

May 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](http://www.eccwhitehall.org)

Sunday Services: 9:00 & 10:45am



Our new sermon  
series studying  
the life of  
Jeremiah starts  
Sunday, May 21!

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

# Children's Ministries

There are exciting things happening in Children's Ministries at ECC! We had a wonderful Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday with kids waving palm branches in the services, visitors on Easter and everyone learning that Jesus is Alive!



**KidCheck**  
SECURE CHECK-IN FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

There are exciting changes in KidCheck. You are now able to check your child or yourself as a volunteer in from home on a smart phone. Just download the kidcheck app, follow the instructions for checking in and printing labels and as soon as you're within bluetooth range of the church the app will prompt you to complete the check in. Your labels will be printed when you enter the building!

## The big news for this summer is our new summer program:

### **Mega Sports Camp! July 9-13 at 6:00-8:30 PM.**



This will take the place of the traditional VBS we've done in the past. The focus of this camp is sports. We will be offering three sports this year; **soccer, basketball and cheerleading**. Kids will pick ONE sport to participate in for the week. They will be put into small groups or crews just as in past years and will attend two clinics for the sport they choose. Then they will have three rallies each evening where they will learn songs and hear God's Word and testimony of Christian athletes. There are three enrichment opportunities available for those who are not athletically inclined; **cooking, cardmaking and drama**. We will offer these if we find leaders for them. This program is open to all children K-5<sup>th</sup> grade- this includes children entering kindergarten or Young Fives through those who have completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade. **There is no preschool option this year.**

We chose this program because we believe sports is a universal language. Most kids, churched and unchurched love sports and will come to an event that involves sports. We are hoping to draw more kids who need to hear about Jesus Christ who may not come just to hear a Bible story but will come to play soccer or basketball or to learn cheerleading. But once here they will also learn the amazing story of what Jesus has done for them!

Please pray about your role in this exciting new program. We will need huddle coaches to lead the small groups of kids. You do not need to be skilled in sports to be a huddle coach. We will need people to work in the snack area. We need people to help with rally time. We need set designers and set-up crews. We need a prayer team and a missions team and a publicity team. There are so many ways to be involved. Volunteer signups are available at Guest Services. Call us before we call you! You can call Heather VanVleet our coordinator at 231-672-0224 or Terri at 231-894-4271.

Blessings! Terri Means, Director of Children's Ministries

# Youth Events

## Junior High League

Grades 6-8



**Wednesdays**

**6:30-8pm**

**@ ECC!**

**Plus....open gym starts at  
5:30pm on most Wednesdays!**

**Games, food, fun!**



Watch "Jr. High League" on  
Facebook for any updates or  
changes and details to  
come.....

**Questions? Contact Chuck Connell  
at 894-4271 or 215-5814.**

## JUNIOR HIGH BREAKFAST CLUB

**SUNDAYS, 9-10:15AM**

**Grades 6-8**

**THE LAST WEEK FOR BREAKFAST CLUB  
IS JUNE 4!**

Food, fun, good news from God's Word and  
more.....Join us and invite a friend, too!

Questions? Contact Chuck Connell at  
894-4271, 215-5814 or  
cconnell@eccwhitehall.org.



## Hi-League

**Grades 9-12**

**Wednesdays, 7:30-9pm**

Watch for updates/changes  
on Facebook:

"World's Best Youth Group"



**Questions? Contact Craig Smith at  
894-4271, 215-7075 or  
csmith@eccwhitehall.org.**

## HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ONLY

**"LEGACY RETREAT"**

May 6, 4PM—May 7, 10am

Steak fry, movie, games, "Life After Hi-  
League" college workshop, communion,  
blessing, bonfires, Bibles, s'mores,  
journals.....Cost—\$0.....RSVP to Craig  
ASAP (231) 215-7075.



The Hi-League & Junior  
High Summer Sunday  
Schedule is coming  
soon!

Contact Craig or Chuck for  
more details....

