

CONNECTION CARD

We'd love to know you were here!

Change In Contact Information

1st Time Guest

2nd Time Guest

Regular Attendee

Member

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Landline Cell

This Week @ First Cov

SUNDAY 9/09	9:00am	Contemporary Worship (gym)
		Cake Reception after Worship (fellowship hall)
	10:30am	Traditional Worship (sanctuary)
		Cake Reception after Worship (fellowship hall)
	10:30am	Confirmation Parent Meeting (rm. 220)
	10:30am	SS Teacher Orientation (rm. 110)
	1:00pm	Esperanza Covenant Church Worship
	4:00pm	Youth to City Fest
MONDAY 9/10	12:30 - 2:30pm	Food Pantry (fellowship hall)
	7:00 - 9:00pm	BSF (family life center)
TUESDAY 9/11	12:30 - 2:30pm	Food Pantry (fellowship hall)
	12:30 - 2:30pm	Sr. Adults Volleyball (gym)
	7:00 - 11:00pm	Men's Basketball (gym)
WEDS. 9/12	8:00 - 2:30pm	CBS (whole building)
	2:30 - 5:30pm	Open Gym
	6:30 - 8:15pm	Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary)
THURSDAY 9/13	12:30 - 2:30pm	Sr. Adults Volleyball (gym)
	6:00 - 9:00pm	Worship Team (gym)
FRIDAY 09/14	6:00am	Men's Bible Study (Mr. Burger, Lake MI Dr.)
	10:00 - 1:00pm	Gods Quilts (510 Clover Ridge NW)
SATURDAY 09/15	9:00 - 12:00pm	Worship Dance
SUNDAY 9/16	9:00am	Contemporary Worship (gym)
		ABF's
	10:30am	Traditional Worship (sanctuary)
		ABF's & Sunday School
		Small Group Outreach (rm.116)
	1:00pm	Esperanza Covenant Church Worship

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

New Members will be voted on during the Sunday services on September 23, and confirmed into membership during services on Sunday, October 7th.

Wednesday Night Dinners will begin September 19. We start serving at 5:45pm - 6:30pm. Only \$2 per person. There will be some new groups serving along with some new menus. If you would like to help serve or create a new meal notify Judy Marsh in the office 453-6346.

Fundraiser for Esperanza Family Camp. Esperanza is taking orders for chicken tamales that will be prepared on Saturday, September 22. The cost is \$15 for a dozen or \$10 for six. 100% of the proceeds will go towards helping send families to our family camp at Portage Lake in November. Please call (616-589-3925) or e-mail (esperanzacovenantchurch@gmail) Pastor Dale to order.

P&G for adults: Potluck and Games for adults of FirstCov and friends! Friday, September 29, at 6:30pm. Questions? Contact Ginger Mastaw at 616-784-5888, or Michelle Hansma at 616-540-5636

The Dégagé ministry team is looking for more people to help plan meals and to recruit volunteers to serve every other month. In particular, they are looking for someone to be the leader of this team. If you are interested in serving on this team, please contact Pastor Neal (nherr@firstcovgr.org, 616-453-6346, x225).



FIRST EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

September 9, 2018

WELCOME BACK PASTOR CRAIG!

Everyone is invited to a cake reception celebrating the return of Pastor Craig and his family. He has been on sabbatical for the summer.

TODAY immediately following BOTH services we will have cake and coffee in the Fellowship Hall.

You may be able to welcome him/them back personally during this time. If not, there will be card stations with cards to write notes to Craig and family.

Also, cards are available to write notes of thanks and appreciation to the rest of our church staff for their wonderful work, care and service during Pastor Craig's absence.

A Thank You Note From the Swanson Family

Dear FirstCovGR Family:

We are so glad to be back home and especially to be back home for church! Thank you so much for your support during this time. The provision of a sabbatical was a huge blessing in so many ways. In addition, your cards and gifts of encouragement were deeply appreciated. Perhaps above all, simply knowing of your consistent and regular prayer for us made a huge difference. We have a deepened love for the Lord Jesus and for our family...and a deepened love for his people at FirstCov. The Lord bless you...bless us...all!
~Pastor Craig and Susan, Scott and Alita

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

Katelynn Wenz

Nursery Coordinator

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (birth- 6th Grade)

SUNDAY SCHOOL kicks off NEXT WEEK. We have many great teachers ready to serve. However, there are more spots to fill. We are looking for a helper in the 3 preschool class, a large group and small group leader for 1st/2nd grade, 2 small group leaders for 3rd/4th grade boys, 1 small group leader for 5th/6th grade girls every other week, and 1 small group leader for 5th/6th grade boys every other week. For more information, contact Karin Alferink or Michelle Ludge. We would LOVE to hear from you!

SS TEACHER ORIENTATION for preschool—6th grade is TODAY from 10:30 - 11:00am in room 110 lower level.

CREW34 & CLUB 56 kicks off in October. Watch for details!

YOUTH MINISTRIES (7th - 12th Grade)

FirstCovJH (7th & 8th grade)

TODAY Sunday, September 9, Confirmation Parent and Student meeting from 10:30—11am in room #220.

