

July 2021



FIRST COVENANT CHURCH • RED WING, MN

# MESSENGER

## Your Faith Map

We just finished our four week series called “Faith Map: A Personal Guide for your Spiritual Journey.” All future preaching will be guided by this Faith Map. Furthermore, I am inviting all our teachers and leaders to consider ensuring that any future classes, studies, and groups assist our people with moving along in their journey as guided by the Faith Map. We’re still working on a small booklet of the Faith Map and a Bible Reading companion to accompany it. In the meantime, I’ll summarize it all here for you. As you explore your journey, remember a few things. First, your Faith Map is sequential. Each destination is built on the previous one and each destination is essential for the next one. Second, your Faith Map is cyclical. Wherever you are you’ve never fully arrived in your spiritual journey. There are always more neighborhoods in any of the four destinations to go back to and explore throughout your life. Third, remember that we are all a work in progress. So, remember to embrace the grace that God has for you and give grace to others around you.

### **Belonging: Come to Me (Matthew 11:28)**

Belonging to Jesus (Conversion, “The Grace Wheel”)

Belonging in the Church (Show up, Group up, Team up, Give UP)

### **Pursuing: Follow Me (Matthew 4:19)**

Life in Christ (Identity in Christ, Set Apart for Christ, Unity around Christ)

Knowledge of the Word (Biblical Story, Biblical Beliefs, Biblical Commands)

### **Practicing: Keep My Commands (John 14:15)**

Spiritual Habits (Study and Meditation, Prayer and Fasting, Rest and Solitude)

Healthy Relationships (The One Anothers)

Wise Decisions (Biblical Stewardship, Principles of Wisdom, Principles of Ethics)

### **Contributing: Go and Make Disciples (Matthew 28:19)**

Bearing Fruit (Fruit of the Spirit, Ambassador of Christ, Compassion/Mercy/Justice)

Making Disciples (Sharing the Gospel, Discipling New Believers)

Building the Church Church (Teaching Others, Leading Teams, Leading the Church)

Pastor Jim Murphy

## Chairman's Moment

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I was going to share some thoughts I have been working through about the difference between "serving" and "helping," but then I received an email from a friend the other day. My best friend from high school emailed me to tell me that he is now in end stage renal failure and that he needs a kidney transplant. We correspond and occasionally get together for coffee, so I was aware of his health issues. But this email came with a request. He asked me to share with my friends and church folk that live donation of a kidney can save a person's life.

Live donors do not need to be a perfect match to the recipient. I knew these things because of a young man in a church I pastored who also needed a kidney transplant and who had a live donor, who was going to give him a kidney. Live donation is not for everyone, but there are some of us who may be able to give a lifesaving gift like this. So, in response to my friend's request to spread the word I am asking you to consider if you might be a person who would think more about live donation and tell others about this possibility. I am including a link to Mayo Clinic about live organ donation if you wish to learn more.

[connect.mayoclinic.org/page/transplant](https://connect.mayoclinic.org/page/transplant)

Thanks for listening to my request. Please pray to my friend as he walks this road.

Roger Johnson  
Church chairman

## Library Corner

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Bennett Thomas came to the church a while back representing the Boy Scouts. The Scouts wanted to install a Little Free Library by the church entrance. The Scouts will install it and FCC will maintain it. If you are not familiar with this Free Library there are about 15 of them scattered around Red Wing, usually in neighborhoods. As some of you may have seen the pole-mounted book boxes, they are available free of charge to anyone. Anyone is free to take a book, they may keep them, return them, or donate another book. No questions asked. Diane Goudy has volunteered to make sure the boxes are stocked and kept up. We will be stocking children's books first and then teen books and adult books later on. If there are parents out there with too many children's books please consider donating a few. Of course we want them to be in good condition for other children. To donate books please leave them on the table in the church library with Diane's name or Free Library marked on it. If anyone likes garage sales, it is always a good place to pick up good used books. Thank you to Bennett for bringing this to the church to consider.



Diane Goudy  
Library Committee

## Vacation Bible School Recap

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We were so grateful to bring VBS back again this summer! There were approximately 45 children present each day, learning how to SHINE for Christ. The songs, crafts, games, and lessons provided by the Teens for Christ crew encouraged the children to spread joy and hope to receive God's crown of glory that will last forever. A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who participated in various ways to make our VBS event a fabulous success.

