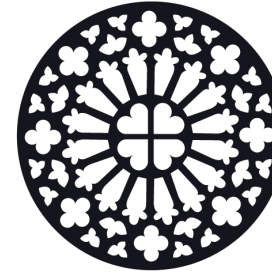


The Messenger
c/o The Church of the Covenant
267 East Beau Street
Washington, PA 15301
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January/February 2024

Newsletter of The Church of the Covenant

The Messenger

 from the Pastor. . .

January/February 2024

This Month's Pastor's Note is from our new Pastoral Associate,
the Rev. Dr. Renny Domske

WE ARE BLESSED

I attended an organ concert here at the **Church of the Covenant** on Friday. What a wonderful pipe organ our church has. It resounds in the whole beautiful sanctuary with full and rich notes. Those dulcet sounds seem to bring us closer to God.

My first Sunday as a pastor at **Church of the Covenant** was a Communion Sunday. What a joy to celebrate this special sacrament together. We truly work hard at our attitude of "*Doing This in Remembrance of Me.*" Thank You, Jesus, for giving Your body and Your blood for us.

I love having so many little children in the 9:00 Worship in the Covenant Center. I was intrigued and pleased to see the races going on, off to the side during the service. There were no races in 11:00 Worship in the sanctuary, but still a number of children present. The kids certainly are not intimidated to be in our Church. Thank you, parents, for bringing your children to learn to worship God. And thank you, other adults, for not being grumps when the children are restless or make noise. "Suffer the little children to come to me . . ."

I attended a Christian Education Committee Meeting and found a number of church members who are dedicated to taking care of your children and providing opportunities for you adults. They want to allow you and your children to grow in your understanding and commitment to God through Jesus Christ. What a positive group of workers.

The two Staff Meetings I have attended are insightful. The whole staff cares about YOU. The whole staff works hard to make YOUR experience at **Church of the Covenant** a growing one. The whole staff takes time to pray for YOU by name. God has provided a dedicated, talented, and prayerful staff to lead the **Church of the Covenant**.

I am pleased to be the *New Kid on the Block* here at the **Church of the Covenant**. I am pleased to give whatever I have, to continue this joyful and dedicated experience here for you all. We are a family here; we have a Family Reunion each week to enjoy each other and give ourselves once again to Jesus Christ.

Thank You, God, for allowing me to be a part of the **Church of the Covenant**.

Renny Domske

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Rev. Randall V. Boyer
Associate Pastor Emeritus

**The Church
of the Covenant**
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www.churchofthecov.org
Worship Services
Sundays: 9:00 & 11:00 am
10:00 am
Spiritual development time
for children and adults
Church Office Hours
Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 3:00

NEWS FROM THE FAMILY OF FAITH



In Memory Of

MaryAnna McNeel

Music	Tara Dyer
Music-Choir	Mary & Bob Wichterman
Choir	Gary Stout & Paulette Marasco
Memorial	Regina Johnston
Memorial	Martha V. Paul OES #404
Memorial	Perry M. Lane. Jr.

Betty Lou Engle

Memorial	Perry M. Lane. Jr.
Memorial	Dave and Carol McClellan
Preschool	Mgt. Cipicic & Deborah Springer

Anonymous

Memorial	Anonymous
Memorial	Anonymous

TO OUR WELCOME CENTER VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to those who have volunteered to spread a smile, a hello, a very simple good morning on Sundays at the Welcome Center. There are dates that are available for you to spread your welcome into our church on Sundays for just half an hour before the services. Just reach out to Camille-724-554-7687 or catch me at the Preschool.

Camille

THANK YOU FROM SALLY CORWIN

I forgot to thank whoever it was that gave me the beautiful blanket (during Sally's most recent hospitalization). It will be put to good use because I am always cold. It even has the fleece, so that makes it better. So thank you again.

Sincerely,
Sally Corwin
(Sally is now back at Strabane Trails)

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH MESSENGER is FEBRUARY 15th.

United With the Church Triumphant

FUNERALS

John T. "Jack" Dagg passed away on November 25, 2023. The funeral service was held on Monday, December 4, 2023, officiated by the Rev. Dr. William Younger followed by interment at the Cemetery of the Alleghenies.

