



# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2018

## RECLAIMING COMMUNITY/DECLUTTER

In the last month, we've explored the call to be *Different* by "Reclaiming Community." We conclude this series in February by examining our Christian community's responsibility to rebuilding the neighborhood, reclaiming the city and redeeming the world. Closing out that series will be my good friend and missionary, Ross Wood, who will be here February 16–18 for our second annual Speaker Weekend. Ross has had incredible international mission experience, most recently running refugee camps for Samaritan's Purse in South Sudan, Haiti and Iraq. You won't want to miss him!

Though our "Reclaiming Community" ends in February, this year's WIG (Wildly Important Goal) of easing and increasing involvement in the community of the church continues. Consider jumping into community through one of our 3 for 3 Supper Clubs - signups continue until February 25. Finally, you've heard a bit in worship about our concept regarding a separate Sunday School hour to begin in September. Please note that there will be ANOTHER survey in February to elicit your feedback around this Sunday School concept (2018 is really the year of the survey!). I'm incredibly excited about all the change, which will allow us to accomplish so much with our children, youth and adults.

On February 25, we begin our Lenten series, "Declutter." Part of being *Different* is our perspective on our material possessions. The world tells us that whoever dies with the most toys, wins. Christ calls us to declutter our stuff and our lives to make space for Him. We will launch this series with "The Seven Deadly Sins of Stuff" on February 25 and I couldn't be more excited. Outside of worship, you will be invited to begin an exciting program called "40 Bags in 40 Days" where we purge one bag's worth of stuff from our homes each day of Lent. As we physically and spiritually make space for Jesus, may we find the Holy Spirit filling each corner of our homes and hearts.

Inside this newsletter you'll find more information on all of the above: our Speaker Weekend, the WIG and survey, Supper Clubs, Sunday School and 40 Bags in 40 Days. God is doing amazing things here at Covenant – I can't wait to see what He does over these next two months. Jump in!

Grace and Peace,  
*Jim Gates*

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Embracing all. Feeding spirits. Reflecting Christ...  
*Changing lives forever!*

# MEMBERS & VISITORS

## VISITORS

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Joseph, Janine, Violet, & Graham Abt	John, Sarah, Jackson, & Kyle Loth
Mike & Julie Bourbon	Sandra May
Jim & Sue Buck	Peter & Shelby Merckx
Rita Clark	Grace Mueller
Tiffany Cooper	Danica Myer
Greg & Amy Dahlke	Paulette Patzer
Thomas & Gail Daman	Jerry & Sherry Pearson
Mike & Roxie Denfield	Alan Radtke
Clint & Janet Dieck	Doug & Betty Rasmussen
Jane Fochs	Cassie Schenck
Ronald & Lucy Gates	Sarah Schliepp
Sierra Gerdman	Susan Skowbo
Paul & Terri Goldsworthy	Marie Slattery
Betty Hadl	Miles Stifler
Peggy Hettinga	David, Kristi, & Tanner Stokes
Scott, Beth, & Bryson Hoff	Patricia Tranetzke
Sheldon & Diane Hoff	Jerry & Julie Trebus
Emma Kierulff	Amy Vachavake
Doug & Tony Knoepke	Tom & Mary Webster
Dale & Julie Krueger	Drew, Nicole, Emma, Graham, Reid, & Seth Williams
Paulette & Emory Laffin	Liz Williams
Brittany Longenberg	

## NEW MEMBERS

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Jim & Jean Burgener  
Roy & Kay Drexel  
Doug & Jenny Nacker (Charlotte, Damian, Evan, Hazel, & Trent)  
Kyle & Michelle Shinkle  
Herb & Lois Westlund

## PRAYER CONCERNS

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The following members have recently been hospitalized or are dealing with medical issues. Please keep them in your prayers:

Barb Brown (Home)  
Marilyn Christianson (Cedar Creek Manor)

Greg Falkowski (Pride TLC)  
Don Hawkins (Home)  
David Jenkins Sr (Pride TLC)  
Dee Jenkins (Home)  
John Lenz (Colonial Manor)  
Roy Olson (Mount View)  
Amelia & Evelyn Podeweltz (Home)  
Dorothy Swazee (Home)  
Bess Vick (Pride TLC)

## **BIRTHS**

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Carson Gindt, son of Heather & Matthew Gindt and grandson of Howard & Karen Kapps  
Hazel Nacker, daughter of Doug & Jenny Nacker  
Amelia and Evelyn Podeweltz, twin daughters of Cassidy Sann & Jesse Podeweltz and granddaughters of Todd & Kiva Sann

