

December 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

Happy December! I hope life hasn't gotten too hectic for you yet this holiday season. If not, let me help you with that!

Our student Christmas program, Lights! Camera! Christmas! will be on December 10 at 6:00pm. This is a talent show for anyone from our Toddler class through high school. Adults accompanied by a student are welcome, too! If your student would still like to get in on this, please let me know as soon as possible and we'll see if we can still make it happen. Even if you don't have a child in the program, come out enjoy this evening. You will be blessed by the talent in this church.



Power Up will have regular programming during both services on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Nursery will be provided during the 5:00pm service only on Christmas Eve.

If you are looking for a family advent devotional, let me know. I can help you with that.

Take some time this month to sit in your living room with only the tree lights on and some quiet Christmas music, maybe a cup of hot cocoa or eggnog. Take time to reflect on the precious baby who is the Savior of the world!

Merry Christmas!

Terri Means
Director of Children's Ministries



NO AWANA ON DECEMBER 26 & JANUARY 2.
WE WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 9!

Children's Ministries Team

*Darci Christensen
Autumn Johnson
Terri Means
Kristy Roberge
Jeni Stout*

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
Wednesdays
8:00pm



Watch for updates on Facebook for "World's Best Youth Group" on Facebook for updates and

Contact: Chris Smith—31-215-5814

Hi-League

Grades 9-12
Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00pm
**NO YOUTH GROUPS ON
DECEMBER 20 & 27!**

Watch for updates/changes on Facebook: "World's Best Youth Group"



Questions? Contact:
Craig Smith—231-215-7075

JUNIOR
BREAKFAST
SUNDAYS, 9:00-10:00am
Grade 6-8
BREAKFAST



Food, fun, and fellowship. Word and more.....Join us and your friend, too!

Questions? Contact Mark Connell at
894-422-1514 or
cconnell@eastwhitehall.org.



CHIC 2018
July 15-20, 2018
University of Tennessee

U N I T E
CHIC2018

Calling all Hi-Leaguers! CHIC is coming next summer, and we want as many of our students as possible to go to this amazing conference.

Cost: \$649
(early bird price is \$599—closes Jan.18)

Fundraising will start soon, so plan to be a part of it.

Soup Sundays, coffee sales....more information to come!

PARENTS: You can use your SCRIP earnings to help pay for this trip!

**NO BREAKFAST CLUB ON
DECEMBER 24 & 31!**

**NO WEDNESDAY
YOUTH ACTIVITIES
ON DECEMBER 20 & 27.**

Missions Task Force

After the birth of our firstborn, Robin Noël, we made the move back to Texas this past July but this time to Houston to be closer to Chelsea's family. Due to Hurricane Harvey we needed to evacuate and sadly some of our family were directly affected. Thankfully, though, we were safe and able to resume life rather quickly. Chelsea has enjoyed being around family, caring for Robin, and has been using her art degree to make mixed-media paintings that she hopes to sell in the future.

INTERVARSITY
AT RICE



Nick took a new position working at Rice University, also known as the "Ivy of the South". The chapter at Rice was a powerhouse back in the day but has struggled for the last 5-7 years and had ceased to exist when Nick stepped on campus. Nick immediately met with numerous campus ministers, faculty, and administrators to get a lay of the land and to better discern where God was at work.

Since then Nick has established a weekly prayer meeting, Bible study, and high-commitment discipleship group on campus with 7-8 students and one faculty member involved. By what seems nothing else other than divine favor he has also made key connections with professors, the campus chief of police, has been invited to prestigious campus gatherings, and holds an official position in one of the dorms.

Thank you so much for partnering to bring God's kingdom to arguably one of the world's most influential places...the university.

Warmly,
Nick, Chelsea, & Robin Noël

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 |
| | *Covenant Missionaries |

Treats Needed!

TREATS NEEDED FOR OUR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18!

We are interested in having a wide variety of treats for our Christmas Worship Celebration on Sunday, December 17. If you are willing to make an appetizer or a sweet treat, please contact Jodi Stratton at 578-6478 or jodistratton@yahoo.com.



Singers Needed!

SINGERS NEEDED—CHRISTMAS WORSHIP CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 9AM & 10:45AM

Please consider sharing your gifts in our Christmas Praise and Worship Choir. We look forward to this time of the year and we also look forward to all of the fresh faces that sign up for this special program.

We will practice on Sundays immediately after church beginning November 26 and continuing through December 10, with our final practice on Saturday, December 16 from 10am-12pm.

Please sign up on your communication card with your contact information or you can contact Craig directly at csmith@eccwhitehall.org or 215-7075.



Covenant Quilters—December

CQI will meet Dec. 4 and 18. Please join us the Life House to tie quilts or to sew, using our new sewing room. You don't need to bring a thing - everything you need is there and ready to go . And no great skills are needed so don't be shy. Come, try it out. We meet from 1:00-3:00. Questions? Contact Lee Dickinson, 231-894-2572, jerlee68@gmail.com or Barb Pulaski, 231 -894-8022.



