

August 2017

Covenant Connection

Newsletter of the

EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
OF WHITEHALL

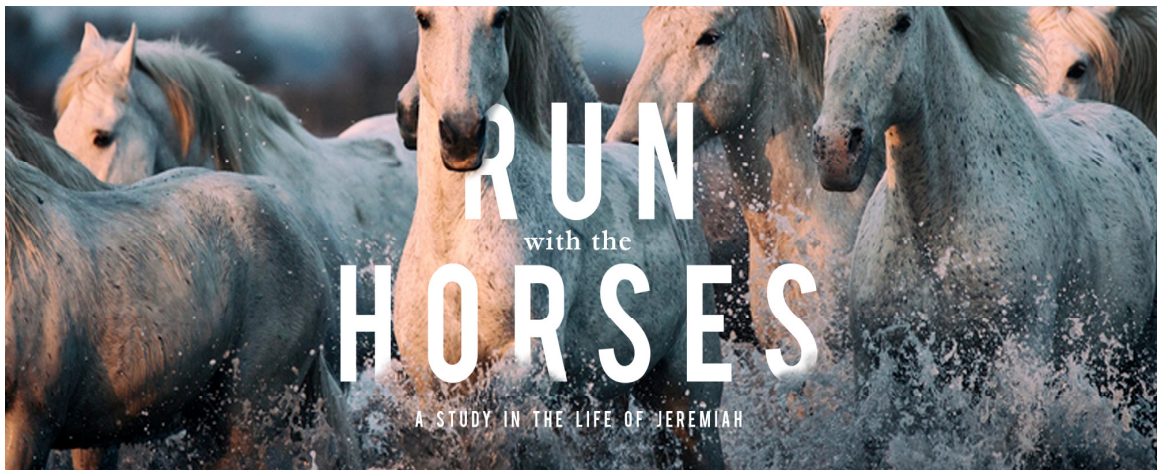
Serving Christ for over 130 years

900 South Warner, Whitehall, MI 49461

(231) 894-4271

www.eccwhitehall.org

Sunday Services: 9:00 & 10:45am



*More people, more like Jesus,
Loving God and loving others.*

Children's Ministries

Mega Sports Camp was a great success! It was an exciting week of fun and learning about Jesus. We love this new program and the kids loved it, too. We had around 100 kids sign up during the week.



Now it's time to think about Power Up and fall programming. We are going to be checking out a new curriculum produced by Watermark Community Church in Dallas, TX. They are considering marketing their original curriculum and wanted churches willing to be part of their Beta Test Group. When I went to the church with the staff for their Church Leaders Conference last May, I was so impressed with Watermark; their children's ministries, their volunteers, their curriculum, all the exciting things they're doing. There are exciting and special things going on there that need to be shared. The children's ministry team decided we should be a part of sharing what this church is doing, so we agreed to join the Beta Test Group in the hopes that we will be able to help them launch their curriculum to the general public in the near future. We are very excited to share this curriculum with our kids and leaders. If you've ever considered serving in children's ministries, now is the time to jump in. We'll all be learning this new curriculum together! We do have several exciting opportunities for you to serve this fall.

Would you prayerfully consider:

- ◆ Leading a group of kids in the new curriculum
- ◆ Telling the Bible story during Large Group time
- ◆ Joining the drama team to put on skits during Large Group time
- ◆ Sharing your music gifts during Large Group time



God might be calling you!! If so, call me!

Not to rush the summer or anything, but as you see Back to School sales, consider picking up small gifts ahead of time for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. New rules for this year: they are no longer accepting candy or toothpaste.

Have a great summer.

Terri Means, Director of Children's Ministries

Children's Ministries Team

Stephanie Ash
Darci Christensen
Autumn Johnson
Terri Means
Kristy Roberge

NURSERY

Infants-age 2

We offer a safe, loving environment!

Pagers are available.

Please be mindful that we are not equipped to have children over 2 years of age in the nursery.



Youth Events

Junior High League

Grades 6-8



Summer Schedule

Incoming 6th graders are welcome!