TODAY Sunday, September 9, CITY FEST is a huge festival downtown with food, concerts (Toby Mac), actions sports and more! Cost is FREE! Meet at First Cov at 4:00pm and we will head downtown for an evening of FUN!

Wednesday, September 19 is our Junior High Fall Kick-off! 6:30 - 8:00 pm. FREE night of fun! Mark your calendars!

FirstCovSH

TONIGHT (September 9) | CITY FEST

A huge festival downtown with food, music (Toby Mac), action sports, and more! Cost: FREE! Meet at FirstCov @ 4p. We don't know the exact time when the festival will be done. We will communicate our ETA when we know.

Next Sunday (September 16) | BIG LIFE KICK-OFF | 6-8p

Get pumped to team up with your life group and compete. Get ready for a photo scavenger hunt with a twist! SNAP, GRAB, & GO! Meet at FirstCov in the youth room at 6:00, eat food, grab the details, and GO! Come & hang with friends!

Parents... join us for a meeting @ 5:15p in the youth room.

SUNDAY (September 23) | Big Life 6-8pm @ First Cov. There will be food, fun, and convos about our faith. Bring a friend! Praise band practice at 5:00pm.

Stay Connected: Facebook (Firstcovgr Youth Group), Instagram (Firstcovgr_sh), & Texting (txt "firstcovseniorhigh" to 31996)!

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES (18 - 25+)

PASSION 2019 January 1 - 4, 2019 in Washington D.C. Cost \$350.

WHAT IS PASSION? While they host large gatherings, Passion is more than a conference. More than an event. More than a feeling. Passion is people coming together saying goodbye to lesser things and saying yes to Jesus, the One whose name is above every name. **MORE DETAILS TO COME!** (We have 20 tickets.)

Stay Connected: Facebook (Firstcovgr Young Adults) & Instagram (Firstcovgr_ya)!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bridal Shower for Michelle Visser (daughter of Ron & Janet Ziegelbaur) will be Thursday, September 27 at 7:00pm in the fellowship hall. Sign up to attend at the information desk in the lobby. Nate & Micelle are registered at Target, REI, and Bed, Bath & Beyond.

Join us for a Bridal Shower on Thursday, October 4 at 6:30pm to celebrate with Michaela Raymond on her upcoming wedding to Michael Piccard! Michaela & Mike are registered at Target, Crate and Barrel, and REI. Sign up at the Information desk in the lobby.

JOY Ministries, September 22, lunch, hayride and bonfire at Skinner's Ranch from 12:30 - 5:00pm. Sign up and purchase tickets beginning TODAY. \$20 per person. Transportation provided if needed.

CHOIR Rehearsals are Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 8:15pm in the sanctuary. Come be part of the choir.

ADULT MINISTRIES

Join us for The Grove: Old Testament Survey, a class that invites us to step into the story of the Old Testament. This two semester class is open to anyone at any stage in their faith journey. This semester we will spend twelve weeks in the first half of the Old Testament (from creation through the life of King David). Invite a friend and take it together in the same small group! The Grove will meet on Wednesdays, from 6:30-8:00pm beginning September 19. The cost is \$15 to cover the cost of materials. Childcare is available for \$3 per session, if you let us know ahead of time. Contact Neal Herr at nherr@firstcovgr.org or (616) 307-3469 for more information and a link to register. See insert in today's Messenger.

ALPHA is a series of sessions where people can gather for a meal and explore faith and the basics of Christianity. It is a safe place to wrestle with questions and doubts. We are planning to run this eleven week session this fall following City Fest and are looking for those interested in learning more about this evangelization program by participating as prayer warriors, hospitality helpers, facilitators, or greeters. Be in prayer for this fall offering that seeks to lead seekers to Christ, and consider who you might invite to attend or if you'd like to attend yourself. To find out more contact Josh Hinken (616-295-0772) or Linda Carlson (616-690-1620). Starting September 19, from 6:00 - 8:00pm.

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting begins this Wednesday from 7:00 - 8:00pm in room 107 on the lower level. Everyone is welcome. Contact Julie Strobridge at 616-550-4734.

Women's Beth Moore Bible Study "Breaking Free" begins Tuesday, September 18 and continues for 10 weeks. With video, optional workbook and class time, we will look into the Old and New Testaments to understand our freedom in Christ. Come for coffee at 9am and the study begins at 9:20am with Jan Dudley leading.. All women welcome. Workbook is \$10. Sign up at the information desk today.

Starting September 17, a Bible study for moms starts meeting every other Monday at 8:40 - 10:40am. There will be a mixture of morning meetings at First Cov. and evening meetings at a different location. We will be going through the video/Bible study titled "Armor of God" by Priscilla Shirer. Contact Meghan Gutierrez at gutierrezmeghan@gmail.com if you are interested. There will be childcare for the morning meetings, but space is limited.

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

September 9, 2018

I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN

- Prayer Ministry
 Nursery
 Greeting/Ushering
 Music/Worship
- 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