CQII will not be meeting in December. In January we will resume our second and fourth Tuesday meetings. We'll meet January 9 and 23 at The Lab, 7020 Durham, Whitehall; 5-9:00 pm. There is room for you. Contact Linda Wood, 231-292-1143, linbobwood@aol.com

ECC Calendar of Events

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Men's Huddle 7:30-8:45am
3 9:00 & 10:45am Worship	4 Covenant Quilters I 1-4pm @ Lifehouse Men's Basketball HS & older 7pm	5 AWANA—6:30-80pm Preschool—6th grade	6 Junior High @ ECC 6:30-8pm Hi-League @ ECC 7:30-9pm	7	8	9 Adult Fellowship Bowling & Pizza 4-8pm
10 9:00 & 10:45am Worship Lights! Camera! Christmas! 6pm	11 Men's Basketball HS & older 7pm	12 NO CQII AWANA—6:30-80pm Preschool—6th grade	13 Junior High @ ECC 6:30-8pm Hi-League @ ECC 7:30-9pm	14	15	16
17 9:00 & 10:45am Christmas Worship Celebration!	18 Covenant Quilters I 1-4pm @ Lifehouse Men's Basketball HS & older 7pm	19 AWANA—6:30-80pm Preschool—6th grade	20 NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES!	21	22	23
24 9:00 & 10:45am Worship Candlelight Services 5 & 11pm	25 	26 NO AWANA NO CQII	27 NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES!	28	29	30
31 9:00 & 10:45am Worship						

Adult Fellowship Bowling & Pizza



EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
Whitehall, Michigan

ADULT FELLOWSHIP BOWLING and PIZZA

Saturday, December 9

4PM—8PM

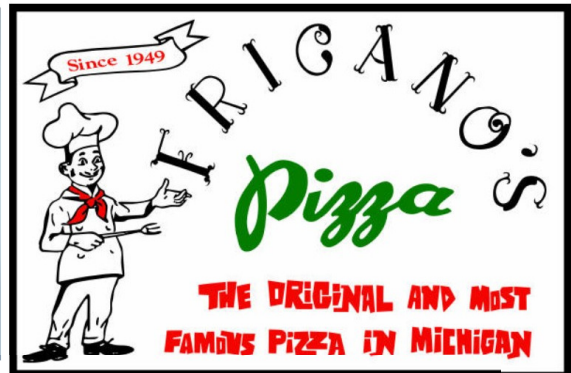
Northway Lanes Bowling Alley—4-6pm

Cost: \$8.50 for 2 games and shoes

Fricano's Pizza—6-8pm

Cost: \$11.50 per Pizza

OUR HI-LEAGUE STUDENTS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING CHIC WILL BE PROVIDING CHILDCARE FOR THIS EVENT FROM 3:30-8:30PM AT THE CHURCH. YOUR DONATIONS FOR CHILDCARE WILL HELP RAISE MONEY FOR STUDENTS GOING TO CHIC! RSVP ON YOUR COMMUNICATION CARD.



Signup deadline is December 3!

Operation Christmas Child Update

THANK YOU!

We delivered 66 boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Thank you for your generosity!



Life Groups

Interested in one of our Life Groups? Use the contact information provided below, or If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Justin @ 894-4271.

DAY / TIME	LEADER(S)	CONTACT	LOCATION	STUDY TYPE
Sunday (every other) 1:00 PM	Craig & Michelle Smith	Craig: (231) 215-7075	Rotating / TBD	Sermon Study
Sunday 5:00 PM	Tom & Kristine Beeghly	Tom: (231) 215-3802	6486 Terravita Drive, Whitehall	Sermon Study
Sunday 6:00 PM	Nate Baker & Scott Breuker	Nate: (231) 670-1829 Scott: (231) 893-1749	1540 Anchor Court, Whitehall	Sermon Study
Sunday 6:30 PM	Paul & Darci Christensen	Paul: (616) 607-6986	Rotating / TBD	Topical
Sunday 7:00 PM	Carol & Brian Rood Post High School College	Carol: (231) 766-9137	615 E. Lewis St (Lifehouse next door to church)	Sermon/Topical
Sunday 5:00 PM	Stephanie Schmiedeknecht	Stephanie: (231) 465-1488	4838 Nestrom, Whitehall	Sermon/Topical
Monday 9:30 AM	Molly Morin Ladies Study	Molly: (231) 893-1463	900 S. Warner Street, Whitehall (Church)	Book Study
Monday 7:00 PM	Justin & Lacy Porath	Justin: (773) 888-3730 Lacy: (269) 251-8703	9180 Dacey St. Montague, MI	Bible Study
Tuesday 1:00 PM	Carol Rood Ladies' Study	Carol: (231) 766-9137	5337 W. McMillan, Muskegon, 49445	Sermon Study
Tuesday 7:00 PM	Steve Green Men's Study	Steve: (231) 286-6280	Rotating / 540 West Holton Whitehall Rd.	Sermon Study
Tuesday 6:30 PM	Bobbi Friend	Bobbi: (231) 830-5899	615 E. Lewis St (Lifehouse next door to church)	Topical
Tuesday 7:00 PM	Lee Dickinson	Lee: (231) 894-2572	123 Livingston St., Whitehall	Gospel of Mark (Spanish) Speaking)

DAY / TIME	LEADER(S)	CONTACT	LOCATION	STUDY TYPE
Wednesday 7:00 PM	Dick & Cheryl Smith	Cheryl: (231) 894-9363	6076 W. Skeels, Montague	Sermon Study
Wednesday 7:00 PM	Matt & Kristy Roberge	Kristy: (906) 869-4278 Matt: (231) 894-0638	Rotating / TBD	Topical Sermon
Wednesday 7:00 PM	Charley Hoglund Steve Clark	Charley: (231) 894-6402 Steve Clark: (231) 894-4374	615 E. Lewis St <i>(Lifehouse next door to church)</i>	Topical Sermon
Wednesday 7:00 PM	Matt & SueEllen Bendelow Brent & Melissa Brower	Matt: (231) 920-0613	900 S. Warner Street, Whitehall <i>(Church)</i>	Topical / Book Study
Wednesday 8:00 AM	Linda Wood	Linda: (231) 292-1143	7020 Durham Road, Whitehall	Book of Ephesians
Wednesday 7:00 PM	Todd & Jennifer Jensen	Jennifer: (312) 218-4997	Rotating / TBD	Sermon Study
Thursday 3:30 PM	Barb Pulaski	Barb: (231) 894-8022	900 S. Warner Street, Whitehall <i>(Church)</i>	Sermon Study
Thursday 7:00 PM	Bruce & Jan Potter	Jan: (231) 893-6820	Rotating / TBD	Topical
Thursday 7:00 PM	Linda Wood	Linda: (231) 292-1143	615 E. Lewis Street <i>(Lifehouse next door to church)</i>	Book of Ephesians

Connect - Life Group Serving

	1ST SERVICE	2ND SERVICE
DECEMBER 3		CRAIG SMITH
DECEMBER 10	STEVE GREEN	ROBERGE
DECEMBER 17	BENDELOW	CHRISTENSEN
DECEMBER 24	SCHMIEDEKNECHT	HOGLUND
DECEMBER 31	YOUTH	YOUTH

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.

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. We experience a large number of requests as the holidays come around, so please consider contributing to this fund.

Thank you for giving to others!

Monthly Prayer Opportunity

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Our next Monthly **OPEN HOUSE Prayer Night** will be held **Thursday, December 7th, 7-8pm.**

PRAYER
changes things

- ◆ **ARE YOU IN NEED OF PRAYER?**
- ◆ **SEEKING A QUIET PLACE TO BE ALONE WITH GOD AND PRAY SILENTLY?**
- ◆ **DESIRE TO PRAY FOR AND WITH OTHERS?**

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20

Come for the hour or a few minutes, come to be heard and hear from the Lord.

Questions? Contact Sonia Gilbert [231-206-0261](tel:231-206-0261) or Laura Sikkenga [231-730-0455](tel:231-730-0455).

Christmas Schedule



LIGHTS! CAMERA! CHRISTMAS!
Sunday, December 10-6pm

Student Talent Show - Ages Preschool - 12th grade!

CHRISTMAS
WORSHIP
CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
9:00AM & 10:45AM



CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICES

5:00PM & 11:00PM



Healthy Aging Workshop



DECEMBER 14, 2017
**HEALTHY AGING
WORKSHOP**

...The Truth about Aging

What can we expect as we age? Is there a way to make the aging process more comfortable, predictable, less stressful and more joyful? This workshop will explore the myths and truths about aging. Learn how to improve memory, when to seek the advice of a professional, find the community resources you never knew existed and stay connected with your cohorts! Any adult on the aging journey or caring for someone that is aging are welcome to attend. ***Go to wlace.org and sign up today!***



Everyone's doing it aging

Aging is a journey we all take for the first time. It requires skills that we may not even know we need!

**Learn where to find
the resources you
need to stay healthy,
happy and connected
to others.**

Where?

White Lake Community
Center
541 E. Slocum St.
Whitehall, MI

**Register by
calling:
(231) 893-0515 or
wlace.org**

DECEMBER 14, 2017
9 AM – 12 PM
BREAK @ 10 AM
COST - \$5
COFFEE, MUFFINS AND FRUIT