Long-time member **Betty Lou Engle** joined the Church Triumphant on Saturday, December 9, 2023. A memorial service will be held at a later date, at the discretion of the family.

MaryAnna McNeel, passed away on December 7, 2023. A funeral service was held at The Church of the Covenant on December 16, 2023, officiated by the Rev. Dr. William Younger. Interment was private.

Patty Murphy joined the Church Triumphant on January 8, 2024, after being in declining health for some time. Patty is the mother of church member Lynn Sylvis. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR PIERRE

Dear Pastor Younger and Church:
"And God is able to make all grace abound to you so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (II Corinthians 9:8)

Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance. We are at a loss for how to express our gratitude for your generous contribution to feed our fellow Haitians who are going through such a famine caused by the political unrest. Thank you for providing food for one hundred families. Access cards are sent to the designated families to come to get food. Other people always come in great number and they are always served. Our ministry is unique in the area. We thank the Lord for using donors like you to keep this ministry going. May the Lord bless you.

Ermithe and Pierre

THE CARNAHAN LIBRARY

Dedicated on 11/1/09 to the memory of Thomas Dorrington Carnahan II, Thomas Dorrington Carnahan III, George Kirk Carnahan and to the glory of God.

The Carnahan Library is in Room 308, the first room on the right as you enter the third-floor hallway from the elevator. The card catalog will help you to locate a book by author, title, or subject. The Library Committee thanks the donors of the Library books.
*Indicates a new book.

***Cradles of the Reich** by Jennifer Coburn was purchased by **Helen Haines** in honor of **Barbara Knight** for her many years of dedicated leadership of the Carnahan Library. At Heim Hochland, a Nazi breeding home in Bavaria, three women's fates are intertwined. Gundi is a pregnant student from Berlin. An Aryan beauty, she is secretly a member of a resistance group. Hilde, only eighteen, is a true believer in the cause and is thrilled to carry a Nazi official's child. Irma, a forty-year-old nurse, is desperate to build a new life for herself after personal devastation. This novel is based on the Lebensborn Society maternity homes that actually existed during World War II when thousands of "racially fit" babies were bred and taken from their mothers to be raised as part of the new Germany.

***Wake Up with Purpose! What I've Learned in My First Hundred Years** by Sister Jean Delores Schmidt with Seth Davis was donated by **Barbara Knight** in memory of **Connie Hornickel**, who always woke up with purpose! This part memoir and part spiritual guide was written when Sister Jean was 103-years-young. She became famous as the team chaplain for the Loyola men's basketball team when they went on a Cinderella run to the Final Four in 2018. Her aim for this book was not only to tell the story of her life but also to help others learn, grow, serve God, and serve one another. She wants people to wake up happy as she does and to wake up with purpose.

***Tom Lake** by Ann Patachett was purchased by **Helen Haines** in memory of **Barbara Richmond**. In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and their relationship with their mother. *Tom Lake* is a story about young love, married love, and the lives our parents led before they were our parents. **Lilia** by Linda Ganzini was donated by **Barbara Knight** and dedicated to the people of Italy who suffered and sacrificed during World War II when Mussolini was their dictator. Linda Grazini writes of her mother, Livia, coming of age amidst the turmoil of her family caught in the crosshairs of the partisan/fascist conflict. Lilia's tender heart is broken by betrayals, the bloodshed of war, and by a mother irreparably broken by loss. But Lilia refuses to succumb and fiercely clings to her dreams of finding happiness.

The following four books were purchased with Library funds.
***The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store** by James McBride. In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania were digging the foundations for a new housing development, the last thing they expected to uncover was a human skeleton. Who the skeleton was and how it got buried there are just two of the long-held secrets that had been kept for decades by the residents of Chicken Hill. This is the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side, sharing ambitions and sorrows. Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking for a deaf black child, claiming that the child should be institutionalized, Chicken Hill's residents — roused by Chona's kindness and the courage of a local

black worker named Nate Timblin — bonded together to keep the boy safe.

