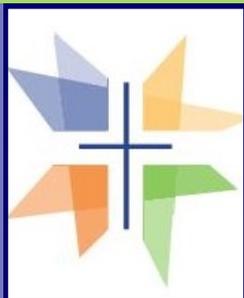


September 2021



FIRST COVENANT CHURCH • RED WING, MN

# MESSENGER

## Becoming Irresistible!

Irresistible! You can be irresistible. We can be irresistible. God has designed us all with the capability of being irresistible. In fact, he wants you to be irresistible in your marriage, in your friendships, in your family, at work, at school, in the church, everywhere! Of course, when most of us think of becoming irresistible, we tend to think of becoming more physically attractive or being more charismatic. Those characteristics are good and definitely contribute to how attractive a person is. But irresistibility runs deeper than looks and charm.

Irresistibility is magnetic. I'm sure you've played with magnets at some point or another. Things are drawn to magnets and stick to magnets. God wants you to be magnetic. God wants us, his people, the Church, to be magnetic. Someone who is irresistible has a variety of qualities that make them relationally attractive...even magnetic. Think of those people in your life that are the most relationally magnetic. Your favorite boss. Your favorite aunt or uncle. The best leaders. They have certain relational qualities that are so attractive, so magnetic, they're irresistible. And God has given you the potential to be irresistible, as well—in your marriage, in your friendships, in your family, at work, at school, in the church, everywhere!

So where's the key to unlock this potential? What's the secret to becoming a person who is irresistible? My friends, the key is found in the "one-anothers" of the bible. With an open heart to the work of God's Spirit in your life and the principles found in the one-anothers of the bible, you too can become a person who is magnetically attractive to others, even irresistible. We, collectively, can become a church that is magnetically attractive to others, even irresistible.

So, if you're wanting to improve your marriage, your friendships, your presence at work, or your social influence in the world, I invite you to join us Sunday mornings beginning September 12 as we explore how to be "Irresistible! The Magnetic Power of the One-Anothers."

You'll develop "A One-Another Attitude," and "A One-Another Presence." And you'll learn how to use "One-Another Words" and "One-Another Actions."

You can also follow this sermon series in your daily devotions by ordering one of the following books. Click the titles to find this book on Amazon.com.

**"Living Out the One Anothers of Scripture"** from Revive Our Hearts ministries. This book is written primarily for women and will serve as the guide for our sermon series.

**"31 Ways to be A 'One-Another' Christian: Loving Others with the Love of Jesus"** by Stuart Scott. This book is written for a general audience and we will provide a bookmark to guide your daily readings so they coincide with the readings found in the other book.

See you then!  
Pastor Jim

## What Grandchildren Teach a Grandpa About God

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For the past 10 days I have been in grandpa mode with my son and family visiting from New York. I am grandpa 24/7 not just when we spend an hour on facetime. So being grandpa 24/7 has reminded me of an important spiritual truth. Here 's how it goes.

When extended family come to live in your house, proper relationships must be observed. Grand children know this grandpa is soft hearted and cane be a push over. Stories read, cookies and ice cream obtained just by using and irresistible smile and the right tone of voice, even by a 21-month-old who has few words to use. And while grandpa would delight in giving them anything they ask for, there are rules grandpa must observe. These rules are set by dad and mom. Even though it is grandpa's house, their father & mother set the rules and grandpa has to follow those rules. Cookies are not always allowed. When it is time for bed reading one more book is maybe best saved for tomorrow.

So, what's the lesson, there is always a Father whose rules are best followed even though its your house / life. It may be my life to live but my heavenly Father is the one whose rules for living are the most important ones to follow. How often do we think that because it is my life, my house I should get to decide what rules I should follow? How often do we read something on the internet or in print, or hear something on the news or from friends and conclude that this seems like the right things to do. Do we take the time to ask, what does my Heavenly Father want me to do when we encounter these other sources of information? The most important thing is that we follow the Father's rules.

