

August 2020



FIRST COVENANT CHURCH • RED WING, MN

MESSENGER

Pivotal Moments

I'm sure everyone is just as eager as I am to learn about what fall will look like for our family. As I write this, we are days away from the Governor's official announcement on guidance for going back to school which will impact many families moving forward this fall. What our schools will look like this fall (and in connection with our church's reopening plans) will also impact what fall programming will look like for First Covenant as well.

It's so interesting because around this time I would begin mapping out the year for our youth ministry, begin planning trips, recruiting volunteers, and promoting the kickoff party! And here we are not even sure when kickoff will happen or what it will even look like. If you are hoping to find out in this article exactly what to expect for fall, I'm sorry to share that we simply just don't know yet.

We have a huge legacy of caring for and sharing the Gospel with our kids and youth. Programs like Awana, VBS, and Fusion were drawing people from around the community into our doors. Discovery Hour, Confirmation, and Youth Group were digging into God's word regularly. Camp, MUUUCE, and CHIC provided opportunities to get away and encounter God in unique ways. These were all amazing things that were happening in the life of our church community.

What if we can't do these anymore due to restrictions or available resources? Or what if they need to look so drastically different that it isn't practical or appealing to participate in? These are still the unknowns we are still trying to discern. But we don't have to see this as a bad thing.

Perspective is everything and I believe that God has given us an opportunity to embrace a pivotal moment! What is a pivotal moment? It is an opportunity to make a significant shift in a direction. We often have several pivotal moments in our life, such as picking out what college to attend, getting engaged, accepting a new job, etc. These moments have the potential of significantly impacting what the future will look like.

Our church is in a pivotal moment as well. While the things we did before were great, what if we took this opportunity to dream up creative, new ways to accomplish the mission and vision of our church among the families in our community? What if we could make significant changes to how we partner with parents and develop a greater plan for creating sticky faith environments for our kids?

I have called together key leaders of kids and youth ministries in our church to brainstorm a broad list of ideas for what fall could look like. With the questions noted above as our focus, we're dreaming together in this pivotal moment, and we would like you to dream with us! Send me your ideas (mike@redwingfirstcov.org) and we'll add it to our "brainstorming board". Our hope is that by mid-August, we'll have some great ideas for fall and can, with the Holy Spirit's help, discern which paths we can take to best minister to our families this fall!

Things will be different, and that's okay. Because the Gospel of Hope, in all of its richness, is still the same life-changing message. Let's embrace this pivotal moment and figure out unique and creative ways to share this hope with our kids and families this fall!

Pastor Mike

Pastoral Search Committee Update

We as a committee would like to thank you for your continued support and prayers. Navigating this process during so much going on in the world has made things a little more complicated. From creative ways to meeting to figuring out how and when we can meet candidates in person, we are so grateful for God leading and guiding us. We have been so blessed by the candidates that we have met so far. It has been gratifying to see the gifted, Godly, high-quality applicants who are being presented to our church for consideration. We have enjoyed hearing their stories and how they are impacting the world as well as sharing with them how amazing First Covenant Church of Red Wing is. All of which has led us to a lot of prayer and relying on the Holy Spirit for wisdom and direction. We have been able to meet face to face with two candidates in July while we have waited on others so far. We have progressed very well even with Covid19, but it is uncertain if our search process could speed up or slow down depending on each candidate's situation. Ultimately, we are waiting on God's timing.

Our biggest need right now is prayer.

Pray for wisdom & discernment

Our search committee needs wisdom & discernment in so many areas as the committee represents the church. We need wisdom as we interview candidates. We need discernment as we discern God's will for First Covenant Church.

Pray that we can discern the candidate

As we interview and gain feedback from each other, we need to discern the candidate's theology and character. Everyone wants to put his or her best foot forward in this process. Some candidates might be great in one area, but weak in another. Pray that the Search Committee can discern and read through the candidates' sermons, resumes and interviews.

Pray that we could care for the candidates

From the beginning, our hope and goal were to not only be the means by which we find a candidate but be a source of encouragement and hope to the candidate themselves. We will have to say "not" to many candidates and "yes" to only one. In the process, pray that we will be able to encourage these Pastors who are searching for a place to minister.