***The River We Remember** by William Kent Krueger. On Memorial Day, 1958, as the people of Jewel, Minnesota gather to remember and honor the sacrifice of so many sons in wars of the past, the half-clothed body of wealthy landowner Jimmy Quinn is found floating in the Alabaster River. Investigation of his death falls to Sheriff Brody Dern, a highly decorated war hero who still carries the physical and emotional scars from his military service. Even before Dern has the autopsy results, vicious rumors begin to circulate that the killer must be Noah Bluestone, a Native American WWII veteran who has recently returned to Jewel with a Japanese wife. As suspicions and accusations mount and the town teeters on the edge of more violence, Dern struggles not only to find the truth of Quinn's murder but also to put to rest the demons from his own past.

***Mad Honey** by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan. Olivia McAfee knows what it feels like to start over. Her picture-perfect life as a wife and mother to son Asher is upended when her brilliant surgeon husband revealed a darker side. She never imagined that she would end up living back in the house she grew up in and taking over her father's beekeeping business. Lily Campanello is familiar with do-overs too. She and her mom relocated to Adams, New Hampshire hoping for a fresh start. Ash falls for the new girl in school and Lily can't help but fall for him too. Then one day, Olivia receives a phone call: Lily is dead, and Asher is being questioned by the police. Olivia is adamant that Asher is innocent. But she would be lying if she didn't acknowledge the flashes of his father's temper in Ash. As the case against him unfolds, she realizes he's hidden more than he's shared with her.

***The Covenant of Water** by Abraham Verghese. Spanning the years 1900 to 1977, this novel is set in Kerala, on India's Malabar Coast. The story follows three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction: in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning — and in Kerala, water is everywhere. At the turn of the century, a twelve-year-old Christian girl, grieving the death of her father, is sent by boat to her wedding, where she will meet her forty-year-old husband for the first time. From this unforgettable new beginning, the young girl and future matriarch, Big Ammachi, will witness unthinkable changes over the span of her extraordinary life, full of joy and triumph as well as hardship and loss, with her faith and love being the only constants.

Love Story by Karen Kingsbury was anonymously donated and is part of the Baxter Family Series. From the day they met, John and Elizabeth were destined to fall in love. Their whirlwind romance started when they were young college students and lasted nearly thirty years until Elizabeth died of cancer. When John Baxter is asked to relive his long-ago love story with Elizabeth for his grandson Cole's heritage project, he is not sure that he can do it. The sadness might be too great. But he agrees and allows his heart and soul to go places it has not gone in decades. Whether you are meeting the Baxter Family for the first time or finding them all over again, *Love Story* will stir your heart and remind you of the generational impact of love and the eternal bond of family.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Thursday, February 1