SUNDAYS, 2:30-5PM

August 6—Tubing on White River

August 9 (WED)—DAY ZERO @ Unity

**August 13—2pm—Church Picnic
@ Erickson Farm**

*Cost involved or the meeting time is different—see
the postcard at Guest Services for more information!



Watch "Jr. High League" on
Facebook for any updates
and details!

Questions? Contact:

Chuck Connell—231-215-5814

Emily Christensen—616-607-6211

Caleb Tallquist—231-670-3764

Hi-League

Grades 9-12

Summer Sunday Nights

Sundays, 6:00pm

Incoming 9th graders are welcome!

August 6—Tubing on White River

August 9 -WED**—Day Zero @ Unity!**

**August 13—2pm—Church Picnic
@ Erickson Farm**

Watch for updates/changes
on Facebook:

"World's Best Youth Group"



Questions? Contact:

Craig Smith—231-215-7075

Emily Christensen—616-607-6211

Caleb Tallquist—231-670-3764



DAY • ZERO

All-Youth Trip to Day Zero @ Unity Festival!

Wednesday, August 9

FREE Admission!

Good Little Giants—Love & The Outcome

Mike Donehey—Tenth Avenue North

We will meet at church for pizza at 4pm.
Bring money if you will want souvenirs or additional
snacks at Unity.

Missions Task Force

Hello!

We are Jeff and Abbie Nelson (and our kids: Cora, Lucie and Hazel) and we are in the first phase of beginning a life of mission work in Guatemala. Abbie is a family nurse practitioner working as a primary care provider in a rural community outside of Portland, and Jeff is a clinical psychologist. We have long felt a calling to use our skills to bring tangible, compassionate, sustainable good to bear on the lives of marginalized and poverty-bound people in Guatemala.



We have been asked to join the staff of CTM in Guatemala City to provide support to Guatemalan pastors, ministry leaders and teachers in the work they are doing. Jeff was asked recently what he hopes to leave behind him as a tangible after years of working in Guatemala. We hope to see a string of healthy churches and other ministries led by emotionally healthy men and women, serving the people of Guatemala well. We are raising support with the goal of being on the field by the start of 2018.

Jeff was raised in Whitehall, went to Hope College for undergraduate degree in psychology and then completed his doctoral work at George Fox University in Oregon. Abbie grew up in rural east Texas, went to Louisiana State University for nursing school and worked as an ER nurse for 10 years before completing graduate training to be a nurse practitioner at Gonzaga University in 2013.

MTF Supported Ministries

These are the missionaries and ministries selected by the MTF to support financially and in prayer for 2017. Watch for Mission Moments from some of these folks in 2017!

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Jared & Hannah Baker—France* | Bridge to Life |
| Paul & Allie Beeghly—Thailand | Congo Jesus Film Project |
| Randy Bevis—Thailand* | Covenant Merge Ministries* |
| Nick & Chelsea Dombrowski—Intervarsity | LoveINC—Muskegon |
| Jochy & Tammi Hernandez—Dominican Rep.* | M.A.D. House Ministries/Muskegon |
| Pratim & Vanita Masih—India | Patzicia Church in Guatemala |
| Jeff & Abbie Nelson—Guatemala* | Muskegon Pregnancy Services |
| Bob & Suzanne Scott—South Africa | Muskegon Rescue Mission |
| Dave & Daphne Smith—India | Western Michigan Teen Challenge |
| Alex & Amanda Velasco—Merge* | White Lake YFC—Ian Kennedy |
| | <i>*Covenant Missionaries</i> |

Have you visited our Website?

We are highlighting just a few of the many advantages of visiting the website for a variety of information!

A lot of valuable information is under the "RESOURCES" tab, such as:

LINK TO ONLINE GIVING!

This allows you to continue to tithe even when you have to miss a Sunday service. Under the "Resources" tab, you will see a link to our giving page. From there you will find a link to our online giving portal.

Questions? Contact Pastor Justin—jporath@eccwhitehall.org.



STAYING "IN THE KNOW...."