Pray that we can love as we listen to each other.

Pray that we would be patient with one another, demonstrate true love to people who are different from us and truly learn to be a family together in this process.

And finally, pray for the team to have no timetable but God's.

As excited and determined as we are to find a Lead Pastor for our church, pray we will be patient and wait for God's timing and settle for nothing less than His perfect will.

Library Corner

In "Uninvited" by Lysa Terkeurst shares her own experiences of rejection. Lisa will help you stop feeling left out or rejected. She will share God-honoring ways to process your hurt, overcoming the two core fears that feed your insecurities by understanding the secret of belonging with biblical depth and refreshing with Lysa will help you.

Diane Goudy
Library Committee

VBS and Camp in the Box

It is not too late to order Camp-in-a-Box from Lake Beauty Bible Camp. We know that this has been a difficult summer with Coronavirus keeping us from participating and learning with each other at VBS or Lake Beauty Bible Camp. But you can still enjoy the crafts, songs, messages, and activities based in the 2020 theme "All Things New: Return of the King".

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."

When God reigns, there will be peace, security, and love! We get to look forward to that. Learn how to live a life that is fulfilling to God. Look forward to the day that God comes back to this earth to reign forever and ever so that we can live in that peace, security, and love.

Order your Camp-in-a-Box today using the special code **VBSLBBC20** and First Covenant Church will cover 50% of the asking donation price! <https://www.lbbc.com/camp-in-a-box.html>

Use this summer to build your relationship with Jesus and God so that you, one day, will live with him in peace, security, and love.

VBS & Lake Beauty Bible Camp Ministries are partnering to pay **50%** of each Camp-in-a-Box!

Camp boxes are designed for ages 5-12 and are intended for **1 box per child**. Boxes will be shipped to your home.

When ordering just mention that you are from Red Wing First Covenant and share code: VBSLBBC20.

Call the Lake Beauty office to order:
320-732-3218

\$49 SUGGESTED DONATION PER BOX



5 DAYS OF CAMP CONTENT



CALL US NOW

320-732-3218



SHARE WITH YOUR CHURCH

WWW.LBBC.COM



LAKE BEAUTY BIBLE CAMP

RETURN OF THE KING CAMP-IN-A-BOX



Order the Box

Call the office at
320.732.3218



Get the box

Your box will ship on
July 6th so expect it to
arrive within a week.



Summer Camp!

Get access to what
you need to have
Lake Beauty in your
home!

What's Inside:

- GEARED FOR AGES 5-12
- 5 DAYS OF SUMMER CAMP CONTENT
- DAILY MESSAGES FROM OUR SUMMER CAMP SPEAKERS
- ACCESS TO ONLINE TEACHING, SONGS, SKITS, AND MORE
- CRAFT IDEAS AND VIDEO INSTRUCTIONS
- ACTIVITIES AND GAMES TO DO AT HOME
- OUR 2020 SUMMER THEME SHIRT

MOPS & MOMS Next

Dear Friends, we are in summer mode, trying to find new things to keep our kids busy, during a global pandemic, after we've been sheltered together since March. I do not have the best advice on this, but I can tell you that we are praying for ALL moms this summer to ENJOY being with their children, and to take time for themselves.

Have you laughed recently? I know I need more laughter in my life. Ecclesiastes 3:4 says, there is a "time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance...." I used to think that meant there was a period of time when I would be sad, and another time that I would have laughter and happiness. I have learned that all 4 of those "times" can happen in 1 day! My kids love to dance and I see the joy they experience in their bodies as they move and sing. I imagine God smiling down at them, filling them with joy.