## Mission Awareness of the Month - The Gideons

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The Gideons International are a body of believers dedicated to making the Word of God available to everyone and, together with the local church, reaching souls for Christ. They began distributing Bibles in 1908, and today they have placed more than 2 billion Bibles and New Testaments around the world. The Gideons believe that distributing copies of God's Word plants powerful seeds that God can use according to His own timing (1 Cor. 3:6), allows many to read the truth for themselves (John 8:32, provides a lasting witness (Hb. 4:12), and makes it easier for those reached to boldly spread the Good News (2 Tim. 2:2). Members of the Gideons personally witness and distribute God's Word and place scriptures in key locations including hotels, motels, medical offices, domestic violence shelters, prisons and jails.

Tim Droogsma is our congregations Gideon representative, and he would love to share with all interested about the work the Gideons are doing in our local community. Please pray for this ongoing ministry.

## Congregational Care

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Where did June go??? I always look forward to the longest day of the year and now it is past. I also look forward to the shortest day of the year because it means the days will get longer. I love the days and events that mark our years and the celebrations we share together.

This past June we had Graduate Recognition on June 6 to mark the ending of one stage of life for both our high school students and our college/university students. It also marks the beginning of a new stage in their lives; for our high school graduates it means going on to gain more knowledge for future jobs and responsibilities and for our college/university students it is the opportunity to find meaningful employment to use their skills and education. Endings, beginnings and "re-dos".

June 16th we had our first FCC Block party. If you came you know the enjoyment we had being with one another, eating and watching the kids play. Well, we have a "re-do" coming up on July 21, another FCC Block party in our parking lot. More information will be coming to you as we launch into July so look for more details for the 2nd FCC Block party.

Char Hayes  
Congregational Care

## Red Cross Blood Drive Summer "Appeal"

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First Covenant Church to host Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, July 9 from 12:00 - 6:00 p.m. This is our 11th drive since we started in 2017. In the past we usually have 30 to 40 appointments to fill, this drive they are requesting 49. We need at least 20+ donors yet to register. This summer there is a critical need for blood. Register at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call the church office.

The Red Cross has teamed up with Amazon. All donors will receive a \$10 gift card in July and a chance to win gas for a year. Three donors will be selected nationwide.

Most of the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted. Fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear masks/practice social distancing. Non-vaccinated individuals will be asked to continue to wear masks/social distance per recommendation from the CDC. The Covid-10 Antibody Testing did end on June 25 and temperature taking will no longer happen at the door. **Give Blood. Give Life.**

# Youth Ministries for July

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Last month we rounded out the school year with S'mores and a pool party at the Mason's. Get ready for more fun in July!

## Church Block Party

July 21

5:30-7:00pm

Church Parking Lot

There will be food, drinks, and games! Join us in building community within our church!

## Youth Water Wars

July 29

3:00-5:00 pm

Fields Behind the Church

Get ready for our Annual Youth Water Wars!

Come ready to get messy. We will have a number of different water games and challenges!

**Invite your friends!**

# 2021 Year to Date Giving Comparison

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## OFFERING UPDATE:

**2021 Budget:** (\$9,417/week needed)

26 weeks 2021 - \$211,657 (-13.5% under budget)

26 weeks 2020 - \$231,132

26 weeks 2019 - \$226,439

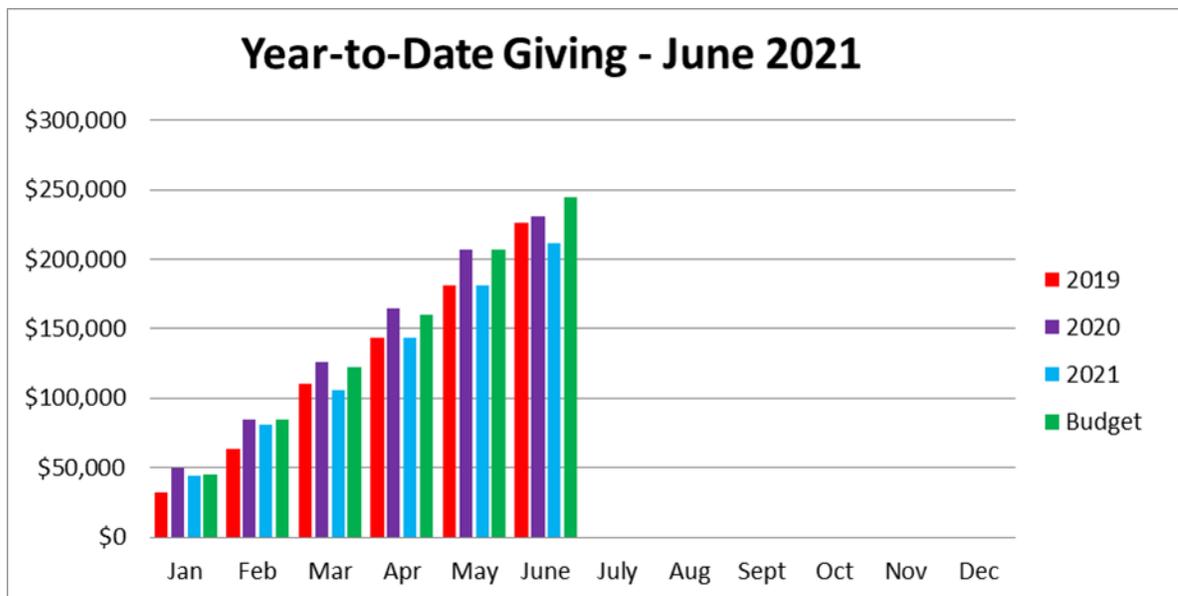
## June Comparison:

