serving our co-workers through coaching and training.

Our landing in Des Moines has been intense and good. Over all is a deep sense of gratitude for the ways God has cared for us through his people—some as close as family and some complete strangers. Each day we face thousands of decisions, but underneath it all we know that God holds us in his hands. We are now in our new home, the address is below, and our kids all started school in the last few days. Please pray for them to find new friends and a sense of belonging soon.

If you have more questions about our work or transition, feel free to reach out to us at [crulls@gocommunitas.org](mailto:crulls@gocommunitas.org).

Un abrazo,

*-Kelly & April Crull*

Dear Covenant Family,  
The last month since we arrived in Des Moines has been a whirlwind, but we wanted to pause and say thank you. Thank you for your prayers as our whole family adjusts. And thank you for your practical support through items for our home and the generous financial gift for this time. We used it to buy a car—an important step in starting our lives here!

With grateful hearts,

*-The Crulls*



## Grandma Alert! Grandpa Alert!

Adelyn (Addy) Joy Friend was born to Nathan and Bethany Friend on September 1. She joins big brother Isaiah. Jill, Terry, and Derek had a wonderful trip to Ontario, Canada to meet their special new family member!

*-Terry & Jill Friend*



In the last gasps of summer, a few Covenant families enjoyed their 2022 Christian Education Auction purchase—The Amazing Bike Ride! The Mellemas, Zonnevelds, and Vander Plaats rode around town tracking down clever clues dreamt up by the Goedharts. A BBQ supper capped off the evening. Lots of fun for all!