As we enter into the fall at First Covenant and try to restart ministry that has been suspended due to the pandemic it is tempting to say, let's do what we have always done, or let's do what that church did or is doing its working for them, or let's follow this popular leader / writer. It is so tempting to see something which seems successful and want to copy it thinking it will bring success to us as well. Most important however is to follow our Heavenly Father's rules for us. Let us do our utmost together to follow His rules. Being a grandpa isn't always easy, but it is a wonderful and blessed part of life.

Roger Johnson  
Church chairman

## Men's Bible Study to Kickoff this Fall

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Hey guys, are you ready for **kickoff**? No, not the NFL you big lug of a lineman, I'm talking men's ministry at First Covenant! Join Dave Fredrickson and I for an informational meeting Sunday, September 19 at 9:45. We'll lay out the game plan and do some brainstorming for the start of the season all the way to playoffs. Also come to hear about our big event in November. So put this 30-minute time out on your calendar and meet with your teammates at First Cov! Can't make it or have questions? Call or text me at the number below.

Cory Doden  
(651) 380-8724

# Comeback Sunday | September 12, 2021

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**Time to regather and finish rebuilding our teams**

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## **New Service Times**

8:30-9:20 a.m. | Blended

10:00-11:00 a.m. | Contemporary

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## **What's Going on the 12th!**

After Service Information Tables to sign up for Kids, Youth and Adult Ministries

Enjoy refreshments at the Café

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### **What's Happening!**

#### **Women's Study on "Great Characters of the Bible"**

Tuesdays | 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. | Disciple Room

#### **Women's Manuscript Study**

Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m. | Disciple Room

**Men's Bible Study** | Resuming in September

**MOPS & MOMSnext** | 2nd Tues & Thurs | 9-11am

**Maybach's Life Group** | Tues | 9:00am | Potter Ridge

**Melton's Life Group** | Sun | 12:30pm | Youth Room

### **What's Starting Up!**

#### **"Meet the Pastors"**

Beginning September 19 | Monthly after 2nd service  
An opportunity for guests and anyone in the church to meet and be met by the pastor(s).

#### **"Explore"**

Sept 26 | Jan 15 | May 15 | starting at 5:00 p.m.  
A three-hour class with dinner exploring the Covenant Affirmations, our church's governance, and what it means to be committed to a church community.

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# Kickoff Sunday | October 3, 2021

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## **Kids Ministries**

[www.redwingfirstcov.org/kids](http://www.redwingfirstcov.org/kids)

### **Nursery**

ages 6 months - age 3 | 10:00 a.m. during 2nd service

### **Discovery Kids**

Pre-K - 6 | 10:00 a.m. during 2nd service

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## **Student Ministries**

[www.redwingfirstcov.org/students](http://www.redwingfirstcov.org/students).

### **Fusion**

Community after-school program building life skills

Tuesdays | 4:00-6:00 p.m.

### **Young Life**

High energy ministry connecting kids to Christ

Thursdays | 4:00-6:00 p.m.

### **7th & 8th Confirmation**

Follow the Confirmation Schedule

## **Adult Groups**

[www.redwingfirstcov.org/groups](http://www.redwingfirstcov.org/groups)

All groups and studies are continuing.

A new Life Group is starting up

### **Sunday Life Group**

9:45 a.m. | Disciple Room

# Congregational Care

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I have been intrigued by the story we have in both Matthew 9: 2-8 (brief rendition) and Mark 2: 1-12. In the Mark story Jesus returns to Capernaum after spending time away preaching, healing and cleansing people. He is home and word quickly gets around that Jesus is back. People begin coming with all of their needs for healing, hurts and even curiosity. Well you know the story. Four people (friends?, family?) bring a paralytic carrying him on his mat to Jesus. Big problem - they can't get near Jesus because of the crowds blocking the way, but there is no one on the roof!! It only takes a second for one of them to suggest the roof as a possible way to Jesus, so (v.4) they climb to the roof, remove it and dig through it to let the man down in Jesus' presence. When Jesus saw their faith he forgives the man's sins and then, so that the Scribes present would know that the "son of Man" can forgive sins, he tells him to get up, take his bed and go home. Meanwhile, on the roof, the four burden bearers are watching, then questioning and then rejoicing. There is healing of the heart and of the body because of their faith that Jesus could and would bring goodness. The faith of the burden bearers was what Jesus saw.

