

So Who's Got The Map?

I don't know who invented the GPS, but I'm certain it was a man. Why embarrass yourself asking for directions when you have a gadget that tells you where to go? Of course, we also hear about people following their GPS into a lake! Whether we get our directions from a GPS, a friend, or Map Quest, we like to know where we're headed and how we're getting there.

As some of us discussed in an informational meeting after church on May 15, some major changes are occurring in our denomination that set us wildly off-course. For those of you unable to attend, I'll summarize briefly what is happening:

- An amendment to our Book of Order has passed which removes our standard for all ordained officers of fidelity within marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness. This means that sexual behavior outside of traditional marriage is no longer a barrier to ordination within the PC(USA). The amendment also reduces Scripture from a book we obey to merely a guide.
- A New Form of Government is currently up for vote. The new proposal begins with a statement of universalism (a belief never accepted by the church). It includes a clause which forbids churches to withhold membership from anyone based on their theological position. It also gives presbytery the ability to remove a pastor from a church without the consent of either the pastor or the session. These are some of the most serious changes.

These developments grieve many of us as we see the church running away from the faith that has been taught over the last 2000 years. While I pray that the denomination will repent of its actions, history tells us this is unlikely.

So where is our roadmap? What should we do? Honestly, there are many wrong answers but no one right one. There are many options, but even the simplest ones will require courage in the face of opposition. Some might require sacrifice and suffering on our part. We are in a time of discernment to see where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

Here's what I know...session will continue to discuss these changes and develop a plan that is faithful to God and faithful to Church of the Covenant. If my knee allows, I will go to a meeting of The Fellowship PC(USA) in Minneapolis in late August. The Fellowship is a new group developing a way forward for orthodox Presbyterian churches. I do not know if anything will come of it, but I am praying it will be successful in providing a roadmap for the future.

Here's what I ask you to do: wait and pray. Pray for the session, for me, for The Fellowship, and for all who grieve these monumental changes. I also encourage you to join me in fasting on "Fellowship Fridays." The idea is to fast on Fridays until The Fellowship meets in August, taking mealtimes to pray for the church and the success of this endeavor. I will be asking other likeminded churches to join us.

If you have questions or want to talk, my door is always open and my cell phone (almost) always on. I look forward to hearing from you and learning what God is doing in your life! Until then...

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Jason



OUTREACH TEAM

Your Covenant Outreach Team had a successful outing to the Detroit Tigers baseball game on Saturday, May 14. Nineteen members not only witnessed a Tiger victory, they got to hear from eight former and current ball players witness as to how they have made a commitment to Jesus Christ and what it has meant to them and their families. How inspiring!

The Outreach Team also joined the Special Events Team in putting on a fantastic spaghetti dinner and movie night on Friday, May 20 that was open to the entire community. Ed and Annetta Pokrzywinski and Dave Farnsworth deserve the lion's share of the credit for organizing and preparing the meal. Unfortunately, too few people showed up to really enjoy the food and desserts that were abundant and readily available and to also hear our guest Reverend Chet Decker speak about the Hope Center pantry and programs. Our next event is Pizza and a Movie Night on Friday, June 17 at 6:00 p.m. Please join us.

With the cancellation of our involvement in the Angel Food program, the Outreach Team with serious input from the Session and the Deacons continues to consider various ways of reaching out to our neighbors in the nearby townships, cities, and villages to witness to our belief and love of Jesus Christ.

We have sent hand-addressed letters to 400 homes inviting them to visit our church, put weekly ads in the church directory section of the Bay Voice, co-sponsored family movie nights, sent e-mails to the local newspaper community calendar editors about our upcoming events, and worked in our own pantry to help those who are needy. BUT the truth is that we cannot become the community-engaged congregation that serves as an example of Christ's love and promise for eternal life without more PARTICIPATION and COMMITMENT from YOU! We need your presence not only on Sunday at the worship service, but also your involvement in Bible studies, special events, and committee work. We would like to hear your input into figuring out new ways and making use of current circumstances to help spread our Christian faith and abiding love in Jesus Christ to others beyond our open-door offering.

by Gary E. Cynowa

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Bible studies are taking a break for the summer. Please watch the bulletin for a schedule of their once a month meetings.