Gen. 23:1-20
Heb. 11:32-12:2
John 6:60-71

Friday, February 2

Gen. 24:1-27
Heb. 12:3-11
John 7:1-13

Saturday, February 3

Gen. 24:28-38, 49-51
Heb. 12:12-29
John 7:14-36

Sunday, February 4

Gen. 24:50-67 2
Tim. 2:14-21
Mark 10:13-22

Monday, February

Gen. 25:19-34
Heb. 13:1-16
John 7:37-52

Tuesday, February 6

Gen. 26:1-6, 12-33
Heb. 13:17-25
John 7:53-8:11

Wednesday, February 7

Gen. 27:1-29
Rom. 12:1-8
John 8:12-20

Thursday, February 8

Gen. 27:30-45
Rom. 12:9-21
John 8:21-32

Friday, February 9

Gen. 27:46-28:4, 10-22
Rom. 13:1-14
John 8:33-47

Saturday, February 10

Gen. 29:1-20
Rom. 14:1-23
John 8:47-59

Sunday, February 11

Mal. 4:1-6
2 Cor. 3:7-18
Luke 9:18-27

Monday, February 12

Prov. 27:1-6, 10-12
Phil. 2:1-13
John 18:15-18, 25-27

Tuesday, February 13

Prov. 30:1-4, 24-33
Phil. 3:1-11
John 18:28-38

Wednesday, February 14

Amos 5:6-15
Heb. 12:1-14
Luke 18:9-14

Thursday, February 15

Hab. 3:1-10 (11-15) 16-18
Phil. 3:12-21
John 17:1-8

Friday, February 16

Ezek. 18:1-4, 25-32
Phil. 4:1-9
John 17:9-19

Saturday, February 17

Ezek. 39:21-29
Phil. 4:10-20
John 17:20-26

Sunday, February 18

Dan. 9:3-10
Heb. 2:10-18
John 12:44-50

Monday, February 19

Gen. 37:1-11
1 Cor. 1:1-19
Mark 1:1-13

Tuesday, February 20

Gen. 37:12-24
1 Cor. 1:20-31
Mark 1:14-28

Wednesday, February 21

Gen. 37:25-36
1 Cor. 2:1-13
Mark 1:29-45

Thursday, February 22

Gen. 39:1-23
1 Cor. 2:14-3:15
Mark 2:1-12

Friday, February 23

Gen. 40:1-23
1 Cor. 3:16-23
Mark 2:13-22

Saturday, February 24

Gen. 41:1-13
1 Cor. 4:1-7
Mark 2:23-3:6

Sunday, February 25

Gen. 41:14-45
Rom. 6:3-14
John 5:19-24

Monday, February 26

Gen. 41:46-57
1 Cor. 4:8-20 (21)
Mark 3:7-19a

Tuesday, February 27

Gen. 42:1-17
1 Cor. 5:1-8
Mark 3:19b-35

Wednesday, February 28

Gen. 42:18-28
1 Cor. 5:9-6:11
Mark 4:1-20

Thursday, February 29

Gen. 42:29-38
1 Cor. 6:12-20
Mark 4:21-34



JANUARY PREACHING AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Ancient Paths — Sacred Practices for Today

January 7, 2024

“The Table”

Isaiah 25:6
John 2:1-3, 6-11
Revelation 19:9

January 14, 2024

“Wake Up”

Jeremiah 6:16
Romans 12:2
I Timothy 4:7-8

January 21, 2024

“Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?”

Ecclesiastes 3:?
Rev. Dr. Renny Domske

January 28, 2024

“The Church”

Matthew 16:18
Ephesians 5:25-27



FEBRUARY PREACHING AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 4, 2024

“Practicing the Presence of God and People”

Genesis 4:8-14
Revelation 21:1-4

February 11, 2024

“Rest”

Exodus 20:8-11
Matthew 11:28, 29

February 18, 2024

First Sunday in Lent



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Joseph Murdoch Feb 1
Kathie Hunnell Feb 1
Donna Carlisle Feb 4
Kirstin Legler Feb 5
Kelly Alderson Feb 6
Janice Gilmore Feb 6
Susan Halulko Feb 7
John M. McCreight Feb 7
Andrew Kluczan Feb 8
Scott Day Feb 8
Heidi Gottron Feb 8
Nancy Neff Feb 10
Janice Murdoch Feb 10
Beth Braun Feb 11

Patrick Trapuzzano Feb 11
Terri Grantz Feb 12
Lt. Charles Bowers Feb 14
Karl Knoneberg Feb 14
Ryan Seitzinger Feb 14
Krista Costanza Feb 14
Deborah Powell Feb 15
John Artuso Feb 15
Melissa Sumney Feb 15
Debi Nicolella Feb 16
Rodney Hardy Feb 16
April Roesner Feb 17
Dawn Herron Feb 18
William Payne Feb 18

Donald Grimm Feb 19
Caitlyn Myers Feb 19
Cynthia Johnson Feb 24
Andrea Kluczan Feb 24
Carol Johnston Feb 25
Lance George Feb 25
Denise Gibson Feb 26
Kate Merry Feb 26
Katherine Dessart Feb 26
Thomas Pitner Feb 27
Timothy Knight Feb 28
Rachael Seitzinger Feb 28
Barbara Collins Feb 29
Rachel Gladden Feb 29



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

On Tuesday, February 13, 2024, the Mission Committee will host an all-you-can-eat Pancake Dinner to help support Church mission trips. Dinner will start at 4 p.m. and end at 7p.m. Start out with pancakes and sausage and drinks.



Toppings for the pancakes are available. Once you finish your first few pancakes, come back for more until you've had your fill! During the evening, we will have fun events for children of all ages, like pancake flipping races and balancing a pancake on your head race. Prizes will be awarded.

