



March 2010
Volume 17, Issue 3

THE COVENANT

Why Worship?

On my recent break in February, Catha and I visited Kensington Church. Most of us know the place – it’s the local “mega-church.” I’ve been to mega-churches before, but this one surprised me. The service started with a band playing a secular love song...no big surprise, since it was Valentine’s Day. The service continued with a skit, a talk about relationships, and another love song during the offering. We watched the whole thing, never once asked to participate. Afterwards, Catha and I looked at it each other. Did we miss something? Where was worship? Since that time, I’ve learned that Kensington has a service on Wednesday nights of praise songs and such. I’m not here to rag on Kensington – the staging and video and music were all first-class, and the underlying biblical thoughts behind the talk were solid. But it made me stop and think for a minute. What is worship...and why do we worship?

Worship itself means “to reverence” or “to adore.” That said, we don’t adore God because it does something for God. God is God no matter what we say or think or do. While God is worthy of all glory and honor and praise, worship does not change Him in some way. He will never become less because we don’t worship, nor will He ever become more because we do. Worship doesn’t bolster His self-image or His confidence. God is perfect in and of Himself. Worship is *about* God and is directed *to* God; we worship God because He is the only one worthy of worship. We exist because of Him; for that alone, He deserves our adoration. But God doesn’t need it per se.

While God deserves worship, worship also exists for *us*. *We* are the ones who need to worship. Why? We need to know the God who is greater than us. We need to receive forgiveness through His Son, Jesus Christ. We need to express our gratitude for His mercy. We need to come before Him in prayer and lift our hearts and minds up to Him. We need to learn about Him through His Scripture and through song. It’s through worship that we experience and come to know God in a real and living way.

Notice something about that: we need to *participate* in worship. We must be a part of it. Many of us have heard the term “liturgy” before; often it describes the flow of a church service or the words said during a traditional service. But liturgy literally means “the work of the people.” All proper worship is liturgy – it is our work. Even if we don’t say rote prayers together, we still actively participate. We might think that the sermon doesn’t fit this paradigm, but it does – it’s work to listen to me every Sunday! Seriously, though, in listening to God’s message and absorbing it, we are working to know our God better. Above every other job we might have, worship is the work God has called us to do.

Jesus told a Samaritan woman, “True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth” (John 4:23). If we simply observe what’s going on at a Christian gathering, we might receive truth, but we haven’t worshipped in spirit – we haven’t done the work of worship. In the same way, if all we ever do is worship alone apart from a church, we may worship in spirit but miss out on truth – what God shares about Himself in the gathered body of believers. So here’s my encouragement to you this month...come on Sunday mornings to be a part of God’s community, ready to sing and pray and listen and participate. We have the awesome opportunity to worship God together in spirit and truth...and when we do so, He will not leave us unchanged.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Jason



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

PALM SUNDAY

March 28 — 10 AM
Special Music by Children

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 1 — 7 PM
Communion

EASTER

April 4 — 10 AM
Joyful Worship & Communion
Praise Music
Easter Egg Hunt after service



LENTEN STUDY SERIES

On Sunday evenings, from 5—7 pm, a five-week class will be offered titled “The Me I Want to Be”. Please join the group for dinner and study during Lent. The class starts Feb. 28 and ends March 28. It will be a combination of video and discussion, and study guides are available. Everyone is invited.

Romans 6:8-11

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
(NIV)



FRIDAY, March 19 at 7:00 PM
FREE FAMILY MOVIE
POP AND POPCORN PROVIDED

BREAKFAST ON SATURDAY

We have been having the family breakfasts at the Ram's Horn on 23 Mile Road and Card with good attendance. We invite all to attend the next one on Saturday, March 13th at 9:00 AM. See you there.