# Missions Task Force

## Covenant Merge Ministries

Merge Ministries is a Covenant organization that sets up mission trips for all Covenant churches. It offers experienced Merge staff to prepare missions teams spiritually and logistically for a



mission trip. It sets up all details for the trip including projects, food, ground transportation, housing, and local connections. Many of Merge's staff live in the countries visited by mission teams. They understand the cultures of both the USA and the country being visited. Merge has been organizing mission trips for over 18 years and has had over 13,000 participants. Merge's connections in the host country lead to savings in housing, ground transportation, food, tourist events, and more. Merge includes many different ministries in its trips to utilize the gifts of those who intend to further the Kingdom of God through the mission trip. Merge's purpose is to organize trips that are mutually beneficial and to avoid inappropriate mission thinking or unhealthy views of poverty. Merge staff is with the mission team for the entire trip to guide and to provide help in case of emergencies, even providing interpreters for the group.

Whitehall ECC has supported Merge for years, even before we actively took part in mission trips. Merge arranges our trips to Guatemala every 3 years. We have had direct contact with Dale Lusk, director of Merge, and also Alex Velasco, a trip coordinator. Alex and Amanda and their three boys are planning to move to the Maya Riviera in the near future to have a ministry among the Maya Indians there.

## 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—Intersarsity  | 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           |

## Covenant Quilters

**CQI** - May 8 at the Lifehouse, 1 pm, to finish current projects before they break for the summer.

Contacts: Lee Dickinson, 894-2572; Barb Pulaski, 894-8022.



**CQII** - May meeting dates are:

- the 9th . . . a joint meeting of CQI & CQII @ LIFEHOUSE for an end-of-the-year dinner.
- the 16th (please notice the date change) . . . preparation for a church-wide quilting challenge sometime this summer.

CQII will continue meeting twice a month at Linda's Lab through the summer months.

Contact: Linda Wood, 231-292-1143, [linbobwood@aol.com](mailto:linbobwood@aol.com)

## 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!)*

*In May we are @ Old Channel Trail GC*

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

**[breckadkins@comcast.net](mailto:breckadkins@comcast.net) (766-2592).**



## ECC Cares...

**Did you know** that you can recommend candidates for various care needs right on our website?

Funeral help, meals, visitation, automotive assistance, encouragement cards, and emergency financial assistance (benevolence) are all ECC teams waiting to love and care for our congregation.

Help us by recommending a candidate at: [eccwhitehall.org/ministries/care/](http://eccwhitehall.org/ministries/care/)

# ECC Calendar of Events

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 ECC Golf—1pm Everyone welcome! Hickory Knoll GC	2 Men's Golf—6pm @ Old Channel Trail	3 Junior High@ ECC 6:30-80m Hi-League@ ECC 7:30-9pm	4	5	6 Men's Huddle 7:30am
7 9:00 & 10:45am Worship	8 Covenant Quilters I 1-4pm @ Lifehouse ECC Golf—1pm Everyone welcome! Hickory Knoll GC	9 Men's Golf—6pm @ Old Channel Trail CQ II @ Linda Wood's 7020 Durham, Whitehall 6-9pm	10 Junior High@ ECC 6:30-80m Hi-League@ ECC 7:30-9pm	11	12	13 Men's Huddle 7:30am
14 9:00 & 10:45am Worship	15 ECC Golf—1pm Everyone welcome! Hickory Knoll GC	16 Men's Golf—6pm @ Old Channel Trail  NOTE DATE CHANGE! CQ II @ Linda Wood's 7020 Durham, Whitehall 6-9pm	17 Junior High@ ECC 6:30-80m Hi-League@ ECC 7:30-9pm	18	19	20 Men's Huddle 7:30am
21 9:00 & 10:45am Worship	22 ECC Golf—1pm Everyone welcome! Hickory Knoll GC	23 Men's Golf—6pm @ Old Channel Trail	24 Junior High@ ECC 6:30-80m Hi-League@ ECC 7:30-9pm	25	26	27 Men's Huddle 7:30am
28 9:00 & 10:45am Worship	29 Office Closed— Memorial Day 	30 Men's Golf—6pm @ Old Channel Trail	31 Junior High@ ECC 6:30-80m Hi-League@ ECC 7:30-9pm			

## Men's Huddle—Saturdays in May!



# UNCONDITIONAL

A fresh and challenging look at  
**LOVE - FORGIVENESS - GRACE**

## MEN'S HUDDLE

ECC Whitehall  
Saturdays in May, 7:30am  
Coffee & Donuts Provided!

## Work Camp 2017

### WORK CAMP 2017— JUNE 19-23

Showing God's Love & Grace  
in a Practical Way....