Tickets can be pre-purchased at the Church before and after services on January 28th, February 4th, and February 11th or by calling the Church office. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 3-10. Children under 3 are free. If paying by check, please mark "Pancake Dinner" on the memo line.

PARISH NURSE CORNER



Do you turn up the TV up so loud that loved ones comment or complain? Do you have difficulty hearing on the phone? You are not alone! Hearing loss is the third most common health

issue in older adults and increases with age. Untreated hearing loss has been linked to an increase in dementia, depression, anxiety, relationship strain and low job performance. Consider part of an annual health check-up to be a hearing test with an audiologist, covered by most insurances. If hearing loss is verified, you and your audiology health practitioner can explore the best treatment plan for you. The hearing aid industry is evolving with leading edge technology so you can hear your best and live your life with utmost confidence. Any questions? Stop by Room 302 on Sunday mornings for blood pressure screenings or confidential information. -Linda Grimm, RN 724-777-9240.

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

For prayer support or to join this ministry, call the church office. Please contact the Fellowship of Concern to give the names of those who are in need of prayer for health or other reasons. The names will then be called or emailed to the church members who pray daily for others. Prayer request forms are available in each pew. Completed forms may be placed in the offering basket.



PINE SPRINGS CAMP NEWS

Registration has now opened for summer 2024 at Pine Springs Camp. For more information and to register for camp, visit https://www.pinesprings.org/summercamp

The Pine Springs Remix Winter Retreat for grades 6-12 will take place from February 9-11, 2024. For more information and to register, visit https://www.pinesprings.org/remix

