Welcome to the Welcome Area!

Earlier this summer, you entered Covenant on a Sunday morning for worship and noticed we had done a little remodeling to our welcome area. And we heard a lot of positive feedback. Whew. Thank you! This project had been in the works for a long time and we are so happy with how it turned out.

"But who is 'we'?" you might ask. "We" are the Worship Committee–made up of our chair, Ryan Zonnefeld (who really kept the project moving); members Lisa Christians, Donna Brue, Jayden Dykstra; elders Bob DeSmith and Brad Hickey; and worship coordinator Becca De Vries. Our mandate from Council is to "provide direction and oversight to the Sunday worship experience beginning when people walk in the door of the building and ending when they leave—from entry to exit."

"We" are also all those who helped make it happen. The worship committee is so thankful to the following people. Former committee member Rob Haan sketched up some initial designs that really got us thinking seriously about this. He passed the baton to Amanda Vande Brake who had us think about not only what it would look like but also how it would best be used. And then she went deeper with the design and found the right materials and furniture for the space. Laura Janssen, everyone's favorite (former) How-To Store employee, matched wood grains and did measurements and worked with Mark Horstman, Andy Landman, and Kurt Vos to install the wall and trim. Brian Mellema and Marty Vander Plaats took the lead on the lighting and electrical

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Pastoral Group Dinner Schedule



September 27—Hummel/Dieleman
October 18—Hickey/Horstman
November 1—Breems/Bajema
November 8—Friend/Vander Plaats
November 15—DeBoer/Dykstra
November 22—Lief/Zonnefeld

Wondering which Pastoral Group you're in?
The Pastoral Group lists
can be found on our website:
covenantcrc.net/directory-committees/

Courier
October 2026
COVENANT
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



This Month in Pictures





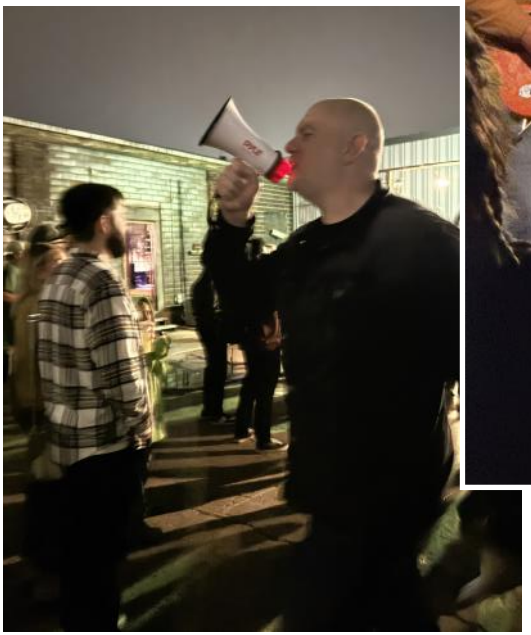












Pictured on opposite page: *The youth group enjoyed a night of fun and games in the Van Schouwens' garage in September. Thanks to Nick Breems and Carlene Van Schouwen for being great leaders!*
Pictured above: *The 10th Annual Pork 'N Bands was a success! Thanks to all who donated, volunteered, planned and organized, and all who came to enjoy the food, music, and fellowship that evening! We were having so much fun that we forgot to take many pictures this year! We made approximately $3,600 to put toward our Christian Education Fund commitment.*

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Judah Hawley

2 Ethan Brue
Ava Landman

5 Ed Brummel

6 Elijah Schreurs

9 Kara Maletoungou
Samuel Maletoungou
Ed & Natalie Brummel

13 Betty Jewett

15 Mark Horstman

18 Pam DeJong
Cora Donahue

19 Pat Crull
Laura Janssen
Tammy Lief

20 Esther Eppinga

23 Nola Jewett

24 Sophia Bailey
Lydia Clark

25 Layne Vos

27 Dave & Emily Kramer

28 Julia Kramer

29 Nick Breems
Jonathan Van Tol





Please remember in prayer and visits Covenant members who are often unable to worship with us because of health concerns and those living in care facilities: Carol Apol, Ed Dengler, George Faber, Rachel Hibma, Joan McCarthy, Marilyn Mouw, Lee Plasier.

