



THE HAPPENING

January 2016

What's Happening

Movie Night

Jan 2 Family Movie Night
Minion

Special Events

Jan 1 New Year's Day
Jan 2 Family Movie Night
Jan 9 "Un"-Hanging of the Greens
Jan 10 One Service
Pastor Craig Bowling Bash
Jan 16 Leadership Retreat
Jan 18 Martin Luther King, Jr Day

Chosen servers

Jan 3 Hoover
Jan 17 Schumm
Jan 31 Muller



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January 2016 Minister's column by Rev. Craig Pinley



What's nearly 130 years old, includes churches in five continents, and owes its existence in part to a potato famine in Sweden?

The Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) officially began its ministry as a denomination on February 20, 1885 as influences from Lutheran, Congregationalist, and Evangelical Free denominations helped in shaping Covenant theology. Its current denominational headquarters are in Chicago, it numbers nearly 900 congregations in North America, and more than half of the Covenant congregations were planted less than two dozen years ago.

It is a highly missional denomination – more than 75 years doing medical missions in the African nation of Congo have resulted in more than 200,000 attending Covenant churches in that country, for example – and along with Africa and North America, our mission sites include the continents of South America, Europe and Asia. While the first Covenant church was formed in Swede Bend, IA, the largest populations of churches in the U.S. can be found in Chicagoland, the Twin Cities in Minnesota, Seattle and its suburbs, and California. More than half of Covenant churches are averaging 100 or less in Sunday attendance, but we have a congregation of 20,000, as Life Church (started in Edmond, OK) has a host of satellite congregations after Rev. Craig Groeschel started the initial congregation out of his garage.

I have been a Covenanter since I was 5, having attended Trinity Covenant Church on Chicago's south side (baptized at 7, confirmed at 14). At age 24, I traveled to more than 50 Covenant churches (a 29-state tour) over 10 months as part of the musical group Covenant Heartsong, which served as the catalyst for considering full-time ministry. Serving congregations in California over an eight-year period gave me even more insights on the denomination. And when Mary and I both worked at Covenant Headquarters together from 2000-04, we gained great respect for how the denomination was being led and its overall values. I gleaned much from traveling with the denomination's president to conference annual meetings and sitting down with him and talk church growth strategies. Mary was a two-year short-term missionary to Colombia and also spent time in Mexico helping organize mission trips with churches in the U.S. No denomination is perfect, but we're proud to have our pastoral credentialing from the Covenant.

Redeemer Church had previously enjoyed a long history with the United Church of Christ (UCC) and then existed as an independent congregation until joining the ECC in the past decade. But our current congregation has people from all over the map theologically – I've met regular attenders with Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopal, Baptist, and other independent church backgrounds, along with those who've been here since they were babies – so I believe it will be helpful to give you a larger explanation about what the ECC espouses as a denomination.



The Evangelical Covenant Church

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Beginning January 10th, I will preach a six-week sermon series on Covenant affirmations, the six primary values the ECC centers its ministry from.

-Week one (Jan. 10) will be a combined worship service at 10 a.m. In my sermon, I'll give a brief history of our denomination and focus upon the centrality of scripture on the life of the Covenant (using Psalm 1 and 2 Tim. 3:14-17).

-Week two (Jan. 17) - using the story of Nicodemus from John 3 - will probe how our relationship with Jesus Christ ("the necessity of new birth") guides how we dialogue with each other as we discern God's will for the church and live for him each day.

-Week three (Jan. 24) - using Mt. 25:31-46 - we will focus on what it means to commit to the whole mission of the church and what that means for the ECC.

-Week four (Jan. 31) - using Eph. 2:11-22 - we will discuss what it means when the Covenant says it is "a fellowship of believers."

-Week five (Feb. 7) - using John 14:15-27 - will probe into the idea that we are consciously dependent on the Holy Spirit, and

-Week six (Feb. 14) - using I Cor. 12 - we will get into the reality that there's freedom in Christ to express your gifts a little differently than the person sitting next to you in the pew/chair.

Please join us for these worship services - and bring a friend.

IN CHRIST,

Pastor Craig

Our church has a very sweet shut in, her name is Phyllis Dickson, who lives in Walden Ponds. Phyllis would be very appreciative of a ride to first service. If you have questions or are interested in joining a rotation, please speak to Lori Lohrer (482-1737) or Sam Lohrer. Thank You.



Pastor Craig Birthday Bowling Bash

Sunday, January 10, 2016 @ 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM at Gilmore Lanes, Fairfield OH.

Come celebrate with Pastor Craig and his family. There are lanes with and without bumpers! Just \$5 which includes shoe rental. Come join the fun!

We ask you to join us on Saturday, January 9th @ 9:00 AM for the UN-Hanging of the Greens. We need your help to take down and pack away the Christmas decorations for another year. Drinks and snacks as well as great fellowship will be had by those attending.



UN-Hanging of the Greens



January Serve City collection items are: Gloves, scarves, and long underwear. Please place donations in the barrel located in the lobby. Thank you.

We are serving dinner at CHOSEN on Sundays. Currently, we are serving approximately 40 homeless. This is such a rewarding outreach and it is not difficult for anyone to participate in. Please volunteer to be in charge of a meal and get your friends and/or neighbors to help out or sign up to prepare one or two dishes and help serve. Redeemer will reimburse you for the food; we just need your time. For complete information and meal ideas, grab a brochure on the table by the front door or contact Linda Hoover.



