

# 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

<b>SUNDAY 12/3</b>	5:30 - 7:00pm 6:45 - 8:30pm	Children's Christmas Program Sr. High Big Life/Serve
<b>TUESDAY 12/5</b>	6:30pm	<b>Christmas by Candlelight</b>
<b>WED. 12/6</b>	2:30 - 5:30pm 5:45 - 6:30pm 6:00 - 7:30pm 6:00 - 8:00pm 6:15 - 8:00pm 6:30 - 8:00pm 6:30 - 8:00pm	Open Gym Dinner (Spaghetti) Crew 34 (rm. 110) Junior High Bro/Gal Night (rm. 222) Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) The Grove Pastor Craig's Bible Study
	6:30 - 8:00pm 8:15 - 9:00pm 8:15pm	Club 56 (rm. 112) Prayer Meeting (rm. 107) Orchestra Rehearsal (sanctuary)
<b>THURSDAY 12/7</b>	6:30 - 8:00pm 7:00 - 8:15pm	Worship Dance (rms. 100/112) Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary)
<b>FRIDAY 12/8</b>	7:00pm	<b>Voices of Freedom Christmas Concert (sanctuary)</b>
<b>SUNDAY 12/10</b>	9:00am 9:00am  10:30am  12:00 - 1:30pm 6:00 - 8:00pm	Confirmation Breakfast with Jesus Contemporary Worship (flc) Congregational Mtg. Traditional Service (Sanctuary) Congregational Mtg. Refugee Team Mtg. Sr. High Big Life/hangout & serve

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

## Acknowledgements & Needs

Dear First Cov Church Family ~ Thank you so much for giving us a 50th wedding anniversary open house. We were overwhelmed by all of the people that came, all the cards & gifts we received, and love that was shown to us. We are blessed to be a part of such a loving, warm church. Again, thank you very much!  
~ Ted & Carolyn Peterson

Dear First Cov Congregation, Bud & I would like to express our sincere thanks to Pastor Craig Swanson and congregation for the special blessing you have been to us over quite a period of time with health issues and most recently Lydia's stroke. The pastor's visits, many cards, calls, meals, and words of encouragement were up-lifting. We look forward to attending church again, based on available transportation as we are no longer able to drive.

Love in Christ our Savior, Bud & Lydia Faulk

# This Week @ First Cov

# FIRST EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

## THE MESSENGER

December 3, 2017



**MESSAGE** Pastor Craig  
Keep Awake! Get Ready

**SCRIPTURE**  
Luke 12. 25-38

## Sunday Mornings @ First Cov

**9:00 - 10:15am**  
**Contemporary Worship**  
(Kids' Christmas Program practice )

**Adult Bible Fellowship Classes**

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

**1:00 pm**  
**Esperanza Covenant Church**  
(rm. 222)

**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
- Friendship Ministry rm. 207

(Adults with special needs)

**OUR STAFF**

<b>Craig Swanson</b> Senior Pastor cswanson@firstcovgr.org	<b>Neal Herr</b> Pastor of Congregational Development nherr@firstcovgr.org
<b>Michelle Ludge</b> Director of Middle School Ministry & Children's Ministry Team Leader mludge@firstcovgr.org	<b>Karin Alferink</b> Children's Ministry kalferink@firstcovgr.org
<b>Josh Hinken</b> Senior High & Young Adult Pastor jhinken@firstcovgr.org	<b>Jeremy Hoekstra</b> Contemporary Worship Leader jhoekstra@firstcovgr.org

OFFICE PHONE (616) 453-6346

www.firstcovgr.org

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

**Club 56** (our 5th & 6th grade ministry) meets on Wednesday nights from 6:30—8:00 pm.

**Crew 34** (our 3rd & 4th grade ministry) meets on Wednesday nights from 6-7:30. Supper is served at 6:00 with special dinner guests. We play games with kids who can't be picked up until 8.