SCRIPTURE & SERMONS

June 5

Scripture: Exodus 19:1-8; 1 Peter 2:1-12;
1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Sermon: How Then Shall We Live?: Living Community

June 12

Scripture: Psalm 139:1-18; Jeremiah 1:1.4-10;
Matthew 5:21-24, 38-48

Sermon: How Then Shall We Live?: Valuing Life

June 19

Scripture: Deuteronomy 24:1-15; 17-22; Psalm
10:12-18; Luke 10:25-37

Sermon: How Then Shall We Live?: Neighborly Grace

June 26

Scripture: Song of Solomon 8:4,6-7; Mark 10:1-9;
1 Thessalonians 4:1-10

Sermon: How Then Shall We Live?: Loving Intimacy

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES

For Angel Food Orders, contact one of these sites:

The Well - Assembly of God Church

46000 Gratiot Chesterfield Twp., MI 48051
John Vance, Director (586) 949-7398

Trinity Lutheran Church

38900 Harper Ave. Clinton Twp., MI 48036
Greg Dennis, Director (586) 747-2381

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, and cans of tuna, chili or stew. Or you may contribute to the Deacon's Fund on the first Sunday of the month; this money goes toward restocking the food pantry for the many needy families we help each month.



IN MEMORY

We recently celebrated Memorial Day and we take time to remember our friends and members of Church of the Covenant who have gone to their eternal rest:

Gordon Parker	3/21/99
Clendon Krause	9/14/01
Donald Plonkey	8/11/03
James Simmons	1/3/04
Melissa Smith	8/13/05
Juanita Volz	6/21/05
Roland Keebler	8/5/05
Jennifer Cynowa	9/23/05
Robert Churley	6/4/06
(Eleanor) Louise Steckman	7/29/06
Chuck Beckas	10/21/06
Frederick Wyllie	7/20/07
Dorothy Wyllie	8/3/07
Michael Portlance	8/14/08
Louise Sainsbury	8/19/09
Elizabeth (Betty) Lynch	11/27/09
Vivian Churley	5/17/11

GRADUATES

Congratulations to our grads!

Kristie Bracket — M.A. in Nursing
Lien Portlance — Degree from the Center for Creative Studies

Covenant June Birthdays

BEST WISHES

June 1	Jared Remesz
June 3	Carol Herhilan
June 5	Connie Fuller
June 14	Helayna Fuller Catha Huff Megan Scott
June 17	Kien Portlance Dorothy Joseph
June 18	Mary Jane Harcourt Lara Ragsdale
June 19	Joani Kepseu Jill Zech
June 22	Carol Farnsworth
June 23	Sandy VanVyve
June 24	Scottie Walls
June 29	Ruth McGraw

Covenant June Anniversaries

June 1	Richard & Betty Kordas
June 6	Steve & Mary Jane Harcourt
June 8	Hubert & Lydie Kepseu
June 15	Gary & Gloria Cynowa
June 21	Walt & Dorothy Morton

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT VOLUNTEERS

Head Usher — Gloria Cynowa

Elder of Month —

	<i>June 5</i>	<i>June 12</i>	<i>June 19</i>	<i>June 26</i>
Ushers		Simmons Family		
Greeters	Gloria Cynowa		Sandi Haapala	
Coffee Hour	Phyllis Haase	Catha Huff	Sandy VanVyve	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 as we finish “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

A special thank you to the youth of Church of the Covenant! You do such a wonderful job serving in the nursery, helping in the ARK and running the power point presentation during our church service. Thank you for all you do!

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 Diana Byks, Barbara Chadwick or Catha Huff 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.

SCUBA

The summer program in the Children’s Education will be SCUBA (Super Cool Underwater Bible Adventure.) All the kids will have fun with Bible stories, games, crafts and a short video each week. The program starts June 12 and runs through September following the Nick & Cooper show each Sunday.