We the church are burden bearers to one another. We draw alongside those in the church that are burdened and those the Lord puts in our path to help them carry the load. We do it in a number of ways using our gifts, talents and abilities to help. Ask the Lord to help us as His body here at First Cov to recognize the opportunities we have to bear another's burdens.

Char Hayes

## Mission Awareness | AVA & Hope Coalition

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**Evangelical Covenant Church - AVA Initiative:** There is an epidemic affecting one out of every four women. They suffer behind closed doors, most often concealing their pain, fearful of those on both sides of the door. These are the victims of abuse. They are neighbors, co-workers, friends, and loved ones. Victims of abuse come from all walks of life, and this epidemic knows no boundaries. While the secular world can offer protection and advice, it cannot provide the one thing most needed; Jesus's healing touch that brings renewal and hope.

The Evangelical Covenant Church addresses sexual assault and its related concern, domestic violence, through the Advocacy for Victims of Abuse (AVA) initiative. As a church we acknowledge the reality of brokenness and sin in the world as well as the power of the community to heal brokenness through Jesus Christ. AVA informs, educates, and raises awareness in our congregations and communities.

**Hope Coalition:** Locally, the Hope Coalition offers crisis ongoing support services to all survivors of sexual assault (Phone: 651-388-9360; Sexual Assault Advocates hotline: 1-800-519-6960). They offer a 24-bed emergency service for women and children under the age of 18 at their Haven of Hope domestic violence shelter. Assistance includes basic needs, housing resources, support groups, safety planning, parental support, resources, referrals, advocacy, assistance with protection and restraining orders, and support throughout court proceedings. (Phone: 651-388-9360; Domestic Abuse Holine: 1-800-369-5214.

Our church supplies Welcome Bags for both adults and children who arrive at Haven of Hope. These bags include: towels and wash clothes, and toiletries such as combs, brushes, liquid or bar soap, toothbrushes and paste, shaving tools, nail clippers, and books and toys (stuffed animals) for children. Donations for these bags can be left in the church donation closet. At this time, donations are needed. Please see Judie Maybach if you have any questions about donations.

# Offering Comparison for August

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## OFFERING UPDATE:

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

34 weeks 2021 - \$275,919 (-13.8% under budget)