## **BAPTISMS**

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Thomas Alan Kohnert, son of Leonard & Beth Kohnert  
Andrew Joseph Lawton, son of Jesse Lawton & Tracy Jaeck  
Raelynn Luna Westfall, daughter of Felecity Sann & Dylan Westfall

## **SPECIAL GIFTS**

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Ruth Laak	In Honor of Thomas Kohnert's Baptism
Ruth Laak	In Honor of Andrew Lawton's Baptism
Ruth Laak	In Honor of Maxwell Patzer's Baptism
Ruth Laak	In Honor of Lawson Sladky's Baptism
Ruth Laak	In Honor of Lena Sladky's Baptism
Ruth Laak	In Honor of Raelynn Westfall's Baptism
Doug & Betty Rasmussen	In Honor of Howie & Nancy Pries' 60th Wedding Anniversary
Raleigh Lokre	In Honor of Bess Vick
Aaron & Shelby Waraksa	In Honor of Noah Salyers
Richard Austin	Food Pantry
Bethany Baptist Church	Food Pantry
Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin	Food Pantry
Highland United Methodist Church	Food Pantry
Rich Pietsch	Food Pantry
Paul Stomieroski	Food Pantry

## MEMORIALS

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**For Jean Beck:**

John Beck

**For Nancy Ackerman:**

Fran Landrath

Paul & Kay Walkowicz

**For Margaret Johnson:**

Ruth Laak

## SPECIAL HAPPENINGS

**LOFTY GOALS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE:** Exciting things have been happening in our Lofty Goals campaign over the last two months. First, as regards to construction, we are delighted to report that we have installed our new parking lot lights! If you've been at church after dark, you've noticed those have made a dramatic difference. We don't have a start date for our other construction/renovation of the old Sanctuary and old Narthex, but we are hard at work in the design process for that space. Expect some significant changes in the designs - these are a result of changes in the Youth Ministry programming vision since Andrew arrived, but they will have the positive side effect of somewhat reduced cost, as well. Stay tuned for more news on that front.

Second, as regards to our debt reduction, we have more great news - we made our first mortgage principal payment from the Capital Campaign in January. Because of a number of families who paid their pledges early, that debt payment was a total of \$35,340!

Our current pledges are \$356,000 and we have received over \$100,000 of that already. Truly impressive! If you have questions about our Capital Campaign or would like to make a pledge, visit our website at <http://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/capital-campaign/> or contact Gary Freels, Chair, at [garyfreels@alexanderprop.org](mailto:garyfreels@alexanderprop.org).

**40 BAGS IN 40 DAYS (LENTEN EXPERIENCE):** Lent has always been a season of prayer and fasting, as we prepare for the Passion of our Lord. This year, we invite you into a next Lenten experience of preparation. Our theme for Lent is "Declutter" - we'll talk about the need to be different in the areas of materialism and stuff. To that end, you are invited to join us for the 40 Bags in 40 Days challenge.

Each Day of Lent (February 14-March 31, except Sundays), we will physically declutter our lives by filling one bag of stuff to be disposed of or donated. This sounds simple, but it is incredibly profound. As we intentionally remove

unnecessary stuff, we make much needed room for the Spirit of God. If you're like most people, we're so cluttered that there's hardly room to move, much less relax and reflect. This is an awesome opportunity to both refocus ourselves and our homes from the physical to the spiritual.

There is a wonderful website from which this idea originated that you might use as a support– [www.whitehouseblackshutters.com/40-bags-in-40-days/](http://www.whitehouseblackshutters.com/40-bags-in-40-days/). Also, our church has created a Facebook Group during Lent for anyone participating, so you can post your successes and successes-to-be. You can join that group anytime on our church's Facebook page!

### **SPECIAL LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES:**

#### **Ash Wednesday Service–February 14 at 6 pm**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, as we journey with Jesus to Cavalry. We celebrate the start of this season with the Imposition of Ashes and the Sacrament of Communion in worship together.

#### **Maundy Thursday Service–March 29 at 6 pm**

This year our Maundy Thursday service will be in our Sanctuary and will include the Sacrament of Communion.

#### **Good Friday Service–March 30 at 6 pm**

Our Good Friday service will be a funeral service for Jesus. Join us at 6pm to mourn the passing of our Lord and Teacher.

### **SPEAKER WEEKEND WITH ROSS WOOD, CHRISTIAN MISSION AND THE CARE OF REFUGEES–FEBRUARY 16-18**

Most of us are aware that there are more refugees in the world today than at any other time in human history. One in every 113 people in the world has been forced to flee their home. Internally displaced persons and refugees together exceeded 65.5 million people in 2017. This is a crisis that has a unique significance for Christians, for Scripture reminds us again and again that we were aliens in a foreign land, and that we “know the heart of the alien.” What can we do? How should the church work for those threatened by the Pharaoh's of our world today?