All of the weekly bulletin information can be found in the "print resources" section of the RESOURCES tab. You can look at the weekly bulletin, announcement page and the current newsletter.

MISS A SERMON OR WANT TO LISTEN AGAIN?

Click on the "sermons" section of the RESOURCES tab and you will find sermons from the beginning of 2017, including a link to each sermon outline!



ECC Spring Golf Fellowship

Mondays, 1:00pm

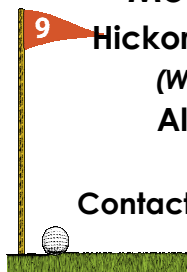
Hickory Knoll Golf Course

(Weather permitting)

All are welcome!

Questions?

Contact Clarence (894-6084).



Tuesday Evenings,

Men's Golf—6:00pm

(Informal—play when you can!)

August—Stonegate GC

There is an e-mail distribution list to notify players of location, so contact Breck to be added!

breckadkins@comcast.net (766-2592).



ECC Calendar of Events

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00 & 10:45am Worship JHL—2:30-5pm HL-Summer Sunday Nights	7 ECC Golf—1pm Everyone welcome! Hickory Knoll GC	8 CQ II @ Linda Wood's 7020 Durham, Whitehall 6-9pm Men's Golf—6pm @ Stonegate GC	9  DAY • ZERO HL & JHL DAY ZERO @ Unity Festival!	10	11	12
13 9:00 & 10:45am Worship All-Church Picnic @ Erickson Farm 2pm	14 ECC Golf—1pm Everyone welcome! Hickory Knoll GC	15 Men's Golf—6pm @ Stonegate GC	16	17	18	19
20 9:00 & 10:45am Worship	21 ECC Golf—1pm Everyone welcome! Hickory Knoll GC	22 CQ II @ Linda Wood's 7020 Durham, Whitehall 6-9pm Men's Golf—6pm @ Stonegate GC	23	24	25	26
27 9:00 & 10:45am Worship Baptism—5pm location TBA	28 ECC Golf—1pm Everyone welcome! Hickory Knoll GC	29 Men's Golf—6pm @ Stonegate GC	30	31		

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 13
2:00pm
@ Erickson Farm



Join us for our annual church picnic at the Erickson Farm!
Drinks and table service are provided.

Who: Everyone!!

Where: Erickson Farm, 9459 S. 56th Avenue, Montague

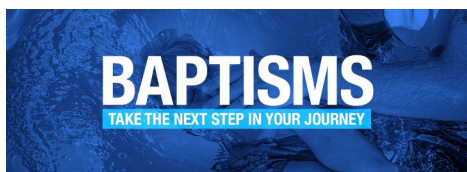
Why: Because it is a great atmosphere to meet new people and reconnect with the ECC community!

What to bring: A dish to pass & dessert; lawn chairs, swimsuits (if you plan to get wet).

Activities: Water slide, volleyball, roof ball, Chicago softball, trampolines, "the cloud"....and more!

Other notes: Campfire and hot dog roast in the evening for those who remain.

Questions? Contact the church office! 894-4271



ECC SUMMER BAPTISM SERVICE
AUGUST 27, 5:00pm
Location—TBA

Our summer baptism services are a special time for our church family. For those being baptized, it is a public declaration of faith! For others, it is the time to show our support as a community of faith by coming alongside those being baptized.

Please contact Pastor Tom if you would like to know more about this important declaration of faith! If you would like to be baptized on August 27, please let us know on your communication card.

Building Fund Update


2017 Building Fund Update

After raising ALL funds for two major projects over the last three years totaling about \$845,00.00 we are absolutely amazed at what God has done! No debt and the place to pursue ministries full speed ahead. Thank you Lord!

