

# CONNECTION CARD

**We'd love to know you were here!**

Contemporary Worship     Traditional Worship     Change In Contact Information  
 1st Time Guest    NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 2nd Time Guest    EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 Regular Attendee    ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member    CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  Landline  Cell

## This Week @ First Cov

**SUNDAY 11/5** 6:00 - 8:00pm Senior High Big Life  
**TUESDAY 11/7** 9:00 - 11:00am Voting Day (fellowship hall)  
 7:00 - 8:15pm Beth Moore Bible Study (rm. 207)  
 Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal  
**WED. 11/8** 2:30 - 5:30pm Open Gym  
 5:45 - 6:30pm Dinner (Pozole-Mexican stew)  
 6:00 - 7:30pm Crew 34 (rm. 110)  
 6:30 - 8:15pm Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary)  
 6:30 - 8:00pm The Grove  
 6:30 - 8:00pm Pastor Craig's Bible Study  
 6:30 - 8:00pm Junior High (rm. 222)  
 6:30 - 8:00pm Club 56 (rm. 112)  
 8:15 - 9:00pm Prayer Meeting (rm. 107)  
**THURSDAY 11/9** 6:30 - 8:00pm Worship Dance (rm. 110/112)  
**SUNDAY 11/12** 6:00 - 8:00pm Senior High Big Life

*\*The church's full calendar can be found on our website or on the app.*

## Acknowledgements & Needs

Dear First Cov Church~ We would like to thank you for the outpouring of love & support we have received in the last month. Due to a recent bout with cancer, Carole has experienced a health setback, & during this time we have received so much love & support in the form of prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, & meals. The outpouring of love has been overwhelming. We are especially thankful for the awesome prayer team you have. The prayers have helped us during this difficult time. In all our years of church attendance, we have never experienced such a wonderful group of people as we have found at First Cov. We have gotten to know so many of the people & find the congregation to be the kindest, friendliest, & most welcoming of any church we have ever come to know. We want to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We are so happy to be part of such a wonderful church.

~Don & Carole Vereeke

Dear Church Family~ We would like to thank you for all your acts of kindness & prayers during mom's home going. The floral bouquet was so beautiful and a reminder of how precious our church family is to us. Thank you to Pastor Craig for all his care during these difficult months.

*In His Love, Mark & Nancy Tournell*

Dear church family,  
 Thank you so much for your prayers and concerns during my recent surgery and recuperation. Pastor Craig's visits were timely and appreciated. The help with meals from church, family and neighbors has been very special. Thank you,

~Wilma Bauman

OFFICE PHONE (616) 453-6346

[www.firstcovgr.org](http://www.firstcovgr.org)

# FIRST EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

## THE MESSENGER

November 5, 2017

## WELCOME

### Sunday Mornings @ First Cov

**9:00 - 10:15am**

#### Contemporary Worship

(Kids grades K-4th will be dismissed for Children's Church during the offering.)

#### Adult Bible Fellowship Classes

- Jonah rm. 207
- Romans 12-16 rm. 220

**10:30 - 11:45am**

#### Traditional Worship (sanctuary)

#### Sunday School for Kids/Youth

- 3 yrs. to 6th grade lower level
- Jr. High Sunday School rm. 220
- Sr. High Sunday School rm. 222

#### Adult Bible Fellowship Classes

- Young Adult Class rm. 224
  - Romans Office Conf. Room
  - Evidence-Based Faith rm. 109
  - Parents of Youth rm. 116
  - Crossing Cultures rm. 107
  - Friendship Ministry rm. 207
- (Adults with special needs)*

**1:00 pm**

#### Esperanza Covenant Church

(rm. 222)

#### MESSAGE

God gives gifts – he wants them used

Pastor Craig

**SCRIPTURE**

Romans 12: 1-8

### OUR STAFF

#### Craig Swanson

Senior Pastor  
 cswanson@firstcovgr.org

#### Michelle Ludge

Director of Middle School Ministry  
 & Children's Ministry Team Leader  
 mludge@firstcovgr.org

#### Josh Hinken

Senior High & Young Adult Pastor  
 jhinken@firstcovgr.org

#### Neal Herr

Pastor of Congregational Development  
 nherr@firstcovgr.org

#### Karin Alferink

Children's Ministry  
 kalferink@firstcovgr.org

#### Jeremy Hoekstra

Contemporary Worship Leader  
 jhoekstra@firstcovgr.org

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (birth- 6th Grade)



**Club 56 this Wednesday** at First Cov 6:30 - 8:00pm. This weekly ministry is for 5th & 6th graders! This week bring items and/or \$ to help fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

**CREW34** Wednesday 6:00 - 7:30. 3rd & 4th graders, join us for a mid-week gathering. Dinner is included. Contact Karin with questions.