We are delighted to announce our second Speaker Weekend with friend of the church and missionary, Ross Wood, on February 16-18, in order to discuss these very topics. Ross has worked all over the world; in a Christian school on the West Bank, in Morocco with the Peace Corps, and in South Sudan, Haiti and Iraq with Samaritan's Purse. Ross has a Master's Degree in Conflict, Security and Development from the University of Bradford, UK. He is also engaged and will be married one month from his visit with us. So hopefully his fiancé, Andrea, will be able to join us as well! She is in the process of receiving her Masters of Divinity from Yale Divinity School; in a previous life, she flew helicopters for the US Navy. Here's the schedule for the weekend:

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**Friday, February 16–6 pm; 6:30 pm – Fish Fry at CCPC – Class with Ross Wood:** Ross will kick off our weekend with his own thoughts and insights into the topic of international Christian mission and refugees. Free Childcare available, dinner is \$7 per person.

**Saturday, February 17; 10 am–11:30 am – Forum Discussion with Ross and Jim:** Come be part of the conversation, ask questions, and dig deep with us on this topic! Light refreshments will be served.

**Sunday, February 18; 10 am – Sunday Service:** Ross will cap off our weekend by preaching for us on Sunday morning!

If you plan to attend on Friday night and/or Saturday morning, please contact Jim Gates so we can be sure to have food for you! This weekend will be special; join us!

**3 FOR 3 SUPPER CLUBS:** Our 3 for 3 Supper Clubs are back! Three families (single people, married couples, or families with children all count as one family) meet together once a month for three months just to do dinner together. You can meet in homes, at restaurants, or even for a picnic in the park. There is no requirement to host! This is an incredible way to get to know other families in our church. Register online at [www.covenantcommunitypc.org/343supperclub](http://www.covenantcommunitypc.org/343supperclub) or call the church by February 25. You will be assigned to a group, all of which will be publicized on March 11.

**2018 MISSION AUCTION AND DINNER:** The CCPC Auction committee is busy making plans for the Annual Mission Auction and Dinner on Saturday, March 3. This is the primary fundraiser for our local, state, national and international missions. Plus, it's a lot of fun for the whole family.

Many of the most popular items in the auction come from our talented and generous members! Ideas for donations may include business services, a hobby or craft, toys for the kid's room, an unused gift, time at a vacation home or time share and homemade items or baked goods. The sky's the limit for creative ideas! Please fill out a donation form found in the Sunday bulletin, or contact the church office. Please have the donated item(s) to church no later than Wednesday, February 28.

New this year is Taste of CCPC, with dinner provided by local chefs (including our own) and will be served from 4–5:30 pm. Cost for dinner is \$14/adult; \$7/child 12 and under. Tickets are available online and at the church office and door on Sunday mornings.

Don't forget the Friday night shoe sale on March 2, from 5pm–7pm. Prices for the sale will be \$30 per pair and if you buy two pairs, you get one free! Boots are all \$30!

If you have any questions regarding these wonderful events, please contact **Kari Kufahl** ([kari.kufahl@gmail.com](mailto:kari.kufahl@gmail.com), 715-212-9159).

**VBS FUNSHOP—MARCH 10:** CCPC has the privilege of hosting a FUNShop for Vacation Bible School. Area churches are invited to come and check out the new curriculum, see decoration ideas and experience “A day in the life of a student at VBS.” This event will bring volunteers and church staff together to build each other up and share ideas! We are grateful for this opportunity to host!

**EGGSTRAVAGANZA—MARCH 31:** Join us for an egg hunt of egg-normous proportions on Saturday, March 31 from 9–11 am. There will be a free pancake breakfast, egg hunt, petting zoo and other family fun activities. As the event nears, we will be looking for donations of eggs, candy, treat bags and a few other bigger items that won’t go in the eggs themselves. On Friday, March 30, the work of hiding over 3,000 eggs will begin. If you would like to help in any way, please contact *Amanda Fuls* at 715-573-6296.

## REGULAR PROGRAMMING

**SCRIP PROGRAM:** We are excited to enter our 4th year of the Scrip Program. We’ll be keeping our Monthly Order program, as well as expanding the offerings each Sunday at the Scrip Table of same-day purchase “Quick Pick” gift cards. New to our program this year will be a “Reload” option to qualifying purchased gift cards and an “On-line Order Option” for participants. In other exciting news, we will pursue a test group of individuals who would like to use the new downloadable APP for participants to order from. If you are interested in any of these new options, please see *Pam Higgins* (715-573-8067) or *Kate Lillie* (715-581-9666) to be added to our training lists.

For those who are new to Scrip, it’s a great and easy way to earn money for our church by purchasing gift cards to pay for your normal every day needs. You pay face value for a gift card to use for purchases that the church has bought at a reduced cost. The program includes retailers from every category you can think of, both locally and nationally, including grocery, gas stations, restaurants, clothing, entertainment, pet, car, general retailers and drug stores, to name a few.

If you need something in a pinch, an e-card (paper gift certificate) is offered by many of the merchants and can be purchased and printed within 24 hours without requiring the church to pay shipping costs. We’ll even email you the certificates, so there is no need to leave your home.

A HUGE thank you to all Scrip participants in 2017! The Scrip program proceeds totaled \$5,600, which supported the “Parking Lot Light Project”.

We look forward to seeing you at the Scrip Table.

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

**SEPARATE SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR COMING SEPTEMBER 2018:** On January 28, we discussed in worship the idea of creating a separate Sunday School hour beginning in September of this year. Here is a brief recap of that concept and it's rationale.

Sunday mornings, we would have Sunday School from 9–9:50 am. This Sunday School time would include classes for all ages, including youth and adults. Then, our regular worship service would begin at 10am. During worship, we would offer a Children's Worship program for 3rd Graders and younger, while 4th graders and older would remain in the service. Children's Worship would be multi-generational and entirely different from our Sunday School classes, so that children could enjoy both hours without repetition. Of course, some people would not be able to attend the 9am Sunday School hour, and that's fine; everyone would be welcome to attend at 10am as they have always done, and children Grades 3 and under wouldn't even notice a substantial change.

The benefits of this change for our children and youth are enormous. Children will have more consistency in Sunday School. The teachers will not need to choose between worship or serving, allowing them to teach more often and build deeper, meaningful relationships with children. This reduces the number of volunteers we need and increases the amount of time we have with each child. We begin training our children at a young age to worship through our Children's Worship program, where they would learn everything from music to the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed. And critically, we engage our older children and youth (4th grade and up) in the main worship service, rather than segregating them outside of it. As an added benefit, we could grow our youth Sunday School by resuming programming for our High School students (there is not currently a High School Sunday School class). Our wonderful Children's Choir would continue at the same time (9 am) as an every-other-month option for interested students.

The benefits for our adults should be just as dramatic, as we can offer regular adult education programming before church, and new opportunities for fellowship and community emerge for parents while their children are in their own classes.

Looking further ahead, this change would also help us in the preparation for launching a second worship service. Having one central Sunday School hour would serve as a unifying factor if/when we begin a second worship service. Children whose parents worship at one service would still be together in Sunday School with their friends who worship at another; likewise, adults could worship at different hours but come together for classes and fellowship in between.

We know this is a major change! We'd like your feedback and questions. Please take the time to fill out our Sunday School Survey, located on the home page of our website or in paper form in the Narthex, starting February 11. You may also contact Jim Gates, Amanda Fuls, or Andrew Washburn with questions!

**YOUTH:** January 17 thru February 7 has been our series exploring Science and Faith. We talked through whether or not you have to choose between believing in science or in God. Often times it feels like we are told that science and faith are in competition. Spoiler Alert! We don't believe they are in competition.

Starting February 14, we are heading into a new series going through the book of Acts. We are going to be spending four weeks looking at the "Acts of the Apostle's" and about the Church and how it started. Come join us from 6–8 pm each week for a time of games and getting into the Bible together! We are looking forward to having you join us!

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact **Andrew Washburn** at [andrew@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:andrew@covenantcommunitypc.org).

Note: We are still meeting from 6–8 pm every Wednesday, including during L.I.F.E. Remember, Youth Group ends at 8 pm and L.I.F.E. ends at 7 pm.

**YOUNG ADULTS:** We have been studying the life and writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. This has been a great study and thank you to those who have been coming! This has been a great time of getting to know each other and being challenged by the teachings of Bonhoeffer.

We will be starting up a new study going through the Book of Philippians. Watch the Sunday morning bulletin for more information on dates and times! If you have graduated High School, you are welcome to join us!

If you have any questions please contact **Andrew Washburn** at [andrew@covenantcommunitypc.org](mailto:andrew@covenantcommunitypc.org).

