

THE COVENANT

Brief Update

Greetings! The last several weeks have been a whirlwind for us in the Huff household. Thankfully, there is good news to report.

On March 17, I went in for surgery on my leg. From everything the doctor can see at this point, it went extremely well. The incision is healing nicely and I can put weight on my leg. On the other hand, though, I got an awful sinus infection while I was in the hospital, and that made me feel miserable for the better part of a week. Having not had surgery since I was a little kid, I wasn't sure what was happening! As I sit writing on the 26th, I'm finally starting to get some strength back and recuperating. Chicken soup is my friend!

This whole recent debacle has reminded me that Christ never promised us an easy road. In fact, He pretty much guaranteed that the believer's life would be filled with a variety of hardships. Yet our hope is not in being taken away from our troubles but witnessing to Christ's love in the midst of them. In 2 Corinthians 4, Paul talks about how through the various calamities and sicknesses he suffered, he was able to minister Jesus' love to those around him. He puts it this way in verses 16-18: "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

My encouragement to you as we enter the springtime is to fix your eyes on what is unseen. Remember Jesus in the midst of your days, in those quiet unexpected times. Turn to Him all the more when you face trials or sufferings of any kind. He will be there to guide you, to calm your heart, and to mold your spirit into the design of the Heavenly Father.

As I remember when I think about my upcoming physical therapy, the very real pain of getting motion back in my knee is temporary...but that will be a minor affliction when I think about being able to get out of the house on my own and playing with my kids again. One will make the other all worth it. When you are down and depressed, when things look bleak, know that God is building an eternal home for us. He will never leave us or forsake us. The pain of the moment will be nothing in comparison to the eternal joy of being in God's presence.

Please pray for me as I see my doctors in the upcoming weeks. I have prayed that my healing would be to the glory of God. Would you pray that the doctors and therapists I'm working with might see God's work in their midst? Thank you!

Blessings in our Lord,



EASTER WEEK EVENTS

Palm Sunday — Church at 10:00 am

Good Friday — Joint Seder Service at Bethel 7 pm

**Easter — Joyful Worship at 10:00 am
Easter Egg Hunt following Worship**

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

The March's AFM order totaled 43 boxes.

Thanks go out to Gary Cynowa, Ed Rapin, and Curtis Reynolds for using their vans to help pick up food at Church of the Nazarene's Hope Pantry on Saturday, March 26th at 7:40 a.m. We also appreciate our great volunteers at our church site starting at 8:30 a.m.: Gloria Cynowa, Sandi Haapala, Mary Lechniak, Ed and Annetta Pokrzywinski, Don Steckman, and Maxine Stephenson who helped us by setting up the boxes in the Social Hall, repackaging and carrying out food boxes to cars on rolling carts, and then re-setting the tables and chairs for euchre later that night. Thanks also go to Dorothy Joseph for preparing the AFM menu and to Ed Rapin for posting it on the website.

Orders are being taken at church from Saturday, March 26th through Thursday, April 14th and online until Sunday, April 17. AFM food menu forms for April are available at church on the table in the narthex, in the church office, from Gary Cynowa, and on our website at www.covenantmacomb.org. If you can help with our next AFM delivery on Saturday, April 23rd, please let Gary Cynowa know by seeing him after a church service or by calling him at (586) 291-0399. **As we are now repacking the two largest boxes from scratch, we are in need of large cardboard boxes to complete our work.**

MEAL, MAIL AND A MOVIE!

The Outreach Team is looking forward to the congregation helping us reach out to others by offering a meal and a movie on Friday, April 15th starting at 6:00 p.m. We ask each attending family to bring a dish for a potluck meal to share and then to take a little time to hand address 10-15 envelopes to neighbors in the nearby community. The envelopes will include a letter inviting them to events at our church in late April and May including our free spaghetti dinner on May 20th hosted by the Special Events Team. After completing the envelopes for mailing, we will show a full-length movie in the church for entertainment. Please sign up on the clipboard if you are able to attend on April 15th.

FREE MUSEUM PASS

Use your library card to check out free passes for your family to a great museum. See the display rack in your local library.

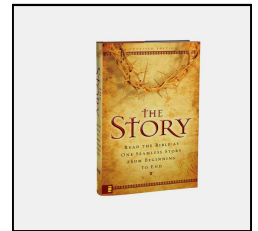
ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Come and join a Wednesday Bible study! The morning Bible Study meets at 10 am and the evening Bible Study meets at 7 pm. Everyone is invited to attend; both studies are discussing "The Story". THIS MONTH, BOTH STUDIES WILL BE MEETING AT THE HUFF'S HOME.

The Sunday sermons will also be following "The Story", a condensed, easy to read version of the Bible. Copies of "The Story" for adults, teens and children are available after church. Everyone is encouraged to get a copy and read one chapter a week as we learn together over the next several months.

READ THE STORY TOGETHER

Chapter 24 — April 3
Chapter 25 — April 10
Chapter 26 — April 17
Chapter 27 — April 24



CANCER SOCIETY BIKE RIDE

- ◇ I am excited to announce that I am participating in the American Cancer Society Pan Ohio Hope Ride, An exciting event to raise money in support of the American Cancer Society's mission to save lives from cancer.
- ◇ We have all been touched by cancer in the past either through a loved one or personal experience. This is an opportunity to aid in researching cures, saving lives and helping create more birthdays.
- ◇ Please visit my personal page to learn more about my participation in this event and to make a secure, online donation. All contributions are tax deductible and will support the American Cancer Society's efforts. To donate online, visit my personal fundraising page: http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/CommunityFundraisingPages/HOSNational?px=18769945&pg=personal&fr_id=33632
- ◇ Every bit helps, so thank you in advance for any support you can provide. Please forward this email to your friends and family on my behalf to encourage them to visit my personal site to support the fight against cancer.

Together, we can win the fight against cancer!
Sincerely, Paul Pokrzywinski



**DON'T FORGET
HOME PLATE 2011 — DETROIT**

19 People are signed up to attend a Tiger's game and pre-game program on Saturday, May 14

- ◆ LOCATION: Comerica Park, Detroit, Mich.
- ◆ PROGRAM TIME: 12:30 PM
- ◆ PARTICIPANTS: Current and former Detroit Tigers will share about their careers in professional sports and their faith in Jesus Christ. See the web site (HomePlateDetroit.org) for details.
- ◆ GAME TIME: 4:05 PM
- ◆ OPPONENT: Kansas City Royals
- ◆ COST: \$27.00 per person Includes \$5.00 food coupon, souvenirs, baseball clinic on field, program and ticket to the game. (Children under 4 years are free if sitting on a lap.)
- ◆ TICKETS were pre-paid.
- ◆ Car pools will leave from church.



See Gary or Gloria Cynowa for information

BEST WISHSSES

April Birthdays

- April 3 Xavier Scott
- April 9 Richard Kordas
- April 11 Cameron Huff
- April 12 Emily Simmons
Nikkila Scott
- April 16 Sue Simmons
- April 23 Paul Remesz
- April 26 Diana Byks
- April 29 Curtis Reynolds

Please let a Deacon or the church office know if we have missed your birthday, anniversary, or other important event.

FAKES, FORGERIES & MYSTERIES

Monday, April 11 at 10 am.
At First Presbyterian Church
168 Cass Ave, Mt. Clemens

A speaker from the Detroit Institute of Arts will present this program highlighting some of the mistakes and other discoveries made through the years regarding the authenticity and value of works in the DIA's collection.

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT VOLUNTEERS

Head Usher — Gloria Cynowa

Elder of Month —

	<i>April 3</i>	<i>April 10</i>	<i>April 17</i>	<i>April 24</i>
Ushers	Curt & Vicki Reynolds	Margaret DeMuyneck & Mary Ann Krause	Ed & Gay Rapin	Simmons Family
Greeters	Gloria Cynowa	Jerri Portlance		Sandi Haapala
Coffee Hour	Phyllis & Norm Haase	Catha Huff	Sandy Van Vyve	Men's Group
Cookies	Denise Tilly & Mary Lechniak	Jeanne Steckman & Diana Byks	Maxine Stephenson	Melanie Greer & Tammy/Sue Simmons
Nursery	Barb Chadwick	Gay Rapin	Sara Byks	Mackenzie Alm

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

THE ARK – THE STORY

In the ARK we are keeping right up with the congregation in our reading of “The Story”. We are doing fun activities and collecting trading cards for each chapter. Nick and Cooper are reading right along with us and you never know what they will have to say about the lesson. Make sure to join us each Sunday for all the fun!

YOUTH – THE STORY

The youth are also studying “The Story” and meeting twice per month for discussion groups. We also appreciate all the help the youth have been providing as helpers in the ARK and the nursery on the weeks they are not in the discussion group. Thanks so much for all you do!

EASTER EGG HUNT

Following the worship service on Easter Sunday, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Come and join the fun, everyone enjoys this annual activity.



CHRISTIAN ED 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.

MEALS ON WHEELS

The Macomb County Community Services agency (MCCSA) invites you to join other volunteers to deliver meals to senior citizens in your community. Volunteers are asked to drive a lunch route, about 1-1 1/2 hours, twice a month. Drivers use their personal cars and mileage is reimbursed. The meals are delivered daily, Monday through Friday. To help out, call 586-469-5228 or go online at www.macombcountymi.gov/mccsa..

COMING EVENTS

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Women's Group will meet on the third Saturday in April at 9:27 am at The Pantry Restaurant located at Morley Drive and Hall Road for breakfast. Catha Huff is the hostess. Please come and bring a friend.

SENIOR CARDS & SACK LUNCH

A group for fellowship and card playing meets at the church at 11 am on the 2nd. and 4th. Tuesday of every month. Please come and chat or play Euchre or Pinochle. Bring your sack lunch, coffee will be available and there is a 50 cent donation to defray expenses. This group is open to everyone in the community; see Phyllis Haase if you have questions.

MOVIE NITE

On April 15 there will be a pot luck meal at 6 pm before the movie on the big screen at church. During the movie, free popcorn and pop will be provided. Come and have a good time with your family.

EUCHRE NIGHT

Euchre Club will meet on April 23 and 30 at 5:30 pm at the church. Registration begins at 5:30 and play starts at 6:00 pm. Refreshments are for sale and prizes are given. Please be on time as seats fill up fast.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Everyone is invited to a spaghetti dinner on May 20th for community members and Church of the Covenant folks. Pastor Chet Decker from Warren Woods Church of the Nazarene will give a short talk on his walk with Jesus and the Angel Food Ministry and the Hope Center. Dinner starts at 6:00 PM and the speaker will be at 7:00 PM. There will be no charge for dinner, but free will offerings are encouraged and will be accepted. Invite your friends and neighbors to come.

OUTREACH

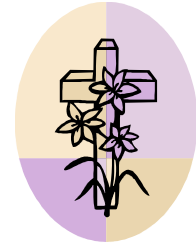
Please save Sunday May 1 for the Crop Walk to raise funds for hunger relief. There will be a 5 mile and a 1 mile walk in Mt. Clemens starting at Zion Church. Registration is from 1:15 to 1:45 pm and the walk starts at 2 pm.

Come with your family or a friend. Strollers and wagons are OK, but please no skates or bikes.

Get your walker forms during April after Sunday service. Last year our Deacon's Pantry received over \$400 from Crop Walk.



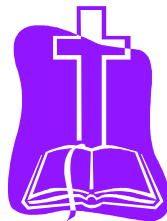
APRIL 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship & Communion	4 7pm AA Meeting	5 7 pm Meetings: Adm., Building and Grounds, Outreach, Worship & Deacons	6 Bible Study 10 am at Huff's Bible Study 7 pm at Huff's	7 7 pm Praise Team at Huff's	8	9
10 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship	11 7pm AA Meeting	12 11-2 Senior Cards 7 pm Session	13 Bible Study 10 am at Huff's Bible Study 7 pm at Huff's	14 7 pm Praise Team at Huff's	15 Pot Luck Meal 6 pm and Free Family Movie 7 pm	16 Women's Group 9:27 am — The Pantry Restaurant
17 PALM SUNDAY 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship	18 7pm AA Meeting	19	20 Bible Study 10 am at Huff's Bible Study 7 pm at Huff's	21 7 pm Praise Team at Huff's	22 GOOD FRIDAY Joint Seder Meal & Worship at Bethel Church 7 pm	23 7:30 am Pack Angel Food boxes Pick up 9:00-11:00 am Euchre 5:30 pm
24 EASTER 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship Communion Easter Egg Hunt	25 7pm AA Meeting	26 11-2 Senior Cards	27 Bible Study 10 am at Huff's Bible Study 7 pm at Huff's	28 7 pm Praise Team at Huff's	29	30 Euchre 5:30 pm

