

COVENANT NEWS



NOVEMBER 2021

Covenant United Church of Christ

STEWARDSHIP: TIME, TALENT & TREASURE



This time of year, many people focus on what they are thankful for, as well as look for ways to help make a difference in the lives of others. Generosity is not just reserved for the holiday season; there are many different ways you can give year-round in the form of your time, your talent, and your treasure.

Our annual stewardship campaign focuses on giving financially, as resources are vital for ministry and to invest in our future in the Gasport community. This year we find ourselves in a unique situation, prayerfully searching for new pastoral leadership. With that in mind, we are encouraging everyone to also consider how they can 'step up' in more than one area of giving!

Sunday, November 21 we will have a special time in the service to respond to this giving challenge.

Our Time, talents and treasure are on loan to us from God.
Give them away with unlimited generosity!

CRAFT BAZAAR AND DONATION DINNER THIS WEEKEND!

Many hands make light work and as you know, when we all get together, it doesn't even feel like work! Mark your calendars and join us in the kitchen!

Please note: We need ONLY APPLE AND PUMPKIN pies this year. Please have them at the church by 9am on Sat. Nov. 6

Because we are doing Drive-Thru, all jobs in the serving and delivery lines have been filled but we could ALWAYS use help to clean up around 3:00!
Working together, the tradition continues!

UPCOMING

FRI. NOV 5 10am-5pm
Craft Bazaar

SAT. NOV 6 @8:30am
Turkey Carving

SAT. NOV 6 9am-2pm
Craft Bazaar

SAT. NOV 6 @3:30
DRIVE-THRU DINNER

TUE. NOV 23 @6:30pm
Church Council Mtg

If you have any questions or need assistance related to church business, please feel free to contact Council Moderator Cliff Grant, at (716) 213-3046



Sneak Peek of the bazaar getting all set up! Carol & her team work year-round making several of the items for sale.

Musings from my Tree Stand

Scott Brauer

God brings about the changes in season because He created the seasons. The Creator holds all things together. We can either fight this or...relax, breathe and be relieved of any idea that we're in control. Snowstorms, spring blossoms, fall temperatures—**they're His**. He holds the entire physical universe together, so you can be sure **He is sovereignly in control of your life**. As we watch the seasons change, we can be comforted by the fact that the **One** who made everything is still in control of everything.

My Calendar in my phone is usually filled to the edges with reminders and notes of things to do, meetings to attend, projects to finish, phone calls to make, oh crap gotta order the turkeys... emails to send etc... I can get to the end of the week and feel either elated or crushed by my level of productivity. Either way, I tend to live like I'm in charge of my life and everything I touch. **But I'm not**. I need rest and help like every other person because I cannot hold everything together even with Pam's help!. There is only **One** who is sovereign, and **it's not me**.

Jesus said it this way....

“Learn this lesson from the fig tree: as soon as its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things, recognize that he is near—at the door...Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away” (Matthew 24:32-25).



I've wondered many times why God lets us experience the changing of seasons. Couldn't He have just given us one perpetual season? Why not spring all the time? Or fall, forever? When seasons change, I contemplate the process. Why do we cycle through life and death in the created world every year? What could God be teaching us in the changing of seasons?

The changing of seasons reminds us **that God is sovereign over all things**.

The changing of seasons reminds us that Christ will return, **we just need to be ready and active in doing His work!**

The prophet Isaiah helps us see how the regular changing of seasons points to God's resolute faithfulness and belief in us.

Continued on next page...

“For just as rain and snow fall from heaven and do not return there without saturating the earth and making it germinate and sprout, and providing seed to sow and food to eat, so my word that comes from my mouth will not return to me empty, but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in **what I send it to do**” (Isaiah 55:10-11).

Our God upholds the earth with its rotations and revolutions and is deeply committed to saving each of us for Himself, commissioning us to do His work, and bringing them to live in His kingdom forever. If He is faithful with the weather and the created world, how much more will He be faithful to redeem His people and preserve them until they go to be with Him????

Some of us see God’s faithfulness and sovereignty in the beauty of spring, but some can also look to the humidity of summer, the crispness of autumn, and the ice of winter, knowing that God is sovereign and faithful, and Jesus will keep His promise to come for us and until then **He is in control...**

So as we witness all of the beauty of the changing season, summer into fall, may we all remember that the leaves that will be so beautiful for us, must fall to the earth and fertilize the next season’s beauty. Each of us should be inspired by His perfect word and the simple life lessons of the changing seasons and the fig tree... We pray that he helps us Blossom in His Love, become tender, embrace the warmth of the sun on our face, be ready for the beauty that that creates, and when the time comes look back on all of our seasons and hear the words GREAT job my good and faithful servant!!

I think I hear a deer...gotta go!

There is a basket of greeting cards for persons we haven't seen is awhile on the same table the large Congregational Cards are placed. Please take one and mail it to someone who may have missed a few services, to wish them well and that the congregation is thinking about them!



TREASURER REPORT

August 2021	
Income:	\$ 10,747.00 <i>(Sunday Collection)</i>
Expenses:	<u>\$ 5,182.30</u>
Gain:	\$ 5,564.70
September 2021	
Income:	\$ 5,008.00 <i>(Sunday Collection)</i>
Expenses:	<u>\$ 5,390.56</u>
Shortfall:	\$ 382.56
<i>Shortfall based on Sunday Collection less expenses.</i>	
CHECKBOOK BALANCE	
9/30/2021	\$1,356.34
Submitted By Burniece Herendeen	



Covenant United Church of Christ

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**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7
CLOCKS FALL BACK 1 HOUR**

Contact Us



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Covenant News is published monthly except for January & August. Articles should be submitted via email by the 15th of each month prior to the month of their appearance. We reserve the right to edit articles.

Are you moving? Make sure to send us your updated mailing address!

**Church office hours are
Fridays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**