4 weeks 2021 - \$30,342

4 weeks 2020 - \$24,615

5 weeks 2019 - \$45,654

**NOTE:** 2021 offerings to date include several large annual donations



# ECC Annual Meeting—Gather 2021

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On June 23-26 of 2021, I attended Gather, our denomination's annual meeting, as a delegate of First Covenant Church which was 100% online this year. Below are my highlights from the meeting:

- The Covenant received 16 churches and 24 new church planters into membership. Seventeen churches were voluntarily removed from the membership roster, mostly due to closing their doors.
- The Strategic Alignment Team (SAT) presented its report for our denomination to be restructured. Delegates will vote on its recommendations at the 136th Annual Meeting in 2022.
- The Location Advisory Committee (LAC) reported on its work to recommend a new location, facility configuration, and next steps resulting from the sale of our Covenant Offices at 8303 W. Higgins. Two potential leases and one buyer came forward, but none of those options worked out. Once the 2022 Annual Meeting votes on the SAT recommendation, the LAC will have more defined decision trees ahead.
- Twenty-six individuals were elected to denominational boards, 17 of whom were elected on the 2020 ballot and nine elected on the 2021 ballot.
- In anticipation of the ordination service on Saturday, June 26, delegates voted to ordain 78 individuals to Word and Sacrament and nine to Word and Service, consecrate two to missionary service, commission one, and finalize the transfer of ordination for nine ministers. I had the honor of being ordained to Word and Sacrament at a special ceremony hosted by the Northwest Conference that evening.
- Delegates voted overwhelmingly (84 percent in favor) to approve the Resolution to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery brought forth by the Christian Action Commission.

Next year's annual meeting will take place **June 23-25, 2022**, in Kansas City, Missouri.

It was an honor to represent our church at this year's annual meeting. If you would like a full summary report or to explore any topic in more depth, visit <http://gather.covchurch.org> where you can download the delegate notebook or watch recordings of the presentations.

Mike Bechtold  
Associate Pastor

## First Choice Clinic Run/Walk For Life | Silent Auction

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First Choice Clinic is hosting the 15th Annual Run/Walk for Life on **Saturday, July 31, 2021**. Registration and Silent Auction open at 7:30 a.m. 5K at 8:00 a.m. and Kids' Fun Run at 9:00 a.m. All taking place at Bay Point Park. Kid's activities include a bounce house, face painting, tattoos, and games. Kids' activities and Fun Run are free!

**\$30 Registration with T-Shirt**  
**\$12 Youth T-Shirt Only**

### To Register:

Text "WALK4LIFE" to 651.615.4114

[www.firstchoiceclinic.org/events](http://www.firstchoiceclinic.org/events)

Questions: [info@firstchoiceclinic.org](mailto:info@firstchoiceclinic.org)



**Rain or Shine. Sorry, No Refunds.**

# Covenant Trust

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## Why it is important to keep your beneficiaries up to date

It is important to name beneficiaries on your retirement accounts and life insurance, and it is equally important to review those beneficiary designations periodically to keep them up to date and aligned with your other estate planning documents. This is true especially after life events like marriage, divorce, or a death in the family. Why? Because once the account owner passes away, the designation may not be changeable.