PENTECOST

This year on Sunday, June 12 the church will celebrate Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples and believers. Please wear red and if you wish please bring a few red flowers to be planted outside after we use them in the sanctuary for decoration.



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; see Phyllis Haase if you have questions.

EUCHRE NIGHT

Euchre Club will meet on June 25 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 PIZZA DINNER on June 17 at 6 pm at the church. A family movie will be shown to all following the meal.

WOMEN’S GROUP

On Saturday, June 18th, the women of Church of the Covenant will be gathering at the IHOP restaurant on the Lakeside Circle at 9:27 am. Breakfast on our own. We would like a head count by Sunday, June 5th. This will enable us to contact IHOP if our group is small so that another group might have the opportunity to use the private room we have reserved. Please let Mary Ann Krause of Barbara O’Mara know if you plan to attend. Sign-up sheets are available at the church. Also, if you are attending, please bring a picture of you when you were younger...infant, preschool, first grade or a wedding picture. Please do not identify the picture beforehand. Envelopes will be available at the church beginning June 5th for you to take home. We are going to having a good guessing time and each lady who wishes to participate will have at least THREE and no more FIVE minutes to talk about the picture. Hope to see all of you!!!!!!!

PRAY FOR SONS

21 Days of Prayers for Sons is a prayer group for moms that focuses on praying the Word for boys in the areas they need it most. We are kicking off this prayer challenge on June 8 at 7 p.m. at church and will meet on the 15 and 23rd as well for a time of corporate prayer. "Whatever they do, may our sons work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men". (Colossians 3:23) Questions or interested in more information, please contact Catha Huff.

JUNE 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7 pm Praise Team	3	4
5 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship Communion	6 7pm AA Meeting	7 Deacons, Administration, B & G, & Worship Committees 7 pm	8 Pray for Sons 7 pm	9 7 pm Praise Team	10	11
12 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship	13 7pm AA Meeting	14 11-2 Senior Cards Session meeting 7 pm	15 Pray for Sons 7 pm	16 7 pm Praise Team	17 Free Meal & a Movie 6 pm at church	18 Women's Group Meets at IHOP Lakeside Mall 9:27 am
19 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship	20 7pm AA Meeting	21	22 Pray for Sons 7 pm	23 7 pm Praise Team	24	25 Euchre 5:30 pm
26 9am Music Rehearsal 10am Worship	27 7pm AA Meeting	28 11-2 Senior Cards	29 Bible Study 6 pm at Lee & Darlene Brown's	30 7 pm Praise Team		

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Armed Forces Members, including: Mark Alm & Trevor Brown
 Joanne Bates
 Cullity Family in death of Tim
 Flooding along the Mississippi River
 Marge Fuller & the Fuller Family
 Phyllis Haase
 Pat Lawrence
 Ruth McGraw
 Margaret Neebes
 Peace in the World
 Pastor Huff
 Ron Minor
 Melissa Putt
 Betty Radcliffe
 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
 Pastor Jason Huff

Summer FUN at Howell Conference & Nature Center



Summer Resident 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 attending summer resident 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**. Days are spent swimming, boating, doing crafts, playing outdoor games, enjoying campfires, learning archery, and so much more. In addition, campers are challenged with the high ropes course, 500-foot zip line, and 60-foot climbing tower.

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!

Summer Day Camp & Day Camp Extreme

With themed weeks such as "Outdoor Adventure," "Junior Zookeeper," and "Week of 100 Games," a great time is almost guaranteed! Children spend summer days learning and playing in our unique camp setting.

Summer Day Camp is open to children entering 1st through 5th grades, and Day Camp Extreme is for those entering 6th through 8th grade. Before and after care is available. **Call us for more information or visit www.howellnaturecenter.org!**

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

howellnaturecenter.org Located 7 miles south of I-96, between Howell & Pinckney.



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.

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 in your local library.

CANCER SOCIETY BIKE RIDE

I am 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 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. Sincerely, Paul Pokrzywinski