**Christmas program** rehearsal continues today in the Club 56 Room. Kids are dismissed during the greeting after the first song. They will be dismissed back to parents during the last song. Please return the commitment card today if you still haven't returned it.

**Family Advent Festival** is November 26 right after Sunday School. Lunch and activities included. Sign up today at the Information Center. RSVP deadline is November 19. \$2 per person or \$8 per family.

## YOUTH MINISTRIES (7th to 12th Grade)



### Junior High:

- **THIS week** we will be SHOPPING and filling shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Bring \$\$ to go to the dollar store and purchase items to fill a **shoebox**. **WEDNESDAY night, 6:30—8:00pm**.
- **CLIFFHANGER 2018** meeting was LAST Sunday. If your student is interested in attending, please contact Michelle Ludge ASAP to get information. Registration and \$25 deposit is due Sunday, 11/12.

### Senior High:

- Tonight, November 5th | **Big Life** 6-8pm @ First Cov. (praise band practice at 5:15). There will be food, fun, and convos about our faith. Be there! :) Adult leadership meeting at 4:00p.
- **REVERB ALL-NIGHTER!** Nov. 10-11 | Time: 5:30p - 7:15a | Cost: \$40. [See FB or Insta for more info!] Sign up online by Monday, November 6 at 12p! Here is the link: <http://goo.gl/RuybLj>
- SAVE THE DATES: **Winter Retreat**, February 16 - 18, 2018; **CHIC**, July 15 - 21, 2018.



## CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Open up the Heavens - Meredith Andrews  
 Cannons - Phil Wickham  
 King of Heaven - Paul Baloche  
 Taken - Jeremy Hoekstra  
 Good Good Father - Housefires  
 We Will Feast in the House of Zion - Sandra McCracken

Worship Leader: Jeremy Hoekstra  
 Vocals: Macey George, Brianne Stephens  
 Keys: Mark Schut Violin: Melanie Wisner  
 Drums: Jose Rodriguez Bass: Anthony Rodriguez

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Hospitality Team** We are committed to giving guests and those new at FirstCov the best welcome possible! Those interested in being a part of a ministry of hospitality are invited to come together for a planning meeting (with lunch) following church on Sunday, November 12. RSVP to the church office.

**KIDS HOPE NEEDS 4 more mentors!** If you have 1 hour a week to spare to give to a child at Sibley Elementary, please consider being a part of this ministry! Contact Kim Theeuwes with any questions or to sign up (723-1976 or Ktheeuwes4@gmail.com)

**FIRST COV'S Christmas Drama** will be performed on Christmas Music Sunday, December 17th at both services (held in the FLC).

**FUNERAL LUNCHESES.** If you would be interested in assisting in this ministry, check the box on the Connection Card & drop it in the offering basket.

**Save the Date - Christmas by Candlelight.** Women's night out on Tuesday December 5 at 6:30pm. Reservations for table hosts will begin Sunday November 12.

**Save the Date - Voices of Freedom** concert, Friday, December 8th @7:00pm. Sponsored by JOY Ministries, but open to all to attend!



## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES (18 - 25+)

Save the Date - **Passion 2018!** Dec. 31 - Jan. 3 | Currently all three locations are sold out! Passion will hopefully open up another venue. Stay posted for more info ((Plan B will be streaming some of Passion somewhere)). Stay Connected: Facebook (Firstcovgr Young Adults) & Instagram (Firstcovgr\_ya)!



## ADULT MINISTRIES

**Men's Bible Study.** The group meets at Mr. Burger on Lake Michigan Drive, Friday mornings @ 6:30am.

**Care Ministry.** If you would be interested in preparing a meal for new moms or others in our congregation in need, please contact Pat Peterson (490-9207 or walrus1933@gmail.com)

**The Quilt Ministry** has kits available for people to take and work on at home. If you are interested or have questions, contact Cheri Matyjaszek at 231.884.6547.

November 5, 2017

I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN

- Prayer Ministry
- Nursery
- Greeting/Ushering
- Music/Worship
- Assisting w/ Funeral Lunches
- Youth Ministry
- Kids Hope USA
- Children's Ministry
- Hospitality Team

I WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ABOUT

- Baptism/Dedication
- Church Membership
- Joining a Small Group
- Becoming a Follower of Jesus
- Hosting a Refugee Family

COMMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS