

CONNECTION CARD

We'd love to know you were here!

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

SUNDAY 12/10	9:00am 9:00am	Confirmation Breakfast with Jesus Contemporary Worship (flc) Congregational Mtg.
	10:30am	Traditional Service (Sanctuary) Congregational Mtg. Refugee Team Mtg.
	12:00 - 1:30pm 6:00 - 8:00pm	Sr. High Big Life/hangout & serve
MONDAY 12/11	9:00 - 11:15am	MOPS
TUESDAY 12/12	7:00 - 8:15pm	Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal
WED. 12/13	2:30 - 5:30pm 5:45 - 6:30pm 6:00 - 7:30pm 6:15 - 8:00pm 6:30 - 8:00pm 6:30 - 8:00pm 6:30 - 8:00pm 6:30 - 8:00pm 8:15 - 9:00pm	Open Gym Dinner (Chicken & Pasta) Crew 34 (rm. 110) Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) The Grove Pastor Craig's Bible Study Junior High (rm. 222) Club 56 (rm. 112) Prayer Meeting (rm. 107)
THURSDAY 12/14	6:30 - 8:00pm	Worship Dance (rms. 100/112)
SUNDAY 12/17	6:00 - 8:00pm	Christmas Music Sunday Both worship services in the FLC Sr. High Big Life Christmas Party

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

Acknowledgements & Needs



A special thanks goes out to all those who worked to make Christmas by Candlelight a wonderful evening. The food, the program, the beautifully decorated tables made for a delightful time of fun and fellowship. We so appreciated the capable men who served and worked in the kitchen.

A special thanks to the First Cov kids for their wonderful Christmas program. You worked hard for many weeks and your telling of the Christmas story was excellent!

The office & custodial staff would like to thank Crew 34 for the candy canisters & ornaments you made and left for us on our desks. We so appreciate you thinking about us!

OFFICE PHONE (616) 453-6346

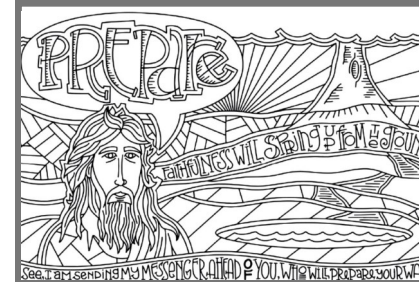
www.firstcovgr.org

This Week @ First Cov

FIRST EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

December 10, 2017



MESSAGE Pastor Craig
Prepare the Way for the Lord

SCRIPTURE

Micah 5. 2
Mark 1. 1-8

Sunday Mornings @ First Cov

9:00 - 10:15am

Contemporary Worship
(Family Life Center)

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
- Friendship Ministry rm. 207

(Adults with special needs)

1:00 pm

Esperanza Covenant Church
(rm. 222)

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

Each Sunday during the season of Advent we will have pictures available for you & your family to color. The picture corresponds to the theme of each week. As you come to worship you will have the opportunity to sit at tables & color large pictures as you worship. You can also color the smaller insert in your Messenger. So pick a table to sit at with your family & friends or a seat in your favorite row & come & engage in worship this Advent season.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (birth- 6th Grade)

Club 56: (5th & 6th grade ministry) Wednesday nights 6:30—8:00 pm.

- THIS week 12/13 we will be making trail mix for Kid's Food Basket. We need donations of cheerios, raisins, cheese crackers, and pretzels.
- 12/20 is our **CHRISTMAS PARTY!** We will have a special night celebrating Jesus' birth including PIZZA and birthday cake!

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. We will go Christmas caroling at the Covenant Village on Dec. 20.

Children's Worship will resume on January 7. Please enjoy the Advent coloring posters, Christmas books, and activity sheets.

YOUTH MINISTRIES (7th to 12th Grade)

Junior High: (7th & 8th grade)

- **THIS Wednesday night** is our serving night! We will be making trail mix for Kid's Food Basket, decorating bags for sack suppers, and making Christmas cards! Join us as we serve our community and have fun doing it together! 6:30—8:00pm
- **JH Christmas Party** is Wednesday, December 20, 6:30—8:00 pm! Bring a wrapped \$1.00 gift for a fun game AND wear your best ugly Christmas sweater! We will have a prize for the most FESTIVE outfit! Yummy snacks provided! Invite your friends!

Senior High:

TONIGHT, December 10

- @ 4:15p **Student Leadership Team** (meet @ Applebees in Standale)
- @ 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. Afterwards, we're going to check out the Christmas light show at the 5/3rd Ball Park! Will return by 8:30p. (Plan on Boardwalk subs at FirstCov at 6p for dinner... bring a few bucks)

SUNDAY, December 17th

- **Adult Leadership Meeting** @4:30 in rm. 224
- **Big Life Christmas Party!** 6:00-8:00pm. Get pumped for the BIG LIFE Christmas Party! Christmas music, games, gifts & yummy food! Come dressed up in your best ugly Christmas sweater and bring a wrapped gift (\$5ish dollar limit) for our White Elephant Gift Exchange! There will be a prize for the person with the best ugly Christmas sweater. Are you interested in cooking a delicious meal for the party? Contact Josh (616.295.0772) ASAP.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Born that We May Have Life - Chris Tomlin
 Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy) - Chris Tomlin
 Hark the Herald Angels Sing - King of Heaven - Paul Baloche
 Prepare the Way - Charlie Hall
 Angels We Have Heard on High - Jeremy Hoekstra

Worship Leader - Jeremy Hoekstra
 Electric Guitar - Brent Wenz
 Drums - Greg George
 Vocals - Karin Alferink, Kim Theeuwes
 Bass - Anthony Rodriguez
 Keys - Loyd Jenkins

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIVING BOXES. Make sure to check your church mailbox. Your 2018 giving boxes have been placed there.

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.

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 12/3/17

General Fund Budget	\$ 1,191,682
Received to Date	<u>1,018,238</u>
Needed in December to Meet Budget	173,444

December 10, 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
 I want to host an "Immerse: Genesis - Deuteronomy" 8-week book club in my home.

COMMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS