

## Screening Your Screen Time

Most of us spend much of our days staring at a screen. That wasn't true for the vast majority of human history, but now it's taken for granted. I spend a great number of hours typing up my sermons, sending out emails to the congregation, planning worship services, and the computer makes my life a whole lot easier. If you've ever seen my handwriting, you'd probably wonder if I could preach on Sundays based on just my own chicken-scratch notes! There's no doubt that we accomplish much more these days because of all our technology.

Yet at the same time, I wonder if the things we are accomplishing are the *right* things. We can type a couple of lines to a friend around the world on Facebook or Twitter, but are we really communicating? We post our pictures and friends see where we've been and what we've done, but is that really participation in each other's lives? If we go to the movies with our families or watch television programs with them but never talk about what we've seen, are we really just becoming strangers facing in the same direction?

I bring this up because I've been reading a lot these days about the good and the bad of technology. The most recent issue of *Worship Leader Magazine* is about utilizing the exciting possibilities of new technology in worship while being aware of the pitfalls. Albert Mohler, a seminary president, recently discussed on his blog how scientists are finding that prolonged exposure to digital media is rewiring the brains of young people, making them less able to focus on long-term projects such as reading books. While the research was done with teenagers, the digital revolution has changed how we relate to one another. It can become a confusing blur to try and figure out what technology is useful and what is distracting or downright bad for us.

Does God have much to say about technology? I am reminded of Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things." What are we using technology for? Is it merely to entertain ourselves or to "accomplish" more? Or is it helping us discern the noble, the right, and the pure? Is it helping us to discuss those things face to face with our family and our friends? Hebrews 10:24-25 also comes to mind: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." While Paul used the innovations of ancient technology – letter-writing – in order to pass on the message of the Gospel and to encourage the church of Christ, they also went from church to church to nurture each congregation. They knew that we spur one another on by meeting together, by regularly gathering to worship, to fellowship, and to study. I believe that to still be true today.

In the last few days, I've had the opportunity to have lunches and home visits with several of you, and I look forward to more as the summer continues. I urge you, as the summer continues, meet with your brothers and sisters in Christ, and not just at a worship service. We grow stronger when spend time together in the name of Jesus...let's get out from behind our screens to do that soon.

Your brother in Christ,  
Pastor Jason

## Happy 4th. of July



## FREE COMMUNITY/FAMILY MEAL and a MOVIE NIGHT

On Friday, July 15, at 6:00 p.m. please come and bring your family and friends to a meal at Church at no charge. The Outreach Committee will provide picnic-type food and refreshments indoors for dinner, and then follow it up with a family-rated movie to enjoy. No bugs...no rain...no worry!!!

Please sign up on the clipboard in the narthex after service with your name and the number attending so we can plan on having enough for everyone. Please contact Gary E. Cynowa at (586) 291-0399 if you have questions or concerns.

## CARD MAKING CLASS AT BETHEL

At Bethel Church on July 15, Aug. 19 and Sept. 30 there will be card making classes. These are all Friday nights at 6:30 pm. The cost is \$15 per class except that the Sept. 30 class is \$20 because the materials will be more complex. Please call Rose at 586-566-6767 to pre-register for one or all of the classes.

## HOPE CENTER & PANTRY

Hope Center is located at 33222 Groesbeck Highway in Fraser. It is a non-profit, volunteer organization. Their vision is to transform lives one family at a time, nutritionally and educationally. Our church is a partner with them and can refer people to their large, client-choice food pantry. They also provide referrals to a wide range of county and community agency services.

The pantry is open Tuesday thru Saturday 9 am to 3 pm by appointment only. Please call 586-294-4673 to speak to a counselor and find out what documentation to bring. Clients may come 6 times a year for food.

The Deacons are making arrangements to tour the Hope Center. Anyone else who may be interested in learning about the center or who may want to volunteer a few hours a month is welcome to come. The tour time will be announced soon.



## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Bible studies are taking a break for the summer. Please watch the bulletin for the schedule when they start up again in September.

## SCRIPTURE & SERMONS

July 3

Scripture: Psalm 24:1-5; Hebrews 12:2-15;  
Matthew 18:1-10

Sermon: How Then Shall We Live?: The Call to Purity

July 10

Sermon: How Then Shall We Live?: The Gift of Giving

July 17

Sermon: How Then Shall We Live?: Taming the Tongue

July 24

Sermon: Guest Speaker Dan Heaton

July 31

Sermon: How Then Shall We Live?: Contentment In an Age of Theft

## SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READERS

July 3 — Gloria Cynowa

July 10 — Curt Reynolds

July 17 — Scottie Sowden

July 24 — Ed Pokrzywinski

July 31 — Barbara O'Mara

Aug. 7 — Tracy Cascio

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the cost of replacing the air conditioner and furnace in the church. The project is completed. The Capital Fund Account needs \$1,500 more to cover the cost. Any donations you may choose to make will be appreciated.

## COVENANT FOOD PANTRY

Please remember to bring canned or boxed food for our pantry. Suggested items to purchase are frozen meats, soup, peanut butter & jelly, cereal, spaghetti & jars of sauce, macaroni and cheese, and cans of tuna, chili or stew. When you contribute to the Deacon's Fund on the first Sunday of the month, this money goes toward restocking the food pantry. We are able to help many needy families each month and also support our partner effort at the Hope Center Pantry.

## July Birthdays

|         |                              |
|---------|------------------------------|
| July 3  | Madysen Lyjak                |
| July 9  | David Neebes                 |
| July 11 | Joshua Scott<br>Yavari Scott |
| July 16 | Madison Greer                |
| July 18 | Pam Steckman                 |
| July 19 | Leon Zech                    |
| July 20 | Eric Simmons                 |
| July 24 | Dwayne Byks                  |
| July 26 | Mary Ann Krause              |
| July 28 | Montana Lyjak                |
| July 29 | Jerrilyn Portlance           |
| July 30 | Annetta Pokrzywinski         |
| July 31 | Matthew Greer                |

# BEST WISHES



## July Anniversaries

|         |                           |
|---------|---------------------------|
| July 1  | Barb and Kevin Chadwick   |
| July 9  | Denise and Doug Tilly     |
| July 22 | Carol and Dave Farnsworth |

If we have missed celebrating a birthday or anniversary, please let one of the Deacons or the church office know by calling (586) 948-2440 and identifying the name and date.

## **GAMES NIGHT AT BETHEL**

Our friends and neighbors at Bethel Church, located at 51850 North Avenue, Macomb Township, have invited us to join them for a dinner and games night on Wednesday, July 20 at 6 pm. The cost is \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children.

Call Bethel Church of the Nazarene at 586-598-8535 for a reservation. Hope to see you there.

## **CHURCH OF THE COVENANT VOLUNTEERS**

*Head Usher — Gloria Cynowa*

*Elder of Month — Gary Cynowa*

|                    | <i>July 3</i>                   | <i>July 10</i>                | <i>July 17</i> | <i>July 24</i>                | <i>July 31</i>                    |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Ushers</b>      | Gary & Gloria Cynowa            |                               |                |                               | Dave & Margaret Neebes            |
| <b>Greeters</b>    | Sandi Haapala                   |                               |                |                               |                                   |
| <b>Coffee Hour</b> | Connie & Jeff Fuller            | Mary Jane Harcourt            | Gay & Ed Rapin | Jerri Portlance               | Mary Ann Krause & Jeanne Steckman |
| <b>Cookies</b>     | Scottie Sowden & Dorothy Joseph | Gloria Cynowa & Phyllis Haase | Jean Plonkey   | Jerri Portlance & Betty Kamps | Margaret Neebes                   |
| <b>Nursery</b>     | Barb Chadwick                   | Gay Rapin                     | Sara Byks      | Mackenzie Alm                 |                                   |

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### THE ARK

This summer the ARK will be doing SCUBA! SCUBA stands for Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure and we plan to have a blast. No, you don't need to bring your mask and a wet suit – just bring your curiosity and get ready for some fun! We will be learning all about the Bible with some fun undersea friends helping us along. Nick and Cooper will be there too, so join us on Sunday's this summer.

### WE NEED YOU!

The Christian Education Committee is looking for adults and youth to help us as an extra pair of hands in the classroom on Sunday morning. Whether its one Sunday or once a month 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 Catha Huff, Diana Byks or Barbara Chadwick for more information or to volunteer. We appreciate your continued support as we strive to provide creative, fun and educational learning opportunities for Church of the Covenant.

## SUMMER CAMP

This summer, let children **create memories** that will last a lifetime at the Howell Conference & Nature Center! Make new friends, explore and learn about nature, try new adventures, and **connect with God** while at camp!

Situated on 270 acres, the Howell Conference & Nature Center is owned and operated by the Presbytery of Detroit. Guided by Christian leaders, camp gives children in grades 2nd through 12th the chance to **grow their faith** in a unique setting. Campers enjoy modern lodges, while taking part of numerous **traditional camp activities**.

There are **eight different themed camp weeks** to choose from, starting in June through August. Many camps also include off-site activities, such as visiting Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes or a visit to the Detroit Zoo.

**Call us for more information or visit [www.howellnaturecenter.org](http://www.howellnaturecenter.org)!**

**1005 Triangle Lake Road  
Howell, MI 48843  
517-546-0249**

## COMING EVENTS

### 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; talk to Phyllis Haase if you have questions.

### EUCHRE NIGHT

Euchre Club will meet on July 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.

### MOVIE AND A MEAL

Please come to a FREE MEAL on Friday, July 15 at 6 pm at the church. Everyone can enjoy a family movie on the big screen following the meal.

### WOMEN'S GROUP

On Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, the women of Church of the Covenant gathered at the IHOP restaurant on Lakeside Circle at 9:27 am. They had a good time showing baby pictures and guessing whose picture it was. The next meeting is on the 3rd. Saturday of August.

## PARKINSON'S GROUP

A support group for families of Parkinson's patients meets the first Thursday of each month at 3:00 pm at The Village of East Harbor in Chesterfield Township. They will discuss educational topics, problem solving, social support and much more. For more information call 586-716-7164 or email [cschulz@pvm.org](mailto:cschulz@pvm.org).

## FREE MUSEUM PASS

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



# JULY 2011



| Sun   | Mon                      | Tue  | Wed  | Thu                        | Fri   | Sat                      |
|---|--------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
|   |                          |  |  |                            | 1   | 2                        |
| 3<br>9am Music Rehearsal<br>10am Worship<br>Communion | 4<br><br>7pm AA Meeting  | 5<br><br>Deacons, Administration, B & G, Outreach & Worship Committees<br>7 pm | 6  | 7<br><br>7 pm Praise Team  | 8   | 9                        |
| 10<br>9am Music Rehearsal<br>10am Worship             | 11<br><br>7pm AA Meeting | 12<br><br>11-2 Senior Cards<br><br>Session meeting 7 pm                        | 13   | 14<br><br>7 pm Praise Team | 15<br><br>Free Meal & a Movie<br>6 pm at church | 16                       |
| 17<br>9am Music Rehearsal<br>10am Worship             | 18<br><br>7pm AA Meeting | 19   | 20<br><br>Dinner and Games<br>Night at Bethel<br>Church 6 pm | 21<br><br>7 pm Praise Team | 22  | 23<br><br>Euchre 5:30 pm |
| 26<br>9am Music Rehearsal<br>10am Worship             | 25<br><br>7pm AA Meeting | 26<br><br>11-2 Senior Cards  | 27   | 28<br><br>7 pm Praise Team | 29  | 30<br><br>Euchre 5:30 pm |
| 31<br>9am Music Rehearsal<br>10am Worship             |                          |  |  |                            |   |                          |

## PRAYER CONCERNS:

Armed Forces Members, including: Mark Alm, Trevor Brown and Cory Cynowa  
 Joanne Bates  
 Flooding along the Mississippi River  
 Marge Fuller & the Fuller Family  
 Norm & Phyllis Haase  
 Hope Jasmund  
 Pat Lawrence  
 Ruth McGraw  
 Margaret Neebes  
 Peace in the World  
 Melissa Putt  
 Betty Radcliffe  
 Family of Ken Rhodes  
 Stan (Jill Alm's brother-in-law)  
 Grant Zech



**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](http://www.covenantmacomb.org)  
 Pastor Jason Huff

# HANDS-ON MISSION

## **Who are we?**

The Hands-On Mission Work Group is a subcommittee of Mission Interpretation Ministry Team of the Presbytery of Detroit. This work group is made up of members and clergy around the Presbytery, which includes Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston, Washtenaw and St. Clair counties.

## **Mission**

The Hands-On Mission Work Group will inspire individuals and congregations of our Presbytery to engage in hands-on mission projects so we will grow in faith and discipleship to our Lord Jesus Christ.



## **Contact Us:**

Mary Lloyd (Presbytery Consultant) [drmarylloyd@yahoo.com](mailto:drmarylloyd@yahoo.com) or 313-247-0792  
Julie Smith (Pontiac First Pres.) [mfan81@yahoo.com](mailto:mfan81@yahoo.com) or 248-821-8216

## SCHEDULE OF 2011 EVENTS

### JULY

The annual Festivals of Health are scheduled starting July 18th. Festival locations are being finalized. The communities of northwest and east side Detroit on July 28th; southwest on July 29th; and Downriver and Gratiot Avenue/Eastern Market area will host the mobile health unit during festival events. Ten volunteers and 100 hygiene kits are needed for each event.

### AUGUST

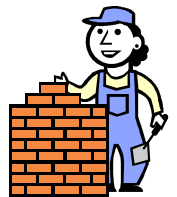
We are looking forward to a work day at Barnabas Youth Opportunities Center on Saturday, August 13th. We will tend the grounds and plant flowers. If it rains, we will paint inside the building. HOM will provide lunch. Call for reservations.

### SEPTEMBER

We are returning to Nashville for the second mission trip to the PDA Camp there. Car pooling will be scheduled. Go to [Hands-on-mission.org](http://Hands-on-mission.org) to access the Mission Application Form; the work days are September 19 to 23 and the travel time is one day each way.

### OCTOBER

A group from Presbytery is returning to Project Homecoming in Olive Tree, LA, which is near the 9th Ward in New Orleans. You are invited to participate. Car pooling will be scheduled. The work days are Oct. 17 to 22 and the travel time will be two days each way. People of all skill levels can participate. Please contact Julie or Mary if you are interested.



## CANCER SOCIETY BIKE RIDE

Paul Pokrzywinski is participating in the American Cancer Society Pan Ohio Hope Ride on July 28-31. This event will raise money for the American Cancer Society. Please visit his personal page to learn more about his 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 the fundraising page: [http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/CommunityFundraisingPages/HOSNational?px=18769945&pg=personal&fr\\_id=33632](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/CommunityFundraisingPages/HOSNational?px=18769945&pg=personal&fr_id=33632).

Every bit helps, so Paul thanks you in advance for any support you can provide.