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Armed Forces Members, including: Mark Alm & Trevor Brown
 JoAnne Bates
 Phyllis Lloyd Downs
 Veronica Guruk
 Ruth McGraw
 Peace in the World
 Pastor Huff
 Ron Minor
 Melissa Putt
 Betty Radcliffe
 Conner Smith
 Andrew, Alex & Tanner Skelton & Family
 Jason & Julie Taylor and newborn twin sons
 Praise for Ryan Alm's wrist being healed



Contemporary Worship Sun. 10 a.m.

Come and praise the Lord

Sunday Morning Classes for Children

Coffee hour after service

23401 23 Mile Road, Macomb Twp., MI 48042
 (586) 948-2440 www.covenantmacomb.org
 Pastor Jason Huff

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Situation Report – Japan and Pacific United States

March 11, 2011 Tsunami

- PDA stands ready to respond to needs from the 8.9 magnitude earthquake that struck Japan and the ensuing tsunamis across the Pacific rim. The earthquake struck in the middle of the afternoon just off of Honshu, Japan's most populous island. It is the strongest earthquake to hit Japan and has been identified as the fifth strongest earthquake in the world since records have been kept.
- Donna Derr, director of Church World Service's development and humanitarian programs, said: "Japan is obviously a country of substantive resources and a construction industry that is renowned and the country has been on the cutting edge of building earthquake-resistant housing. As such, this bodes well for them being able to manage a pretty effective recovery over time themselves."
- ACT Alliance reports that the Pacific Islands are highly vulnerable and most of them will be touched by the tidal waves. ACT general secretary John Nduna said today "We are deeply concerned about the most vulnerable countries and their people, and we are monitoring the situation closely so that ACT Alliance can direct its resources to where they are most needed, as quickly as possible".

Japan

- PC(USA) has mission partners in Japan. World Mission is contacting mission co-workers and partner organizations and churches and will offer updated information as available. Read about the status of co-workers and updates from partners on the World Mission Japan page.
- Mission partner Yodogawa Christian Hospital in Osaka sent this message:

“Thank you so very much for your kind words and prayers. Thankfully, our hospital patients and staff and their families are all safe, but our heart aches as the earthquake disasters are spreading in other parts of Japan. We are praying for God's protection and comfort over those people in the earthquake affected areas. He is our refuge and fortress.”

United States

- PDA staff and National Response Team members are contacting potentially affected presbyteries to offer assistance and prepare for potential impacts.
- For Health and welfare checks on American citizens traveling abroad, call the State Department at (888) 407-4747.
- For those concerned about loved ones living on the West Coast, Alaska and Hawaii, the Red Cross maintains a searchable database at www.safeandwell.org. Relatives can log on to leave their names that they are safe and well; other relatives can search by name to check on their loved ones.
- The Hawaii Red Cross maintains a Twitter feed as well.

How you can help

You can stand in the “GAP” for disaster survivors and help the church in this response.

- **GIVE.** The generous sharing of your financial blessings through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and special designated giving provides the resources needed to assist with immediate emergency needs, clean up provisions, long-term and unmet needs, and spiritual/emotional counseling. Individuals may give through your local Presbyterian congregation, by calling Relationship Development Operations at (800) 872-3283, on the secure PC(USA) website, or by sending a check to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700
- Please include the special designated giving account DR000117 – Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Congregations should send donations through their normal mission giving channels.
- **ACT.** Stay informed and share information about the need with others. Sign up to receive PDA Rapid Information Network (PDA-RIN) email notices to alert you of additional needs.