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

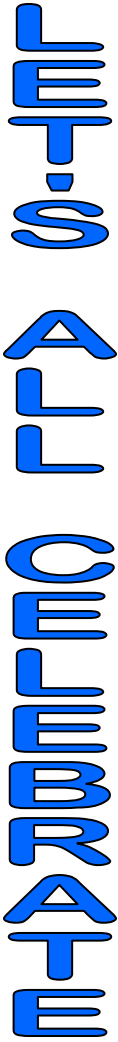
We have just completed the February monthly food order with 89 boxes. 54 of those were the famous signature boxes. We also had 23 people, the largest number ever, order AFM online. This online method saves our customers from having to make a trip to our church just to order in advance, and they can use their credit or debit card to do so.



February's delivery date was Saturday the 27th. We would like to thank our early morning 8:00 a.m. pick-up and delivery crew and the hard-working box and carry team who also set the tables and chairs back up when we had finished serving our AFM customers to make it easier for nighttime euchre organized by Covenant's own Phyllis Haase.

Orders for March's AFM regular menu, prepared by Dorothy Joseph and listed on our Covenant website by Ed Rapin, start on February 27th and run through Thursday, March 18th. Along with the usual menu boxes, there are also special seafood boxes, after school boxes, and family meal kit boxes worthy of your consideration for purchase as well. Delivery will be made on Saturday, March 27th. If you would like to help with the 8:00 a.m. food pick-up at Church of the Nazarene, or help the set-up crew at Covenant at 9:30 a.m., please let Gary Cynowa know after the Covenant Sunday services or give him a call at (586) 291-0399. We also are in need of good, sturdy, large cardboard boxes for our AFM signature box packing; please bring some to church with you if you have any available from home or work.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
WHO HAS BROUGHT DONA-
TIONS OF FOOD**



March Birthdays!

- March 5 Mike Simmons
- March 14 Margaret De Muijnck
- March 19 Scottie Sowden
- March 21 Dave Farnsworth
- March 25 Jackson Steiner
- March 26 Dave Steiner
- March 27 Mike Alm
- March 29 Jake Stotsky

March Anniversaries!

- March 22 Jill and Leon Zech

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary or if you are uncertain that we have yours for future months, please let a Deacon know. We want to celebrate your special day with good news by sending you a card of joy.

Praise for the birth of Emily Kristine, born Oct. 20, 2009 in Dearborn, and weighing 6#14oz. She is the daughter of Scott and Hillary Milam.

Please remember the following people in your daily prayers:

- Armed Forces Members, including: Mark Alm, Matthew Fifield & Paul Farmer
- June Begin
- Al and Joe (medical treatments)
- Anthony Byks & wife
- Cassie, daughter of Neebes' friend
- Dennis Cole
- Martha Cook
- Gary Cynowa
- Chris DeGroot's father, John Gigante
- Phyllis Lloyd Downs
- Brittney Farnsworth
- Carl Farnsworth
- Norm Haase
- Alise Heslin, niece of Ed P.
- Ron Joseph
- Ruth McGraw
- Lisa Patti's Father
- Peace in the World
- People of Chile & Haiti following earthquakes
- Betty Radcliffe
- Louise Sainsbury
- Neil Stephenson
- Jeremy Swix
- Tabenske family in death of Patricia
- Emily Woodward

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT VOLUNTEERS

Head Usher — Gloria Cynowa

Elder of Month —

	<i>March 7</i>	<i>March 14</i>	<i>March 21</i>	<i>March 28</i>
Ushers	Gary & Gloria Cynowa	David & Margaret Neebes	Jill & Mike Alm	Margaret DeMuyjnck &
Greeters	Jerri Portlance	Sandi Haapala	Gloria Cynowa	
Coffee Hour	Connie & Jeff Fuller	Mary Jane Harcourt	Gay & Ed Rapin	Jerri Portlance
Cookies	Scottie Sowden & Dorothy Joseph	Gloria Cynowa & Phyllis Haase	Jean Plonkey & Loraine Remesz	Jerri Portlance & Jill Scott
Nursery	Volunteers available			

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

THE ARK – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
ALL YEAR LONG!!!