Here is a true story to demonstrate the importance keeping your beneficiaries current:

An insurance agent went to the home of a surviving spouse a couple of weeks after her husband died. The agent was new on the account and had not met with the couple previously. To prepare for the meeting, the agent gathered all the information on the deceased husband's life insurance policy and the forms for the wife to sign. During the meeting, the agent discovered that the surviving spouse was the deceased husband's second wife. The deceased had gotten divorced 20 years before but never changed the beneficiary of his life insurance policy. In this case, there was nothing that could be done.

As this story shows, it is very important to do routine maintenance on your finances. Naming beneficiaries and making sure they are kept current ensures your assets and life insurance proceeds go to the people and charities you desire when you pass away. Just as you do regular maintenance on your car to keep it running smoothly, it is good practice to do regular "financial maintenance" including reviewing your beneficiaries to ensure they are current.

The Covenant Trust Financial Services Representatives of the Northwest Covenant Conference are available to help you with trusts, legacy planning and investments and are happy to discuss your questions and concerns:

Steve Allison  
Financial Services Rep  
847.583.3264

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## Mark Your Calendars—LBBC Fall Women's Retreat

**September 17 - 19, 2021 Women's Retreat**

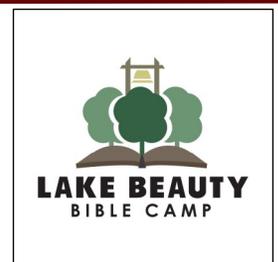
**Theme: Grace**

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**Participation:** Women's Retreat is open to adult & teen women (9th grade & up). We are unable to accommodate infants & young children.

**Deposit:** \$50 non-refundable deposit per person is required to register (online or by phone). Balance due at check-in. Pricing and registration available at [lbbc.com/women-s retreat](http://lbbc.com/women-s-retreat)

Visit their website for full details: [www.lbbc.com](http://www.lbbc.com). Or call: 320.732.3218





# July

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00pm Worship Team Practice	2	3
4 Holy Communion 8:30am Blended Worship 10:30am Contemporary Worship	5 Independence Day Observed All Church Offices Closed	6 9:30am Women's Study 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm MOPS Social 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Room Reserved	7 9:30am Women's Study	8 9:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Worship Team Practice 7:00pm FCC Book Club 7:30pm Adult Softball	9 Darold on vacation 12:00pm Blood Drive	10
11 8:30am Blended Worship 10:30am Contemporary Worship 12:15pm Young Adult Life Group	12 7:30pm Adult Softball	13 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Youth Room Reserved	14 9:30am Women's Study	15 9:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Worship Team Practice	16 Sarah out of the office	17
			LBBC Frontier Camp			
			Mike and Anna out of the office			
18 8:30am Blended Worship 10:30am Contemporary Worship 12:15pm Young Adult Life Group	19	20 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Youth Room Reserved	21 9:30am Women's Study 5:30pm Church Block Party	22 9:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Worship Team Practice	23	24
25 8:30am Blended Worship 10:30am Contemporary Worship 12:15pm Young Adult Life Group	26 6:30pm Council Meeting	27 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Youth Room Reserved	28 9:30am Women's Study	29 9:30am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Youth Water Wars 6:00pm Worship Team Practice 6:30pm Adult Softball 7:30pm Adult Softball	30 Sarah out of the office	31

# Remembering Our Birthday Friends with Prayer

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2nd	Casey Larson	15th	Sarah Benidt-Grave, Indeah Yockey
3rd	Derek Alpers	17th	Jillian Lundell
4th	Fred Klenke	18th	Matt Kline
6th	Melissa Zenzen	19th	Bruce Eckblad
9th	Mike Bechtold, Maddie Snyder	21st	Carole Daggett, Joyce Quade
10th	Mac Walter	24th	Harland Schultz
11th	Jessica Frechette	25th	Janine Mason, Becky Van Loon, Shelley Gilbert
12th	Paul Resel	26th	Dori Svihl, Leanne Overlander
13th	Emmy Sherrard	27th	Beth Schulthess
14th	Jim Nelson	29th	Arlene Freewalt, Angelina Carlisle, Camille Hart, Susan Gronvall

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!



First Covenant Church  
2302 Twin Bluff Road  
Red Wing, MN 55066  
651-388-2385  
[www.redwingfirstcov.org](http://www.redwingfirstcov.org)

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, July 25, 2021

Immediately following the 2nd service

Mark your calendars....