For the near future the building fund needs to be directed at some important maintenance issues, as presented at the April Congregational Meeting:

1. The church tower is leaking badly mostly through the disintegrating brick work. This has been a long term issue. The only way to address this long term is to shorten the tower, put a roof on it with overhangs to keep the water from finding a way into the brick. This will soon be designed and submitted for approval. **Cost guess \$20,000 - \$30,000 (this is just a range)**
2. The flat roof between the old building and the new additions is completely worn out and only has a max of two years left (with patching) and needs replacement . Plus some gym roof repairs. **(+/- \$12,000.00)**
3. The gym floor needs to be replaced with a semi hard smooth floor.
(+/- 15,000.00)
4. The boilers are at getting old and extremely high efficient boilers are now available. They will pay for themselves in savings after 5-8 years.
Cost guess \$50,000 - \$60,000 (this is just a range)

Total projected maintenance costs 1-4: \$97,000.00 - \$117,000.00

We would like to do this over a 2-4 year period in the order listed. We are asking everyone to consider giving some amount towards the building fund above your regular tithe so we can put these issues to rest asap. See the brick fundraiser information on page 9 for an additional way to contribute to the Building Fund. If you have questions, please contact Dave Holly (329-9911) or Ray Morse (670-0165). 

Thank You.

Leadership Team

Connections Life Group Serving

	1ST SERVICE	2ND SERVICE
AUGUST 6	CHRISTENSEN	CRAIG SMITH
AUGUST 13		ROBERGE
AUGUST 20	GREEN	
AUGUST 27	MURPHY	HOGLUND

Highlighted areas above are opportunities to serve! If you are not part of a life group and would like to serve in this ministry, there are definitely opportunities for you! Questions? Contact Justin Porath at 773-888-3730 or jporath@eccwhitehall.org.

Opportunities to Serve



Looking for a place to serve here at ECC?

We have a lot of opportunities available through our 9 ministry

Adult Ministries	Finance & Stewardship
Building & Grounds	Missions
Care	Student Ministry
Children's Ministry	Worship Ministry
Connect	

Let us know on your communication card or call the office for more information about any of these teams!

Bricks for the Building!

ECC's Brick Fundraiser is still on!

There is still an opportunity to purchase one of the personalized brick pavers on the south side of the building. The cost is \$100, with a substantial percentage going directly to the Building Fund! The order forms are at the Guest Services Desk. Bricks can have up to 3 lines and each line may contain 20 spaces (including blank spaces).



If you have any questions please contact Stephanie Schmiedeknecht at 893-5077 or email schmied6@juno.com(preferred).

Helping Others....

RECYCLE FOR SIGHT! DO YOU HAVE GENTLY USED EYEGLASSES THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO DONATE?

The Lions Club has a program to recycle eyeglasses for the needy! Volunteers prepare the glasses for their new owner. Please drop off your donated glasses to the bin under the Guest Services cabinet.

Thank you for making a difference!



WHITE LAKE FOOD PANTRY

We continue to collect non-perishable food

items for the Lebanon Lutheran Food Pantry. Please drop your donations off at Guest Services, marked "food pantry", or you can drop them off right at Lebanon Lutheran Church. Thank you for giving to others!



Benevolence

BENEVOLENCE FUND—If you would like to contribute to this fund, please place your donation in the envelope found in the pew, mark "Benevolence" and place it in the offering plate. This fund assists people from our church body and the community who are in need. Thank you for giving to others!

Have you noticed the **Faith in Action** board just outside the Sanctuary?

At ECC we want to be a community where it is extremely difficult *not* to be cared for and

blessed. But sometimes it's hard to know where to begin. To make this easier, we have a tool available to ECC members and friends.

If you have a need or know someone in the ECC community that does, simply text or call into the hotline or contact Pastor Justin.

Text or leave a message on our 24 hour hotline at:

(231) 846-3123 with direct need requests, or to express interest in meeting a need.

Or

Contact Pastor Justin directly at: jporath@eccwhitehall.org or at **773-888-3730**.



PLCBC Campers!



Please be in prayer for our ECC youth who are spending time at
Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp in August!

Junior High 2—July 30-Aug 5

Bailey Belinger
Trevin Bernhardt
Colton Blankstrom
Joel Booth
Luke Booth
Virginia Boughner
Haley Breuker
Chloe Christensen
Ally Collins
Drew Collins
Madison Diamond-Wright
Ashton Dobson
David Dobson
Skeets Dusenberry
Lance Grattafiori
Allison Hall
Elita Kennedy
Hanna Metcalf
Michael Moore
Gabriella Moreau
Chase Niezurawski
Paul Olson
Erica Peets
Owen Petersen
Owen Powers
Paige Scheid
Graycen Shepherd
Lauren Smith
Sam Smith
Brooke Stark
Collin Stopczynski
Dillin Stopczynski
Tommy Stopczynski
Parker Swartz

Trailblazer 2 –Aug 6-12

(Grades 4-6)
Owen Bass
Nathan Betz
Faith Blamer
Trevor Breuker
Maizie Collins
Audrey Conners
Natalie Conners
Anika Culp
Emma-Kaye Dusenberry
Addyson Hall
Logan Hansen
Annie Jensen
Chloe Jensen
Justin Jensen
Kayden Johnson
Kennedy Johnson
Shayla Johnson
Carson McCullough
Lili Morin
Mason Mulnix
Isabelle Musk
Taylor Ottinger
Eli Petersen
Leah Poulin
Sidney Shepherd
Kyle Stratton
Chase Switanowski
Emily Szot
Evan Thomas
Allie VanAntwerp
Tyler VanAntwerp
Emily VanDam
Lauren Wright
Alissa Wynn

Pathfinders 2—Aug 13-15

(Grades 2-3)
Clayton Betz
Madalyn Betz
Emerson Burr
Joselyn Burr
Chandler Culp
Isla Dykman
Addison Greenwood
Erica Hansen
Marley Nienhouse
Collin Ottinger
Rachel Szot
Joseph Thommen
Myleigh Wright

"Unplugged" FAMILY RETREAT!

Why Retreat?

STOP YOUR WATCH.

Sometimes hearing from God means slowing down and unplugging from all the distractions, responsibilities, and stresses that crowd our thoughts virtually non-stop. Everything that happens at camp is designed to slow time down and help us reconnect with ourselves and our God.

EAT. PLAY. KNOW.

Skip the awkward small talk and get to know people in their natural element - eating together, playing together, enjoying a crackling fire at the waterfront or grabbing a morning coffee at the canteen.

PRAY WITH A VIEW.

The landscape of Portage Lake is designed to offer you plenty of restful spaces to reconnect with God and God's creation. Pray through a sunset. Claim your own Adirondack chair near the

water for your morning Bible study, or take a woodland walk and just listen for a while.

LET EVERYTHING BE GROUNDED IN GOD'S LOVE.

That sense of ease and groundedness you get when you have taken time to express gratitude to the God who guides and grows you... that's what we mean by worship. Make your way to the chapel to begin your day with worship among friends and a message that will leave you laughing and pondering all the day long.

\$275 PER FAMILY (ALL INCLUSIVE)

\$75 PER INDIVIDUAL (ALL INCLUSIVE)

FREE FOR AGES 0-3!

Financial assistance available

Register at eccwhitehall.org or portagelake.org



Registration forms are at Guest Services!

You can also register online at www.portagelake.org/2017-18retreats

ECC Leadership

2017 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Paul Christensen, Chairman—894-4629
Dick Smith, Vice Chairman—894-9363
Brent Brower, Secretary—616-607-6084
John Rupert, Treasurer—893-4071
Pastor Tom Beeghly, Member—215-3802
David Holly, Member—329-9911
Todd Jensen, Member—312-203-9247
Brian Rood, Member—766-9137

Questions? Please don't hesitate to contact one of our Leadership Team members.

2017 MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Adult Ministries—Justin Porath—894-4271
Bldg. & Grounds—Ray Morse—670-0165
Children's Ministries—Terri Means—894-6531
Care—Justin Porath—894-4271
Connect—Justin Porath—894-4271
Finance & Stewardship—John Rupert—893-4071
Missions—Lee Dickinson—894-2572
Ministry Care Team—Dick Smith—894-9363
Technology—Brian Rood—766-9137
Worship—Craig Smith—215-7075
Youth — Craig Smith—215-7075