

**SUNDAY, January 15, 2023**

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## **WORSHIP NOTES**

### **Worship Services Online**

Click [here](#) to go to Covenant's Facebook page (or copy this link and paste it into your browser: <https://www.facebook.com/Covenant-CRC-520064914738965/>). Then click on the "Videos" section and watch for the live video to show shortly before 10:00 AM. You can also watch a recorded version of the service after it is over.

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

Today, **January 15**, is the second Sunday after the Epiphany. Pastor Joel will be preaching from the gospel lectionary readings in the coming weeks. Here is a link to the [mobile-friendly worship guide](#).

### **Vespers**

This Sunday evening, we will gather at 6:00 PM for a service of evening prayer, also known as Vespers. These services use prayers and litanies from *The Book of Common Prayer* and give us space and time for thanksgiving and praise, silence, and meditation on scripture. Services last between 45 minutes and an hour.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Sunday Evening Bible Study**

The Sunday Evening Bible Study will be meeting again each 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. We will be viewing the DVD "The Chosen" starting this Sunday, **January 15**, after the Vespers service. Everyone in the congregation is invited to join us. Please bring a snack to share.

### **January Series**

The January Series of Calvin University continues this week at Covenant! From **January 9-27**, we will broadcast one of the nation's leading lecture and cultural arts series each weekday from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. It is free and open to the public. For a full list of speakers and topics, visit [calvin.edu/january-series](http://calvin.edu/january-series). Contact [covenant@mtcnet.net](mailto:covenant@mtcnet.net) with questions.

### **Breaking Bread**

On Thursday, **January 19**, members of Covenant and members of Good Shepherd will gather to share a meal in a way that expresses the "breaking of bread" practice we encounter in Acts 2:42. We can begin the gathering at 5:30 PM, with the soup, salad, and bread meal beginning at 6 PM. The purpose of this gathering will be to encourage connections within and beyond our congregations. We hope it will lead to all kinds of expressions of the practices in Acts 2:42. If you have thoughts or questions, please get in touch with Pastor Joel. We would love to know how many will be eating that evening so we know how much food to prepare, so **please sign up** at the table in the fellowship hall or email the church office if you're coming.

### **Escape Room!**

Another Christian Education fundraiser opportunity is coming up and it's time to show off your deduction skills! The Legacy Committee is hosting an Escape Room event in the Side Room at the Fruited Plain. The date is set for **January 20 & 21**. Gather your team of 4-10 people, sign up [here](#) or use the QR code on the flyers, and get ready to "Escape the Loft!"

### **Neighborhood Gift Project**

Come and participate in a Covenant neighborhood gift project. On Friday, **January 20**, at 3:00 PM, the Service and Missions committee will be preparing cookie mix jars as New Year's gifts to homes in Covenant's local neighborhood. On Saturday, **January 21**, at 10:00 AM we will meet in the **basement kitchen** and then distribute them to individual homes. (Please come in quietly as there will be an event upstairs that morning.) We would love to have more Covenant people participate in either event. Either event will take about an hour. Chaperoned children are also invited on Saturday.

### **Covenant Sunday Morning**

Covenant Sunday Morning will begin a new series on Sunday, **January 22** at 9:00 AM. More information will be shared next week prior to our next meeting.

### **Cadet Sunday**

Cadet Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, **January 22**, at 6:00 PM at Covenant CRC. Cadets in attendance should be at Covenant by 5:40 PM in full uniform. An offering will be taken to support the Calvinist Cadet Corps. Thank you for your support of the Cadets program.

### **Support for Lauren**

This spring, Lauren Vander Plaats is going on a three-week exchange program to the Netherlands. She will be joined by five other Western students and 30 students from South Africa, Canada, and Michigan at Greijdanus College in Zwolle. Lauren is selling washcloths (\$20 for a bundle of five) and homemade dog cookies (bags of ten: \$3 for small treats, \$5 for

medium-sized, and \$7 for large) to offset expenses. Email Lauren at [laurenvanderplaats@gmail.com](mailto:laurenvanderplaats@gmail.com) or text (712) 441-5515 for more information or to order.

### Praying for Our Local Congregations

This week, please pray for God's blessing on the Bridge of Hope congregation.

**Last week's offering**                      General Fund                      \$3,459.00                      Christian Education Fund                      \$2,395

### Giving at Covenant

There are a variety of ways to give at Covenant! To give online, click [here](#). You can also give by leaving your offering in the boxes located at the entrances, mailing a check to church, paying via online bill pay at your bank, or by ACH Bank Transfer. Just a reminder, all cash/checks will be used as needed unless designated. Contact your deacon with any questions.

### Helpful Links:

- The Bulletin Announcements and a link to Sunday's bulletin and liturgy are posted [here](#).
- The Community Activities (Blue) Sheet is posted [here](#).
- Mission & Ministry News: A newsletter from the Crulls is [here](#) and the Groenewold-Van Dyks' latest newsletter is [here](#). The Maletoungous' latest newsletter is [here](#) and a newsletter from the Ribbens is [here](#). ReFrame Ministry's January prayer requests are [here](#).

### Sunday Servant Scheduling:

*If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, please find your own replacement. Thank you.*

	TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY, January 22
Greeters	AM: Dennis DJ, Kathy DW, Marty VP	
Ushers	AM: Rebecca DS, Deb H, Dennis VP	
Coffee	Wil A, Mary D, Mark MC, Courtney R, Marv W	
Subs	Dan A, Steve C, Doug DB, Luke H, Lois VZ, Dani W	
Sound/Projection	Nick B ♦ Jason W	Jeff P ♦ Terry F
Nursery	AM: Channon & Joni V, Barb T	AM: Mark & Cheri H, Luke & Sarah H

### Encouraging our Missionaries

Got a minute? Send one of our missionaries a note of encouragement by email!

Kelly & April Crull  
crulls@caimail.net

Gianni & Georgina Gracia  
giannigracia@yahoo.com

Sos & Kara Maletoungou  
smaletoungou@acsi.org

Mike & Megan Ribbens  
mribbens@gmail.com

Ben & Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk  
tvandyk@crnapartners.org

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY



**Happy Birthday this Week**

*Jonathan Breems*

## THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

<b>Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 AM	Sunday School & Catechism
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	6:00 PM	Vespers (Service of Evening Prayer)
	7:15 PM	Sunday Evening Bible Study
<b>Monday</b>	11:30 AM	The January Series: Greg Thompson
<b>Tuesday</b>	11:30 AM	The January Series: Kaia Kater
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:30 AM	Men's Bakery Study Group (at Casey's Bakery)
	10:00 AM	Prayer Group
	11:30 AM	The January Series: Noah Toly
	7:00 PM	Youth Group
<b>Thursday</b>	11:30 AM	The January Series: Kerri Arsenault
	5:30 PM	Breaking Bread Gathering
<b>Friday</b>	11:30 AM	The January Series: Moogega Cooper
	3:00 PM	Cookie Jar Assembly
<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 AM	Cookie Jar Delivery (meet in basement kitchen)
<b>Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	9:00 AM	Sunday School, Catechism, Covenant Sunday Morning
	10:00 AM	Morning Worship
	6:00 PM	Vespers (Service of Evening Prayer): Cadet Sunday Service