## ADULT EDUCATION

**CCPC 101:** Our next CCPC 101 class will be on Sunday, March 11 after worship, from 11:15 am–1:30 pm. This class is designed for visitors who would like to learn more about the church and membership. We cover everything from what we believe to what it means to be Presbyterian to the nuts and bolts of our church's organization. It's a fun class and a great way to meet some other new people in the church! Lunch and childcare are provided. Please contact Jim Gates to register.

**MEN'S LUNCH AND BIBLE STUDY:** All men are invited to join us for lunch and Bible study twice a month! We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 12–1 pm. Our current study is on the book of Joshua. No prior experience needed; show up anytime and enjoy good food, fellowship and spiritual conversation! Bring \$5 to cover the cost of lunch.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** Please join us every third Tuesday of the month (thru May 16) from 6:30 - 8 pm. This study is open to all women and the theme is "Cloud of Witnesses." Come fellowship and be blessed!

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

**CRAFT OUTREACH GROUP (COG):** Please come and serve with us as we create and give! The COG meets every second Thursday of the month, from 10am–Noon, thru June of this year. February's work will include tied blankets and preparing auction baskets, followed by a return to current projects in the month of March.

Attending the meetings is not necessary to be a part of this ministry, as you can contribute your talents on your own time. The group's projects include baby and adult blankets/prayer shawls (knit, crochet, quilted or fleece) and fleece or knit/crochet scarves, hats and headbands. Traveling prayer shawl kits circulate among knitters who add several rows and pass them on. We also have a request from Hearts of Hope to create and donate angel ornaments. Please let us know if you have an easy pattern idea!

If you have any questions and/or want to participate, please contact *Judy Dorn* at 715-298-0925.

**SPRING L.I.F.E.:** Spring L.I.F.E. will be taking place April 11–May 16. If you are interested in helping those evenings, there are many ways to get involved! For more information, please contact *Amanda Fuls* at 715-573-6296.

April-May newsletter stories due March 12th to Drew Bouché –  
drew@covenantcommunitypc.org

## CCPC NOTES

**FORMER CCPC MEMBER PENS CHILDREN'S BOOK:** We are delighted to share that former CCPC member (daughter of current member Barb Brown) Molly Vidas' children's book, "Strawberry Chicken" is available for purchase on Amazon.com. Please check it out and show your support for a talented CCPC family member! Congratulations Molly!

### **A THANK YOU TO OUR CCPC FAMILY:**

Dear Church Family,

The Lord has gifted our church with an amazing ministry that has expanded to allow us to provide for all who have come to us for help. That ability to supply comfort and an expression of God's love through warm clothing, food and gifts is only possible because of the generous members at Covenant and our extended Covenant community.

This Christmas we offered hope to 95 families through our outreach ministries. Our reputation as a church who embraces All. Feeds Spirits. Reflects Christ. Changes Lives Forever is spreading throughout the area, and we have the opportunity to respond to the requests that will follow. The extent of possibilities is unlimited if we are ready to receive the challenge. We will need to add members to our Hearts of Hope team to grow in a manageable, sustainable way.

In late January, we will offer a presentation to all who have interest in learning more about our Care Closet Ministry and the sister ministries – members may not realize the year-round impact of those ministries have on our community.

Hearts of Hope is a huge ministry and takes year-round preparation and the willing spirit of hundreds to turn 1,200 paper hearts into 1,200 gifts of hope. Add to those gifts, food, winter clothing, activity bags, fruit boxes and Christmas cookies, and it becomes a wonder that it all gets done. Thank you for supporting all of our Care Closet ministries. Your gifts of time, donations, prayers and words of encouragement are God's Reflection, Love and Strength that sustain us as we minister in His Name.

With deep gratitude to our church family,

The Hearts of Hope Team – Sarah Luedtke, Sue Thompson, Susan Zblewski and family, Sharon Maltbey, Carrie Perry, Laura Siebert, Sandy Buttke, and Deb Wakefield.



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**SESSION MEMBERS**

Chris Jelen (Clerk)  
Mary Fraaza  
Gary Freels  
Jeff Gramling  
Joanne Lapinske  
Sharon Maltbey  
Mark Matthiae  
Kent Perrin  
Deb Tice  
Bob Warner  
Tom Wrynsinski

**DEACONS**  
Gregg James (Chair)  
Shawn Abel  
Elizabeth Banholzer  
Rick Barnes  
Rocky Bouldin  
Joy Briggs  
Carol Broeker  
John Happli  
Pam Higgins  
Glenn Lamping  
Katie Lillie  
Nancy Pries  
Laura Siebert  
Barb Smejkal  
Ken Zblewski

Jim Gates – *Pastor*

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