**Christmas program** is **TONIGHT** at 5:30. Kids need to report to the Club 56 room at 5:00 sharp. If your child wears a costume they need to arrive at 4:45. We invite our church family to come and support our First Cov kids as they present the story of Jesus' birth. Stay for cookies and milk in the Fellowship Hall.

**Advent Resources**—If you were unable to attend the Advent Festival, check your mailbox for some family Advent resources.

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

**Junior High:** (7th & 8th grade)

- **THIS Wednesday night is Bro/Gal Night! EXTENDED NIGHT** 6:00—8:00pm. Dinner provided!

**Senior High:**

- TONIGHT, December 3, Senior High Big Life, 6:45 - 8:30p. Bring \$2 (Meet in the Youth Rm) Ice Skating at Rosa Park Circle (if closed because of warm temps, we have plan B!)
  - Adult Leadership Meeting, 4:15 - 5:15p (Meet in Rm. 224)
- NEXT SUNDAY, December 10
- @ 4:15p Student Leadership Team
  - @ 6-8p Big Life (Serve Night) Bring hats, gloves, &/or scarves to hand out as we go downtown to serve food & drinks to those in the Heartside neighborhood. Dress Warm.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Junior High and Senior High are going to Winter Jam at the Van Andel Arena on Sunday, January 7th. Price is \$25.00 a person for early entry for a night of worship and concerts. **DEADLINE to RSVP is December 10th.** RSVP to Josh or Michelle.

## CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Love Came Down at Christmas - Holy City Hymns  
 Angels From the Realms of Glory - Jeremy Hoekstra  
 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus - Jeremy Hoekstra  
 Your Name (Christmas) - Paul Baloche  
 Doxology

Worship Leader/Guitar: Jeremy Hoekstra  
 Vocals: Brianne Stephens  
 Keys: Mark Schut Bass: Geoff Schalow

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**, December 10th. We will be voting on new member candidates at the close of the first service and the beginning of the second service.

**GIVING TREE** - We still need gift cards for our Young Adult Ministry. Please drop cards off to the office this week.

**VOICES OF FREEDOM CHRISTMAS CONCERT.** Friday, December 8th at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. Come for an evening of great music!

**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.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**—If you're in your 30s or 40s you're invited to a Christmas party on Saturday, December 9 at 6:30 at the home of Jeremy and Cheryl Annen 4340 Lamont Woods Drive in Marne. Questions? Contact Cheryl 204-3709

**A CHRISTMAS HALLELUJAH!** On Sunday morning, December 10, all are invited to attend a musical celebration of the birth of Christ during the 10:30 Traditional Worship Service. In addition to the participation of our congregation in the singing of Christmas carols, the music will include the Chancel Choir, Orchestra, Pre-School Choir, Hand Bells, along with vocal and instrumental soloists and ensembles. "O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES (18 - 25+)

Save the Date - **Passion 2018!** Dec. 31 - Jan. 3 | Currently all three locations are sold out, therefore we are heading up north for the online experience. See FB for more information!

## ADULT MINISTRIES

**Men's Bible Study.** The group meets at Mr. Burger on Lake Michigan Drive, Friday mornings @ 6:30am. Contact Mike Poggi with questions, 446-7161.

**Book Club.** On Dec.18 @ 7:00 we will discuss "All The Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr. It's the story of a blind girl in a small town in Belgium who was taught how to see the world she could not see. The setting is the bombing of a small town in Belgium at the beginning of World War II and her experiences. A prize winning novel.

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT 11/30/17

General Fund Budget	\$ 1,191,682
Received to Date	<u>990.331</u>
Needed in December to Meet Budget	201,351

December 3, 2017

I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Ministry              | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministry      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Kids Hope USA       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeting/Ushering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music/Worship                | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality Team    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assisting w/ Funeral Lunches |  |

I WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ABOUT

- |   |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptism/Dedication           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Membership            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joining a Small Group        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Becoming a Follower of Jesus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting a Refugee Family     |

COMMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS