

The Messenger

NEW COVENANT

COMMUNITY CHURCH

A WEST AKRON NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH

The Pastor's Page

*November
2022*

**We are God's;
towards God, therefore, as our only legitimate end,
let every part of our lives be directed.**

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, III, 7

All of us probably know some people who, before committing their support to a particular church, prefer to

adopt a "wait and see" posture.

These people "wait and see" if the denomination does what they want.

They "wait and see" if they approve of the decisions by the Governing Board.

And they "wait and see" if there might be some other organization in which they could invest their resources.

Yet Scripture tells us that this attitude is not a demonstration of a loving commitment to the church, for those who "wait and see" how the marriage will turn out before investing themselves completely in the relationship are inviting failure.

As we begin this year's stewardship focus, everyone among us would probably say that God has been extremely generous to us. In fact, in 2 Corinthians 8:9, Paul reminds us that Jesus Christ, though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty, we might become rich. Paul then goes on to say that God will enrich us in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God (2 Cor. 9:11). Consequently, our gifts of time, talent, and treasure are shared because we recognize how much God has given to us.

During this season of stewardship, all of us are encouraged to respond to God's gifts of grace by pledging or giving to the annual budget which supports the mission of our church, for the gifts offered for this purpose reflects the richness of God's grace and generosity.

This church can do anything that it puts its mind and heart to do. Because New Covenant Community Church is "our" church, we are invited to support it, to encourage it, and to shape its future through our many God-given gifts, so that as stewards of the manifold grace of God, we would serve one another with whatever gift we have received (1 Peter 4:10), and our entire lives would be directed toward God.

tom



Minute for Mission

Wow!!! What a caring and generous congregation we do have!! You have stepped up so wonderfully in response to recent natural disasters in our country. First, to the Eastern Kentucky flooding in late summer, and now, more recently to Hurricane Ian, which devastated the west Florida coast. In response to the flooding in Kentucky, we sent \$1,376 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

The pictures only tell a small part of the suffering our Christian brothers and sisters have endured on the west coast of Florida from the onslaught of Hurricane Ian. Again, New Covenant has answered the call for help from our sister church in the ICC, Peace Community Church in Fort Meyers Beach. At this writing, we have collected \$2,670 to send to their church for the 11 families who lost everything, some their beloved pets!!! That is an AMAZING response and our Mission Committee can only humbly say Thank You!!!

In other Mission news, we will be collecting for Christmas Baskets in December, which in recent years, have become Christmas cards. Although there are reasons to return to hands on, in-person giving of the baskets, the reasons to remain with the cards keep mounting. If anyone would like to share input, please let a committee member know. We would love input from the congregation on this.

- Margie Frlich

From:
R. C. Fleeman, Pastor
Peace Community Church
Fort Myers Beach, Florida

Pictures of the church were taken 3 days after the hurricane because it took that long for the water to recede from the parking lot. The storm surge at our building was between 6 and 7 feet. The elevation of our building is about 5 feet above the parking lot.... Even at 5 feet above [the lot], we still took on about one foot of water.

This first photo is not at our church. It's an aerial view of the main part of the beach. Our building is located about 3 miles north.



We couldn't get a dumpster in here in time to take care of the damage. The trash dumpster we had floated away, so we couldn't even use it. With so much damage in the area it's going take a long time for the county to get rid of all of this debris, but one day at a time.... This picture shows the elevation of the building from the ground.

(PCC continued on page 3)

(PCC continued from page 2)



This is a photo outside the condo of one of our church family members. About 20 people in our church either had their homes damaged [or destroyed] by the storm surge. Some

can be restored, some will be condemned. The water got up to five feet in this condo with the owner and her cat inside. The homeowner, a church member, is just a little taller than 5 feet. Her beloved cat perished in the water. Everything she owned is in this pile of rubble. This scene is repeated in neighborhood after neighborhood. Thousands of homes were affected. The storm surge was deadly to some.

This is a neighborhood only blocks from our church.... Ian did not distinguish between rich and poor but the poor are having the hardest time recovering. With nowhere to go, they are staying in damaged homes.

We are “dried out” and ready to clean up and get things back to some semblance of normalcy. I hope is to be back in this building, worshipping, by the Sunday before Thanksgiving even if all the repairs are not complete.



LAST CHANCE

Our collection for [Rahab Ministries](#) ends this Sunday. During the special combined service held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greg Colbeck challenged churches to collect some much needed items for the ministry, which serves victims of human trafficking/sex trafficking. New Initiatives accepted that challenge, and is now asking for your help.

Here is the list of items we’ve been asked to collect:

- Body wash (full-sized)
- Lotion (full-sized)
- Conditioner (full-sized)
- Ethnic hair care (full-sized)
- Bras & underwear
- Deodorant
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels

(Ethnic hair care products can be found at stores like Target, Walmart or Walgreens.)

Not a big shopper? Consider giving a gift card. The preferred cards are Aldi, Amazon and Walmart.

Please see Nancy Williams if you have any questions.



On November 3, 2022, everyone on the Governing Board and Pastor Nominating Committee will meet with Holy Cow Consultants to take a deeper dive into Holy Cow’s findings.

Your patience while leaders work through this process is greatly appreciated.



AAIC Meeting
Tuesday, November 1
12:00 -1:30 p.m. at
Fairlawn West UCC
 2095 W Market St,
 Akron

Zoom link out later
 Items being discussed are updates on the Anti-Semitism forums, the Sojourner Truth Project in Akron, and the Abolition of the Death Penalty forum. There will also be a preliminary discussion of the 2023 Hunger Walk, which will be May 7, 2023. (NCCC will be involved once again. We had a highly successful 2022 collection and number of walkers.)

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING



Wednesday, November 30
10:30 a.m.
 Fellowship Hall

Come help plan
 Christmas &
 Early 2023 activities.
 Everyone is welcome.
 Please, contact Nancy Williams
 if you have questions.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Plans are underway for our annual Christmas Party, which, because of weekend conflicts, will be held on **Wednesday, December. 7**, beginning at **5:30**. Look for a sign-up sheet in the middle of November. The Fellowship Committee will provide ham, chicken, punch and coffee. Attendees will provide the rest.

Most important, however, and a real treat, is that we will have as entertainment, Mark Alan Wade, renowned hammered dulcimer player, performing for us. In addition to his entertaining, he will lead us in the singing of Christmas carols. More about him later.

JOIN US
AT THE
NEW COVENANT
 COMMUNITY CHURCH
TRUNK-
OR-TREAT

October 29, 2022 | 5 - 6 PM
1587 W. Exchange St., Akron

Bring treats to hand out.
 Decorate your car and wear a costume,
 if you wish.
 Then, join us at Mustard Seed for food
 and fellowship, shortly after 6:00.

MID-TERM ELECTION

NCCC will once again be a polling place. You will probably see booths and signs in Fellowship Hall on the second. This will allow the county to have things in place for



Tuesday, November 8, 2022. This also means the office will be closed on the eighth.

Don't forget to vote.

AAIC and FCC Akron Present

ANTISEMITISM: IN AKRON, IN AMERICA

A 3-PART SERIES

Part 1—“We’ve Seen This Before:
The Historical Path of Anti-Semitism”

Dr. Christopher Seeman, Chair of Humanities &
Professor of Theology, Walsh University



As allegations of antisemitic rhetoric make headlines, Dr. Seeman will draw our focus to where this level of hate has been throughout history and where it is now.

Dr. Seeman passionately promotes interfaith dialogue and has been involved in numerous initiatives to eradicate Antisemitism and Islamophobia from North America.

Thursday, October 27
7:00 p.m.

*First Congregational Church
292 E. Market St., Akron, OH*

To join the event while it is livestreamed,
please go to bit.ly/akron-aaic-youtube



COFFEE HOUR RETURNS

The Fellowship Committee will host coffee hour on a trial basis, starting December 4th. The plan would be to have coffee

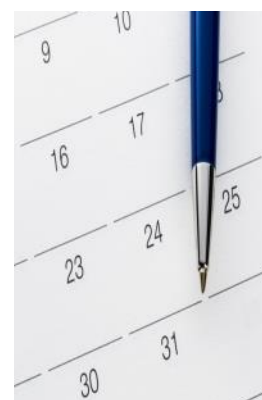
hour on the first Sunday of the month out in the hallway. The Fellowship Committee will make the coffee, bring goodies, and clean up afterwards. We need you to come, enjoy the food and the fellowship. But, in order to do that you need to arrive just 15 minutes earlier. That way you can get into the Sanctuary by 10:30, ready for worship. Let's see how this goes.



SAVE THE DATE

New Covenant Community Church let's prepare to celebrate the work of Rev. Tom Ulrich. His **Retirement Party** is set for **February. 19.** It will be at the **O'Neil House** down the street on Exchange, after church.

We'll have more details with an invitation will be sent out the first week in January.



AAIC and FCC Akron Present

ANTISEMITISM: IN AKRON, IN AMERICA

A 3-PART SERIES

Part 2 – “Rising Numbers: Anti-Semitism in America Today”

James Pasch, Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) will explore the factors that are prompting a rise in hate crimes and rhetoric currently being directed at Jews.

Thursday, November 3

7:00 p.m.

Temple Israel

91 Springside Dr, Akron



James Pasch, ADL Regional Director, serves Ohio, Kentucky, W. Virginia, and Western Pennsylvania. He is serving during a particularly challenging time with incidents of antisemitism rising at unprecedented amounts across the region.

The programs will be livestreamed with the link <https://bit.ly/akron-aaic-youtube>