Worship Opportunities in October

We

We will gather for a WE service, an intergenerational worship event, on Sunday, October 11. Join us for lunch immediately following the morning service and then we will share a time of learning together around the tables in the fellowship hall. We hope all, young and old, will participate!



The Worship Committee invites you to join for worship at the Crown Pointe Community Room on Sunday, October 18 at 6:00 PM. We will worship with Covenant members who reside there and other guests from independent and assisted living. We will sing and pray together in a place that is accessible to those friends of ours, and in this way, bless one another. Keep your eyes out for more information and ways you can help.

-Rebecca DeVries

October Scheduling



Valet

Pam A



Greeters

Pat C, Trena VW, John Z



Ushers

Duane B, Rebecca DS, Matt J



Coffee Servers

Sally J, Merrill MC, Stan VB, Sharon V, Jason W

Substitutes

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

Jenni B, Marcy H, Gidge M,
Les S, Adi VP, Lois VZ

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 19** for the November issue.



Nursery

Nursery Monitor: ??

October 4
AM Jake & Trena VW, Andy & Rachel L

October 11
AM Jeff & Sara P, Luke & Sarah H

October 18
AM Bob & Rebecca DS, Tom & Ruth C

October 25
AM Dave & Emily K, Laura J

November 1
AM James & Courtney R, John & Linda V

Worship Schedule

Here's what's coming up on Sundays in the month of October:

October 4 AM:	Dr. David Westfall
October 11 AM:	Dr. Kyle Dieleman
11:30 AM:	WE Service
October 18 AM:	Dr. Brad Hickey
6:00 PM:	Service at Crown Point
October 25 AM:	Dr. Jason Lief
6:00 PM:	Joint Reformation Day Service at Bethel CRC

Note from the Deacons

Time Keeps on Slippin'

A few Sundays ago, Brother Kyle reminded us that the Lord of the Sabbath desires that we have true rest, a deep, beautiful life with God. We sang, "Come away from rush and hurry to the stillness of God's peace... come to Christ to find release." We broke bread together, first in the sanctuary and then in Children's Park. And it was good.

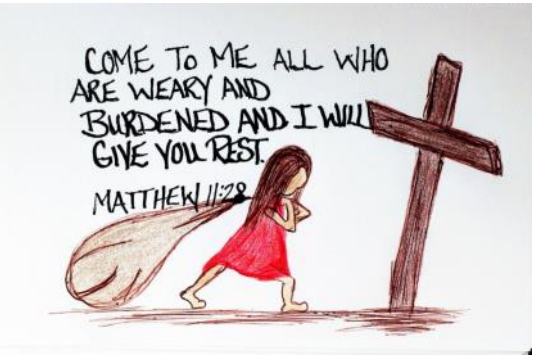
But then Monday arrived, with its deluge of other good things—maybe it was meaningful work, but with unrelenting inboxes to confront and real deadlines to meet. For some, perhaps it was an edifying class to attend, sandwiched in between an "optional" practice session and a mandatory lab. For others, maybe it was cheering on progeny at yet another volleyball match or cross-country meet, at the expense of yet another family dinner. You likely don't have to strain to find your own example of the many good things that consume your minutes, hours, and days. And all the while, as Steve Miller sings it, "Time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin' into the future."

That Monday evening, the Deacons also gathered for our monthly meeting. At the end of our agenda, we took a few minutes to discuss this tension: Christ's call to rest versus the apparent natural order of busyness. Specifically, as we considered this tension in the context of the ordinational charge to Deacons, we asked, "What does it look like 'to inspire faithful stewardship [of time] in this congregation'?"