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JANUARY



Monday, January 1

Isa. 62:1-5, 10-12
Rev. 19:11-16
Matt. 1:18-25

Tuesday, January 2

1 Kgs. 19:1-8
Eph. 4:1-16
John 6:1-14

Wednesday, January 3

1 Kgs. 19:9-18
Eph. 4:17-32
John 6:15-27

Thursday, January 4

Josh. 3:14-4:7
Eph. 5:1-20
John 9:1-12, 35-38

Friday, January 5

Jonah 2:2-9
Eph. 6:10-20
John 11:17-27, 38-44

Saturday, January 6

Isa. 49:1-7
Rev. 21:22-27
Matt. 12:14-21

Sunday, January 7

Gen. 1:1-2:3
Eph. 1:3-14
John 1:29-34

Monday, January 8

Gen. 2:4-9 (10-15) 16-25
Heb. 1:1-14
John 1:1-18

Tuesday, January 9

Gen. 3:1-24
Heb. 2:1-10
John 1:19-28

Wednesday, January 10

Gen. 4:1-16
Heb. 2:11-18
John 1:(29-34) 35-42

Thursday, January 11

Gen. 4:17-26
Heb. 3:1-11
John 1:43-51

Friday, January 12

Gen. 6:1-8
Heb. 3:12-19
John 2:1-12

Saturday, January 13

Gen. 6:9-22
Heb. 4:1-13
John 2:13-22

Sunday, January 14

Gen. 7:1-10, 17-23
Eph. 4:1-16
Mark 3:7-19

Monday, January 15

Gen. 8:6-22
Heb. 4:14-5:6
John 2:23-3:15

Tuesday, January 16

Gen. 9:1-17
Heb. 5:7-14
John 3:16-21

Wednesday, January 17

Gen. 9:18-29
Heb. 6:1-12
John 3:22-36

Thursday, January 18

Gen. 11:1-9
Heb. 6:13-20
John 4:1-15

Friday, January 19

Gen. 11:27-12:8
Heb. 7:1-17
John 4:16-26

Saturday, January 20

Gen. 12:9-13:1
Heb. 7:18-28
John 4:27-42

Sunday, January 21

Gen. 13:2-18
Gal. 2:1-10
Mark 7:31-37

Monday, January 22

Gen. 14:(1-7) 8-24
Heb. 8:1-13
John 4:43-54

Tuesday, January 23

Gen. 15:1-11, 17-21
Heb. 9:1-14
John 5:1-18

Wednesday, January 24

Gen. 16:1-14
Heb. 9:15-28
John 5:19-29

Thursday, January 25

Gen. 16:15-17:14
Heb. 10:1-10
John 5:30-47

Friday, January 26

Gen. 17:15-27
Heb. 10:11-25
John 6:1-15

Saturday, January 27

Gen. 18:1-16
Heb. 10:26-39
John 6:16-27

Sunday, January 28

Gen. 18:16-33
Gal. 5:13-25
Mark 8:22-30

Monday, January 29

Gen. 19:1-17 (18-23) 24-29
Heb. 11:1-12
John 6:27-40

Tuesday, January 30

Gen. 21:1-21
Heb. 11:13-22
John 6:41-51

Wednesday, January 31

Gen. 22:1-18
Heb. 11:23-31
John 6:52-59

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Table listing names and birth dates for January: Dr. George Jones (Jan 1), Dolores Hardy (Jan 1), Sarah Core (Jan 1), Tara M. Dyer (Jan 1), James McCarter (Jan 1), Seth Sumney (Jan 1), Vickie Wilson (Jan 2), Jason Dille (Jan 2), Bryan Dickson (Jan 2), Melissa Hodinko (Jan 3), Mitchel Groszkiewicz (Jan 3), Natalie Groszkiewicz (Jan 4), Zachary Losko (Jan 4), Nancy McCreight (Jan 6), Stephen Warren (Jan 6), Austin Armstrong (Jan 6), Gay Lynn Miller (Jan 7), Kayla Ayers (Jan 7), Bob Wichterman (Jan 8), David Warne (Jan 9), Karen Simonini (Jan 10), Crystal Domske (Jan 11), Kathryn Lee (Jan 11), Tammara Luchovick (Jan 11), Ada Ralston (Jan 11), Devin Reese (Jan 11), John Breitigan (Jan 12), Jared Pelosi (Jan 13), Charles Bowers (Jan 15), Ann Faust (Jan 16), Susan McDaniel (Jan 16), Richard Nevin (Jan 17), Joseph Losko Jr. (Jan 17), Maryann Lindsay (Jan 18), Andrew McIlvaine (Jan 18), Paul Phillips (Jan 18), Donald Faust (Jan 19), Nicole Emily Day (Jan 19), Vincent Garlisi (Jan 19), Lois Laird (Jan 20), James McCrory (Jan 20), Cortney Capo (Jan 20), Sally Corwin (Jan 21), Keltin Blunt (Jan 22), Gerald Davison (Jan 22), Kimberly Carnahan (Jan 22), Katelyn Nassar (Jan 22), Calvin Blunt (Jan 23), Tenitsha Blunt (Jan 24), Judith DiGiovanni (Jan 24), Keith Johnson (Jan 24), Erin Georgalas (Jan 24), Jasmine Amaya (Jan 25), Ed Breedlove (Jan 25), Sidney Watson (Jan 25), Jeremy Zajdel (Jan 25), Eric Saffell (Jan 27), Ryan Densmore (Jan 27), Jennifer Breen (Jan 28), Susan Key (Jan 28), Eileen Caldwell (Jan 30), Erin Locy (Jan 31)



NEWS FROM THE FAMILY OF FAITH**NEW CITY OF WASHINGTON POLICE CHIEF**

What a joy it is in The Church of the Covenant that members of our church family are so involved in our Washington community. So, we celebrate with **Steve Devenney**, who was appointed the new Chief of the Washington Police department. He was sworn in on January 2, 2024. Steve, we feel safe in your hands, at church and at home.

GRANT AWARDED TO HANDS AND HEARTS

WOMEN, (Women Organized to Mentor, Empower and Network), of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Inc., awarded grants to 35 local non-profit organizations. The guidelines for these grants state the money is to be used only for women and children in need. One of the organizations recognized with a grant was The Church of the Covenant's Hands and Hearts group.

With the grant money, Hands and Hearts (H & H) provided help for local people in need. They funded scholarships for three kids to go to Pine Springs Camp, supplied new underwear for 12 children for the start of the school year and gave brand-new, warm winter pajamas for a family's six children, as well as buying supplies for ongoing women/children programs.