34 weeks 2020 - \$289,029

34 weeks 2019 - \$295,419

## August Comparison:

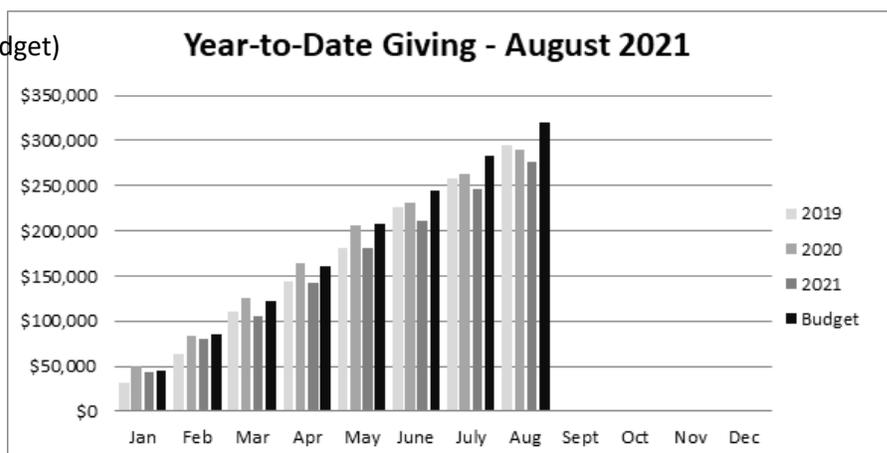
4 weeks 2021 - \$29,043

4 weeks 2020 - \$26,601

4 weeks 2019 - \$37,516

**NOTE:** 2021 offerings to date

include several large annual donations



## GriefShare

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GriefShare, a nondenominational grief support group, will be meeting in person at First Covenant Church, Red Wing, beginning on Monday, September 13th from 7-8:30 P.M. If you would like more information please call Suzy at 507-398-3729, Susan at 651-388-4109 or <http://www.griefshare.org> Registration is appreciated but not necessary.

## MOPS & MOMSnext

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Red Wing MOPS & MOMSnext is starting a new year in September, and we are inviting all moms to join us. We meet twice a month on Wednesday mornings from 9-11 here at FCC. We have breakfast, explore a topic, discuss and pray. Sometimes we do a craft. For more information email [redwingmops@gmail.com](mailto:redwingmops@gmail.com), or call or text Rose Gerdes at 507-421-1807

## Notes of Thanks

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Thank you so much for all of your love and care during my knee replacement surgery and recovery. You blessed and encouraged us with your prayers, get-well cards and delicious meals. Jim and I are grateful to be part of the church family. May God bless all of you!

Love in Christ,  
Carole & Jim Daggett

The 2021 5K and Silent Auction was the most successful ever! Thank you for your sponsorship and faithful support of First Choice Clinic as we serve our community together. What a blessing! May God bless the leadership and body of First Covenant as you seek and serve Him.

In Jesus,  
Kristen Montgomery

# Covenant Trust | Smart Ways to Give From Your IRA

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The fourth quarter of 2021 is fast approaching! Now is an important time to review any individual retirement accounts (IRAs) you own and take action on your Required Minimum Distribution and any potential Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) you would like to make this year.

The rules for IRAs have changed due to the SECURE Act of 2019 and CARES Act of 2020. Here's what you need to know:

## Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)

In 2020, RMDs were waived because of the pandemic, and the age to begin IRA RMDs was increased from 70 ½ to 72. Those who began taking distributions at age 70 ½ prior to 2020 must continue to do so. For 2021, RMDs are not waived; they are required and must be taken by December 31, 2021<sup>1</sup>. Be sure to take your RMD to avoid a 50% excise tax penalty on distribution amounts not taken.

## Inherited IRA Beneficiaries

The new Acts also changed the rules that apply to inherited IRA beneficiaries. Be sure to review these detailed beneficiary changes with a financial advisor. Changes include time limits (5 year/10 year) on required distributions from inherited IRAs by certain beneficiaries, new RMD calculations based on whether the account owner died before or after beginning RMDs, and special rules involved with children and charities both being listed as beneficiaries.

## Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

QCDs continue to be a smart way to put your RMD to good use if you don't need the money and/or don't wish to pay income taxes on the distribution amount. The age for making a QCD, 70 ½, did not change, and gifts up to \$100,000 can be made each year. QCDs can be paid to any qualifying charity, including the Benevolent Care Fund at your Covenant Living community. Contributions given to the Benevolent Care Fund go directly to helping seniors in your Covenant Living community who have outlived their assets and need support to live out their lives there. These charitable gifts are acts of compassion and grace that change lives.

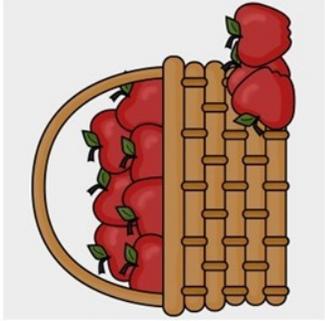
It may be a good idea to meet with a financial advisor if you want to explore these options further. Please feel free to contact one of the Financial Services Representatives in your area:

Steve Allison	Erik Carlson	Karlene Crabtree
Financial Services Rep	Financial Services Rep	Client Services Rep
847-583-3264	847-583-3280	847-583-3277
<a href="mailto:srallison@covenanttrust.com">srallison@covenanttrust.com</a>	<a href="mailto:ewcarlson@covenanttrust.com">ewcarlson@covenanttrust.com</a>	<a href="mailto:kmcrabtree@covenanttrust.com">kmcrabtree@covenanttrust.com</a>

# Financial Peace University | Starting September 14

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Are you ready to take control of your money? *Financial Peace University*(FPU) is a nine-lesson course designed to help you build a budget, dump debt, grow your wealth, and leave money stress behind! Each lesson, taught by Dave Ramsey and his team of financial experts, is based on biblical wisdom and common sense. In your FPU group, you'll be motivated and encouraged by others just like you! FPU is meeting at First Covenant in the Choir Room starting on September 14 from 6:00—8:00 p.m. Contact Tracy Bible at [651-267-3941] for more info. Childcare will not be provided.



# SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>5 HOLY COMMUNION</b> 8:30am Blended Worship 10:30am Contemporary Worship 12:15pm Young Adult Life Group	<b>6 Labor Day</b>	<b>7 Sarah Resume Fall Hours</b> 9:30am Women's Bible Study 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>1</b> 9:30am Women's Bible Study	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Worship Team Practice	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>12 COMEBACK SUNDAY</b> 8:30am Blended Worship 10:00am Contemporary Worship 12:15pm Young Adult Life Group	<b>13</b> 7:00pm GriefShare	<b>14</b> 9:30am Women's Bible Study 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Financial Peace Univ 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>15</b> 9:00am MOPS 9:30am Women's Bible Study	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Worship Team Practice	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19 MEET THE PASTORS</b> 8:30am Blended Worship 9:45am Men's Info Meeting 10:00am Contemporary Worship 11:00am Meet the Pastors 12:15pm Young Adult Life Group 3:00pm Baby Shower	<b>20</b> 7:00pm GriefShare	<b>21</b> 9:30am Women's Bible Study 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Financial Peace Univ 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>22</b> 9:00am MOPS Leaders Mtg 9:30am Women's Bible Study	<b>23</b> 6:00pm Worship Team Practice	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Jim's Writing Week   Pastor Jim out of the office</b>						
<b>26 EXPLORE</b> 8:30am Blended Worship 10:00am Contemporary Worship 12:15pm Young Adult Life Group 5:00pm EXPLORE	<b>27</b> 6:30pm Council Meeting 7:00pm GriefShare	<b>28</b> 9:30am Women's Bible Study 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Financial Peace Univ 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>29</b> 9:00am MOPS 9:30am Women's Bible Study	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Worship Team Practice		
						<b>11</b> 10:00am Bonhoeffer Society

# Remembering Our Birthday Friends with Prayer

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1st	Kevin Frazier, BJ Danielson, Pam Thom	14th	David Fredrickson
2nd	Ann Diercks, Brady Goudy, Elijah Medina, Craig Rutschow	15th	Priscilla Eckblad
3rd	Brad Olson, Londyn Overlander	18th	Gary Fryer
4th	Barb Chapin	19th	Duane Roschen, Tom Zenzen
5th	Pam Johnson, Mike Wachholz	20th	Reggie Sikkink
7th	Carey Coffey	23rd	Sheryl Aschbrenner
9th	Chad Hanson, Jeremy Pfeifer	24th	Logan Gardzinski, Deanna Murphy
10th	Crystal Olson, Owen Quiboloy	25th	Lance Chapin, Alicia Johnson
11th	Candace Bean	26th	Adam Mandelkow, Alice Kleven, Wayne Danielson
12th	Donna Alms, Nancy Kramp	27th	Jay Van Loon
		29th	Amber Snyder

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)