Mark your calendar for:

August 12 Mom ZOOM 10 AM: Permission to Feel from Dr. Marc Brackett

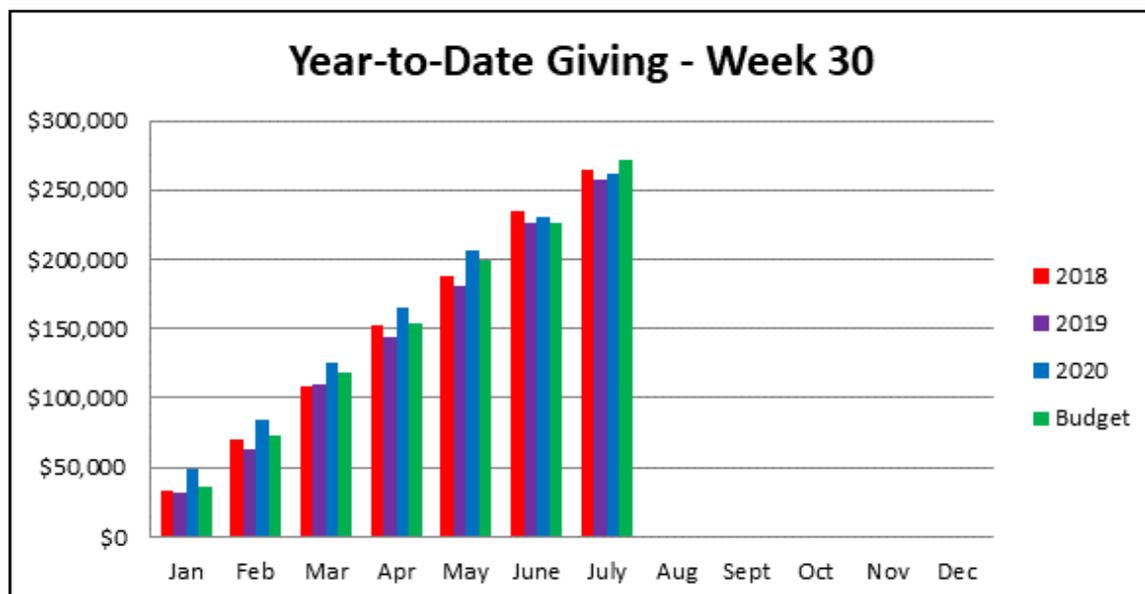
August 26 Kid ZOOM 10 AM: Show & Tell about summer activity

Email redwingmops@gmail.com for link

We ARE planning for 20-21, and have considered several options and ways to continue to journey through motherhood and life, in community with each other. We do not know for sure what it will look like, and when, but WE WILL have a group! If you haven't already registered, consider joining us for the Sept.--May year. MOPS International exists to encourage and equip moms of young children as women, mothers, and leaders, in the name of Jesus Christ, in partnership with the local church.

In Christ,
Rose & leaders

2020 Year to Date Giving Comparison Graph



Submitted by Tim Droogsma, Financial Secretary

LBBC News & Fall Women's Retreat

Lake Beauty has their campground open and eight cabins available to rent out. No food service but their activities are available....lifeguards for the lake, ropes course, climbing tower, zip line, horse trails etc. If you need a location for a break away, consider Lake Beauty!

September 18-19-20 Women's Retreat (Friday night-Sunday brunch)
(Watch for updates in mid August in regard to women & quilting retreats at LBBC)

Theme: Standing Firm

1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.



Kirsten B. King grew up in the Twin Cities and graduated from the University of Northwestern St. Paul. She holds a Masters of Theological Studies from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, IL. She lives with her husband, Kenny, in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Kirsten is currently serving as the Director of Youth Discipleship and Training at First Evangelical Free Church in Maplewood, MN. She is also the author and host of the *Good Story* Podcast.

Join us for the Silent Auction fun, beginning Friday afternoon and running through Saturday evening. Bring along a creative themed gift basket (chocolate, family fun, pamper yourself, etc) canned goods, handcrafted, or new items. Silent Auction proceeds help us continue the redecorating of camp rooms and buildings.

Visit their website for full details: www.lbbc.com. Or call: 320.732.3218

First Choice Clinic Run, Walk, Skip or Jump - for LIFE!

First Choice Clinic has also been impacted by the pandemic, and like you, we are doing our best to navigate the many challenges associated with it. The reality is our services are still needed, maybe now more than ever. This means our fundraising efforts need to continue as well. We are gearing up for our 14th annual 5K event, of course, it will be a virtual event this year, and we are hoping you'll help encourage your members to participate.