Hands and Hearts' continuing projects include "Love In a Basket," a ministry that provides items for new babies and their mothers, distributing Prayer Shawls (made by Knitting/Sewing Angels), and Teddy Bears and puzzle books to hospitalized or homebound church members. H & H gave gift bags for the church's homebound members for Easter and Christmas, stocked the Commons rack with Care Notes, which are pamphlets that can help us cope with grief or other life events, and coordinated the Blue Christmas service in December.

Hands and Hearts purchases greeting cards as group members receive coupons or find sales. In the past year, the Card Ministry sent greeting cards, each one personalized with a note and an appropriate Bible verse, to over 450 church and community members.

Hands and Hearts also provides educational programs, including CPR, Elder Law and Diabetes Education, offered by professionals in those fields.

Church members who have temporary need for medical equipment like walkers or wheelchairs can benefit from the Hands and Hearts loan-out program, through the Parish Nurse.

Hands and Hearts members are Mary Wichterman, Linda Grimm, Pat Boyer, Gay Lynn Miller and Sarah Losko. If any of the activities of Hands and Hearts sounds like something you would like to help with, they welcome new members.

COMMUNITY CIRCLE FOOD PANTRY

In the Commons is a tub for items to be donated to the Community Circle Food Pantry. The most needed items change monthly due to the availability of what the Greater Pittsburgh food bank has delivered. Peanut Butter is one of the most requested items. The generic list would also include Jelly, Mac'n cheese, Corn, Green Beans, Spaghetti Sauce and Spaghetti Noodles.

There has been an increase in families coming to the pantry, with a lot of them utilizing us now on a weekly basis to meet their food insecurities.

Community Circle Food Pantry is open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9 a.m. till noon and is located at 70 E. Beau Street, Washington, with the entrance in the alley behind the First Methodist Church.

Volunteers are always needed to pack orders, sort donations and help on truck delivery days. If anyone would be interested and wanted to see if that is something you would be interested in doing, contact Melanie Wolfe at mwolfe15301@outlook.com.

PRESCHOOL NEWS**Busy!! Busy!! Busy!!**

We have been busy little preschool bees! We have been learning about "Following the Star" into Bethlehem as the Wise Men did. The preschoolers strung Cheerios to hang outside to feed the birds, ate a few themselves so they aren't hungry either, and continue to talk about God's creations and love. The M- W- and Friday classes, along with the Transition class, had a fun time dressing crazily for "Wacky Wednesday". Some kiddos wore their clothes backwards, inside out, or whatever their definition of being dressed crazily may have been. The teachers participated as well. Picture that one! The Tuesday and Thursday classes wore their pj's to school and we made pancakes. So it was known as PJ's and Pancake day! Both days- we all had fun and created lasting memories.



We also have registration for the 2024/2025 school year on February 7th. Please spread the word about our preschool. Any information that is needed can be obtained by calling Camille at 724-222-0190 ext.121. We appreciate your help and prayers.

Love, Miss Camille

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS**TUESDAY EVENING SPEAKER SERIES: LENTEN STUDY**

One of the really stellar activities our **Church of the Covenant** does is have our periodic *Tuesday Evening Speaker Series*. We learn together about being a Christian and study background from the Bible and our faith. Our next scheduled Speaker Series personality is our own new **Pastoral Associate, Dr. Renny Domske**. Renny has been scheduled as this speaker since his quite successful Lenten Series with us last Spring. Renny taught us then about the four gospels and we had at times up to 65 attending the classes. This year's Lenten topic is **The Acts of the Apostles**. The Acts immediately follows the four Gospels in the New Testament and tells the story of how the Church began and progressed following the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The dates of this year's study of **The Acts of the Apostles** will be **March 5, 12, 19**, and, after skipping Easter Holy Week, finishing up **April 1 and 8**. The classes start at 7:00 and last an hour. Set your schedules to attend in the Dining Room.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024**THE ADVENTURE BEGINS!
VBS PROMO DAY, APRIL 14TH,
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

Treasured VBS: Discovering You are Priceless to God

Join us in the Commons to DISCOVER more about this year's exciting theme, new schedule and sessions, BIG surprises and the many opportunities for volunteers to create a PRICELESS VBS experience!

SEEK out snacks and fun prizes too!

Questions? Reach out to Amy Dille at churchofcov.vbs@gmail.com.