Continue to join us each week for the ARK as we have fun exploring our Vacation Bible School curriculums. Each Sunday we learn about people and events in the bible through stories, songs, games, crafts and snacks. PLUS – You won't want to miss another exciting episode of "The Nick and Cooper Show".

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE – WE NEED YOU!

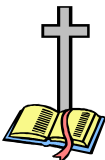
The Christian Education Committee is looking for new members with helping hands and great ideas. We welcome everyone who was a kid, has kids, has grandkids, or is still a kid themselves (you should be able to find yourself in this list somewhere). Please see Connie Fuller, Diana Byks or Barbara Chadwick for more information about our committee and meeting times. We appreciate your continued support as we strive to provide creative, fun and educational learning opportunities for Church of the Covenant.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

To save funds, the church decided not to buy a box of 52 offering envelopes for each member. Most people were not using them or were giving monthly and only using one each month. If you wish, you can use a pew envelope or a plain mailing envelope with your name written on it. Extra pew envelopes are available if you want to take some home.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Everyone had a good time at the Women's Fellowship Group meeting on Saturday, February 20 at 9:27 am at the church. The hostesses were Margaret DeMuyneck, Maxine Stephenson and Mary Ann Krause. The next meeting will be on the third Saturday in April.



OUTREACH

Jesus said, "Do you love me? ...

Feed my sheep." John 21:16-27

Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated gifts, while Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receives 32 percent.

Church of the Covenant will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Palm Sunday.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation has served the church and individual Presbyterians for over two hundred years. Through its services of planned giving, wills and bequests, socially responsible investments, and investment accounts, the Foundation has generated millions of dollars for the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). At the same time, individual Presbyterians benefit from their planned giving, tax benefits, and the joy of giving to the mission of the Presbyterian Church.

The Foundation has regional development officers located throughout the country. These individuals are available to serve individual Presbyterians, churches, middle governing bodies, and Presbyterian-related institutions.

Call the Foundation at (800)858-6127 x 8919 to secure the name and contact information for the development officer in your region.



MARCH 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7pm AA Meeting	2 7 pm Outreach & Worship Committees	3 7 pm Bible Study	4 7 pm Praise team	5	6
7 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship & Communion Lenten Meal & Study 5-7 pm	8 7pm AA Meeting	9 11-2 Senior Cards 7 pm Session	10 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study	11 7 pm Praise team	12	13 9 am Family Breakfast at Ram's Horn, 23 Mi & Card
14 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship Lenten Meal & Study 5-7 pm	15 7pm AA Meeting	16 6:30 pm Deacons	17 7 pm Bible Study	18 7 pm Praise team	19 7 pm Family Movie Night	20
21 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship Lenten Meal & Study 5-7 pm	22 7pm AA Meeting	23 11-2 Senior Cards 7 pm Adm. & Building and Grounds	24 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study	25 7 pm Praise team	26	27 9:30-10:30 Angel Food pack boxes 10:30-12 Angel Food Delivery Euchre 5:30 pm
28 PALM SUNDAY 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship Lenten Meal & Study 5-7 pm	29 7pm AA Meeting	30	31 7 pm Bible Study			

SENIOR CARD CLUB & LUNCH

If you are interested in playing cards, we have a new ministry for seniors. On the 2nd. and 4th. Tuesdays of every month you are invited to come and play Euchre or Pinochle. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy with friends. Coffee will be available. There is a 50 cent donation to defray expenses. This group is open to the community; see Phyllis Haase if you have questions.



EUCHRE NIGHT

You are invited to come and join the euchre players at Church of the Covenant on Saturday, March 27 at 5:30 pm. Cost is \$5.00 and all skill levels are welcome. Refreshments are for sale and prizes are given. Please come on time as seats fill up fast.



Contemporary Worship Sun. 10 a.m.

All are welcome to attend

Sunday Morning Classes for children & youth

Coffee hour after service

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(586) 948-2440 www.covenantmacomb.org
Pastor Jason Huff