Unsurprisingly, that question begat more questions than answers. But, as your Deacons, we desire to grow with you in becoming better caretakers of whatever earthly time we have been given. We welcome your input (and accountability) as we tend to this task and to each other.

-Micah Schreurs

On behalf of the Deacons:
(Jan Bajema, Kyle Dieleman, Micah Dykstra, Mark Horstman, Micah Schreurs, Atul Shinde, Michael Vander Plaats, Val Zonnefeld)



Giving Graph

Fund	Budgeted	Received	Difference
General	(1/1/26-9/20/26) $275,952	$217,526	-$58,426
Christian Education	(8/1/26-9/20/26) $19,462	$25,503	+$6,041
Refresh Building	(1/1/26-9/20/26) $54,369	$89,325	+$34,956

New Albums Released

Our Covenant songwriters have been busy this year! Two new albums were released this month, so if you want to check out the music our church family members have been laboring over, we encourage you to do so!



The Ruralists, including Covenant members Laremy DeVries, Luke Hawley, Christian Lief, and Jake Miller, released *Letting Go* on September 18. And that same day, Luke Hawley also released his own solo album entitled *Carver*, a project he's been working on for 15 years, turning Raymond Carver short stories into songs.



Check both albums out on any streaming platform!

Welcome, Carina!



We are so excited to welcome our newest Covenant baby! Tony and JoyLyn Garcia welcomed Carina Josefina Opal on September 16. She was 8lbs, 5 oz, and 21.5 inches long. Tony and JoyLyn are soaking up every wonderful moment with her and thanking God for His abundant blessings!

Welcome to the Covenant family, Carina!



Grandma Alert! Grandpa Alert!

Proud big brothers Beckett & Elliott are SO excited to introduce their new brother, Rhett Marcus Kroese, born at 5:32 PM on Saturday, August 29 weighing 7lbs 15 oz. Parents are Megan and Marcus Kroese from Doon. Great-grandparents are Doug and Marge De Boer.

-Doug & Marge DeBoer



Welcome to the Welcome Area

(Continued from page 1)

work to get our lights and screen working. Thank you.

"We" all now hope that you also are enjoying the remodeled welcome area. And you are now the "we". We want to use this space to welcome, witness, and reach. What can you do?

- Is your name on the list to be a GREETER? We ask that one greeter on the list each week position themselves no longer by the main entrance, but by the Welcome Area instead (our valet attendant can be that first greeter). Please wear a "GREETER" nametag (found in the "GREETER" mailbox) and be present in the Welcome Area to specifically welcome visitors and college students and direct them to what they might need (bulletins, brochures, children's materials, the nursery, bathrooms). We hope you will also welcome members and just enjoy this first opportunity to fellowship on a Sunday morning.

- Are you on a COMMITTEE at Covenant? We hope you will think about ways to use areas of the welcome area to communicate with the rest of the congregation. You will see that one of the magnetic boards in the Welcome Area has information from the Justice and Mercy Committee. Are there other committees who have something they want to communicate with us on a poster or flyer or on the screen? Should we know about an upcoming volunteer opportunity? You can send those to Sara or Becca and request they go in the welcome area or on the screen.

- If you as a Covenant member are involved in an upcoming EVENT that you would like us to know about, you can put a poster up about that too. There were "Two Old Guys Reading Their Stuff" recently; some choristers sang in The Messiah last year; some high school students graduated and had parties; some members were helping to coordinate the Bible League Conference. You can promote those events–open to all—on a magnetic board or on the screen. Sara and Becca are eager to help you do this.

- Kids—do you take a CHILDREN'S BULLETIN or coloring page on Sundays? By now, you have found them located on the book shelf. If you want to show us what you colored after church, you can put that on a magnetic board too

- Do you have a SIGN-UP for an upcoming event? If you get them to Sara or Becca by Thursday, we will make sure they get to the welcome table.

Thanks again to all the people who helped make this happen. Thanks to you who will keep using it well.

-Rebecca DeVries