THAT WHITE LAKE MIGHT SEE JESUS!



We are excited about this year's Work Camp which is June 19-23. There are three residential sites scheduled for a variety of projects and to accomplish it all we NEED YOU. Please fill out a bright orange volunteer sheet which can be found inside your Sunday bulletin or at the Guest Services Desk and drop it in the offering plate. Whether you can give an hour of your time or devote the whole week there is a place for you. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Ian Kennedy at 894 2565.

Be a blessing and be blessed!

# 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
<b>MAY 7</b>	<b>BAKER/BREUKER</b>	
<b>MAY 14</b>	<b>BEEGHLY</b>	<b>POTTER</b>
<b>MAY 21</b>		<b>JENSEN</b>
<b>MAY 28</b>	<b>KENNEDY</b>	<b>PORATH</b>

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](mailto:jporath@eccwhitehall.org).

## Opportunities to Serve

Looking for a place to serve here at ECC?

We have a lot of opportunities available through our 10 ministry teams:



Adult Ministries  
 Building & Grounds  
 Care  
 Children's Ministry  
 Connect

Finance & Stewardship  
 Missions  
 Student Ministry  
 Worship Ministry

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](mailto: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.

**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!

Benevolence

## Unity Festival Tickets!

**UNITY FESTIVAL—AUGUST 9, 10, 11 & 12, 2017**

**Heritage Landing, Muskegon!**

*Tenth Avenue North, Casting Crowns, TobyMac, Matthew West and MORE!  
Day Zero (August 9) is FREE!*

Order your passes from Amy in the office—payment is required at time of order. Orders taken through May 28.

Checks payable to "Alive on the Lakeshore".

Cost: 1 day pass—\$25; 3 day pass—\$45

Family Pass—\$175 (parents and members of household ages 6-18)



# 2017 Leadership & Ministry Teams

## 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

# ECC Information

### Staff E-mail addresses:

Senior Pastor, Tom Beeghly  
tbeeghly@eccwhitehall.org

Youth/Worship Pastor, Craig Smith  
csmith@eccwhitehall.org

Associate Pastor, Justin Porath  
jporath@eccwhitehall.org

Junior High Director, Chuck Connell  
cconnell@eccwhitehall.org

Children's Ministries Director, Terri Means  
tmeans@eccwhitehall.org

Office Administrator, Amy Love  
alove@eccwhitehall.org

## LOST & FOUND!

Lost and Found

We have a LARGE collection of lost & found items around the church. Check the kitchen for your "left behind" platters and storage containers from your Easter donations. The lower right cabinet in the wall unit in the Erickson Room also houses two baskets of abandoned items. Please check these areas out to collect your items!



If you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please contact Amy Love at [alove@eccwhitehall.org](mailto:alove@eccwhitehall.org).

The ECC Office will be closed on Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day.



# Faith In Action!

**AMT** and **Care** have teamed up to offer something new, experimental, and yet at the same time incredibly "old school." Inspired by our faith and the incredible grace God has shown us, we want to be a community where it is extremely difficult *not* to be blessed and cared for. But we need your help.



## WHAT IS IT?

A magnetic board outside the sanctuary, near the library where individual needs may be posted and met by the ECC community.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

Everyone! If you have a need or know of someone in the ECC community that does, simply contact Pastor Justin and we will take care of the rest.

## WHAT KIND OF NEEDS CAN BE POSTED?

Pretty much anything you can think of, but here are a few examples. Do you know anyone who needs or needs help with:

- Yard work?
- Small repairs?
- Labor / project work?
- Childcare?
- Transportation?
- Snow removal?
- Grocery Shopping?
- House Cleaning?
- Moving / heavy lifting?
- Tool sharing?
- Tutoring?
- Ride sharing?
- Computer troubleshooting & repair?
- House cleaning?
- Cooking / meals?
- Clothing ?
- Resume help?
- Furniture?
- New baby supplies?
- Dog walking?
- Junk removal?
- Job Leads?  
Just to name a few...

## WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Text leads or needs to this designated line: **(231) 846-3123**

**Or** contact Pastor Justin directly at [jporath@eccwhitehall.org](mailto:jporath@eccwhitehall.org) / [773-888-3730](tel:773-888-3730)