If each church that supports our ministry had at least 10 people register, we would more than double our participation from last year.

Register today for First Choice Clinic's 5k Run & Walk for Life – August 28th-30th.

Due to Covid-19 and restrictions on large group gatherings this will be a virtual event. We are asking participants to complete the 5K at their own pace and place.

Please consider inviting others to join you, abiding by all the guidelines and restrictions of course.

To register, go to www.FirstChoiceClinicRW.com under the events tab to for more information and to register or call FCC at (651) 267-4357.

Register by August 6th to pick up your event t-shirt prior to the event. Shirts will be available after Sept. 14th for any registrations placed between Aug. 7th-28th. Have questions? Call (651) 267-4357 or email info@firstchoiceclinicrw.com

Congregational Meeting—Sunday, August 9

Our semi-annual meeting will be held on August 9th following our worship service. All members able to attend are encouraged to do so. The agenda for this meeting is brief but the items on the agenda do need to be acted upon. An amendment to the by-laws will be presented for action at the next congregational meeting and we will vote to accept new members. Please plan to attend if you are able to make it.

Roger Johnson, Chairman

Notes of Thanks

Thank you so very much for the gifts for my family. It has been a tough year, but because of generous people like you-and God's love, we have been able to manage. Everything is greatly appreciated.

May God Bless each and everyone of you.
Mary and family

Thank you for the opportunity to share about the work of the Gideons at your July 12 service. Thanks to your generosity, more than \$600 was raised for the printing and distribution of scripture. For those who use Breeze for online giving, the Gideons have been added as an option. Again, our thanks, and God Bless.

Goodhue County Gideons

Thank you very much for your donation of 602 pounds of food to the Red Wing Food Shelf this year. With assistance from people like you, we can continue to meet the temporary hunger needs of families in our area.

Sincerely,
The Red Wing Area Food Shelf

Funny Church Signs about Coronavirus

- ◆ Six Feet apart today. Is better than. Six Feet Under Tomorrow.
- ◆ Wash Hand. Don't touch face. Hygenesis 24:7.
- ◆ Jesus can wash away sin. But you've still got to wash your hands.
- ◆ Fear Not - God. Love One Another - Jesus. Wash Your Hands. - CDC.
- ◆ Jesus Cleans the Heart. We Disinfect the Pew.
- ◆ Shout Hosanna! But first, step back 6 ft.





August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Holy Communion 9:00am Worship	3 7:30pm Adult Softball	4	5	6	7	8
	Mike on vacation					
9 Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting 9:00am Worship 10:15am Congregational Meeting	10	11 Primary Election	12 7pm Youth Bonfire	13 6:30pm Adult Softball	14	15
16 9:00am Worship	17	18 6:00pm Pastoral Search Committee	19 6:00pm Pastoral Search Committee	20 6:30pm Adult Softball 7:30pm Adult Softball	21	22
				Sarah on vacation		
23 9:00am Worship	24 6:30pm Council Meeting	25	26	27	28	29
	Sarah on vacation					
30 9:00am Worship	31					

Remembering Our Birthday Friends with Prayer

1st	Ardie Sheplee, Marlene Kline, Teagan Walter	16th	Laurie Larson
2nd	Andrea Hanson	17th	Krista Larson
3rd	Suzie Kline, Ashleigh Overlander	18th	Nancy Shoemake Nelson
5th	Ruth Allen, Cate Zenzen	21st	Joyce Quade
6th	Charlotte Hayes, Ron Sherman	22nd	Clarence Jordahl, Leo Walter
7th	John Lu	25th	Maggie Shirk
8th	Lee Sander, Dick Treptow	27th	Nancy Wulff
9th	Madison McCann	28th	Kendra Carlisle
12th	Detlef Bordthausen	29th	Marv Eppard
13th	Isaac Quiboloy	31st	Helen Fryer

Prayer is a vital part of the life of our church. In order to help us focus on praying for one another, please use our list of birthday friends in each month's Messenger to pray for them and their families. There will be enough names to pray for someone throughout the month. Let's make praying for one another a means of encouragement to us all!



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