President of the Congregation

of

The Christmas and New Year holidays are behind us now and we are starting a new year, for each of us as individuals and Redeemer Church. In the coming year 2016 I pray that Redeemer will become a “brighter” light in our community. New Years resolutions are made and broken easily but Pastor Craig has challenged each one of us over the past several weeks. Pastor Craig announced a goal for Redeemer Church for 2016 in a recent sermon:

”ALL HANDS ON DECK FOR 2016, whatever you have done in the past (or have not done) you need to step up and do more in 2016.”

Redeemer Church has many needs to be filled by folks; ministries, small groups, visiting, snow removal, facility repairs and many more. I ask each of you to examine what you are or aren’t doing and plug into Redeemer Church where God leads you to. Step out of your comfort zone and try something new, God will reward you. Put your trust in God. If God told you to do something and if something is God’s will then it will never fail. A quote I have come to appreciate: “Failure is an option here. If things are not failing you are not innovating enough.”—Elon Musk. At Redeemer we will take chances, try new things and if something fails we will get up and try something new, not taking chances will not move God’s Kingdom forward.

Redeemer is still in need of individuals to sign up to help repair our facility and clear snow as needed from the sidewalks this coming season. Our building is open not only on Sundays but most every day of the week requiring that we clear the snow and ensure our walkways are safe. If we could have a rotation of people scheduled to assist that would be best to spread the work load. Please let me know if your interested and we’ll get you on the schedule.

In a recent sermon I heard that anyone who has questions, concerns or suggestions to contact me, Pastor Craig or another person on the leadership team. Rumors of bad information have been recently spreading and take more energy to resolve than what the original question would have taken. Please don’t be part of the spread rather stop the rumor and contact leadership for answers.

In Christ.

Sam



Membership Classes

Redeemer Church would like to have a membership class later this winter (likely 3 sessions). Because of our change in denominational status, Pastor Craig would like to devote one session of the membership sessions towards giving you more about the Covenant church. In other sessions, we’ll also discuss one’s responsibilities as a member of our church and give some history (and personal testimony) about Redeemer’s unique history.

If you’re interested in becoming a member, please let Sam Lohrer, Dan Childs or our pastor (craigpin@yahoo.com) know before January 20th. One must be baptized before becoming a member of a Covenant church.





REMEMBER OUR SHUT IN'S

Redeemer Church has a number of members who are either confined to their homes or residing in Care Centers. Please remember them with a card or call. Remember, if you send a card please be sure to add "Redeemer Church" after your name!

Norma Gammell
Heartland of Woodridge
3801 Woodridge Blvd Apt B-402
Fairfield, OH 45014

Evelyn Warner
c/o Andrew Lampl
130 Farmington Drive
Hamilton, OH 45013

Willard & Hester Childs
2877 Long Pine court
Hamilton, OH 45011

Janet Evans
200 Lindale Drive
Fairfield, OH 45014

Community Corner

KROGER
Redeemer Church has been approved as a Nonprofit Organization in the new Kroger Community Rewards Program. Please visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com to register your Kroger Plus card.

Redeemer's NPO # is 80053.

Serving in Worship

Liturgists

- Jan 3 Rose Marie Stiehl
- Jan 10 Stephanie Tillman
- Jan 17 Brent Clark
- Jan 24 Lisa Mannix
- Jan 31 Larry Kachner

Prayer Intercessors

- Jan 3 Charlotte Burkhart & Carrie DeFevers
- Jan 10 Carol Moore & Joan Riley
- Jan 17 Lori Lohrer & Lisa Mannix
- Jan 24 Gary & Carolyn Maschmeyer
- Jan 31 Nancy Henry & Mary Van Lieu

Flower Chart

- Jan 3 still available
- Jan 10 still available
- Jan 17 still available
- Jan 24 still available
- Jan 31 still available

Ushers

1st Service

- Jan 3 Bill & Sherry Phillips, Ron & Gloria Spurlock
- Jan 10 Ed & Kathy Swope, Nancy Henry, Mary Van Lieu
- Jan 17 Ron & Mary Sue Peters, Dewayne & Sharon Grammel
- Jan 24 Larry & Charlotte Kachner, Duane & Claudia Cantrell
- Jan 31 Brent Clark & Lisa Mannix, Richard & Joan Riley

2nd Service

- Jan 3 Duane & Claudia Cantrell
- Jan 10 Lori Lohrer & Lee Skorupa
- Jan 17
- Jan 24
- Jan 31

Birthday list

- January 2 Betty Waltner
- January 3 Jeff Roberts
- January 4 DeWayne Grammel
- January 4 Tim Tilney
- January 7 Bill Dermen
- January 8 Lisa Bowersox
- January 9 Jeffrey Roberts
- January 11 Zelma Miller
- January 12 Dave Henry
- January 13 Charlotte Gillespie
- January 13 Mary Van Lieu
- January 16 Tom Mobley
- January 18 James Wolpert
- January 19 Connor Price
- January 22 Gloria Spurlock
- January 22 Savannah Price
- January 23 Dana Winans
- January 24 Gladys Tobias
- January 25 Megan Bowersox
- January 25 Matthew Grammel
- January 26 LaVelle Burlew
- January 26 Kathy Hopkins

- January 26 Alejandro Tirado-Crespo
- January 27 Joan Coffey
- January 28 Ian Bowling
- January 29 Sharon Katterheinrich
- January 29 Kelly Price
- January 31 Bob Wendt
- January 31 Andres Tirado-Crespo

This Month's Birthdays



Condolences

Prayers and sympathy to the families of:

Jim Van Lieu, at his death on December 5, 2015

Pam Ledford, at her death on December 10, 2015

We pray for God's comfort to be felt by the family and friends.