

May 2018

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



Join us for our current sermon series—Sundays, 9am & 10:45am!

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

Children's Ministries



**This snow makes me think of
Mega Sports Camp!!
It's only three months away,
July 22-26.**



Mega Sports Camp is a summer outreach program for kids in Kindergarten through fifth grade. So, have your kids start thinking about unchurched friends they would like to invite. The sports and extra classes we will offer will depend on the volunteers we have. If you have a skill in drama or a craft of some kind that you would like to share, please let me know. So far, we are offering cooking and basketball.

The snow makes us feel like summer is far away, but it will be here before we know it! Hopefully, by the time this newsletter comes out, the snow will be gone, and it truly will feel like spring. When you feel those first warm rays of the sun, remember Mega Sports Camp and call me to tell me what you would like to do!

Happy spring!

Terri Means, Director of Children's Ministries

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
6:30-8:00pm

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



Questions? Contact: Chuck Connell
215-5814 or cconnell@eccwhitehall.org

Hi-League

Grades 9-12

Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00pm

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



Questions? Contact:
Craig Smith—231-215-7075
csmith@eccwhitehall.org

**JUNIOR HIGH
BREAKFAST CLUB
SUNDAYS, 9-10:15AM**
(Youth Room—downstairs)
Grades 6-8



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

**The last day for Breakfast Club
is May 20!**

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



CHIC 2018

July 15-20, 2018

University of Tennessee

U N I T E
CHIC2018

Calling all Hi-Leaguers!
CHIC is coming this July,
and we want as many of our students as possible to go to this amazing conference.
Cost: \$649

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

See one of the CHIC attendees for more information!



YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS NEEDED!

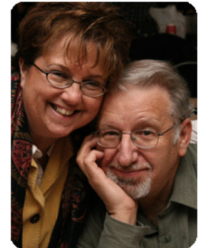
We have opportunities to help our youth get to the CHIC Conference or to Portage Lake Camp. If you would like to contribute, please place your donation in the offering and mark it "CHIC" or "PLCBC".

Missions Task Force

BRIDGE TO LIFE MINISTRIES—Don & Becky Smith

In the past when couples were lonely and hurting in their marriage, they kept silent or eventually gave up on their marriage. There were few places to go that would embrace their needs in love and with encouragement to facilitate healing.

Seeds of Bridge To Life Ministries were planted in 1981 when Don and Becky Smith (co-founders of Bridge To Life) were approached by a couple in the throes of divorce. The couple had exchanged vows with the hope and dreams of every young couple, to "live happily ever after." Yet with years of unresolved wounds that led to increasing hurts in their marriage, they found themselves unhappy and hopeless in their marriage.



Although the couple's marriage proceeded to a legal termination, Don and Becky continued to work with each of the partners. Their untiring efforts continued for months and led to a deep compassion and understanding of the couple's hurts and root problems. God worked deeply in the couple's lives to build what had never been experienced...a commitment to love and be loved, even in difficult moments. Eventually the couple remarried and unified their three children to restore a loving home.

This experience of seeing God's restorative power in this first couple's marriage and many that followed, prompted Don and Becky Smith to establish Bridge To Life Ministries in 1983. Since its inception, Bridge To Life has offered counseling, encouragement and mentoring for couples and marriage seminars and retreats

Bridge To Life has become a ministry that exists for the purpose of bringing people to the person of Jesus Christ through the felt needs of marriage relationships. The ministry's main focus is on marriages and has three fundamental components: **The Heart & Soul of a Real Marriage**, course work addressing specific marital needs, a full-time Biblically based, Christian marriage counseling practice in Muskegon and **Grace Groups** designed to help spouses work through specific wounds that affect their marriage.

Over the years Bridge To Life has identified underlying root issues that destroy intimacy in a marriage, which has resulted in writing the 12-week marriage restoration program, **The Heart & Soul of a Real Marriage**, (formally, **R&R Rebuild & Restore Your Marriage**) which is the ministry's flagship course.

Bridge To Life offers The Heart & Soul of a Real Marriage in Western Michigan and also helps train churches to minister to marriages using the Heart & Soul program across the United States and also internationally. Want more information? www.bridgetolife.org

MTF Supported Ministries

These are the missionaries and ministries selected by the MTF to support financially and in prayer for 2018. Watch for Mission Moments from some of these folks in 2018!

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
Nick & Dana Harmon—CRU	M.A.D. House Ministries/Muskegon
Jochy & Tammi Hernandez—Merge Caribbean*	Muskegon Pregnancy Services
Ian Kennedy—West MI Youth for Christ	Muskegon Rescue Mission
Pratim & Vanita Masih—India	Samaritan's Purse—Heal Our Patriots
Jeff & Abbie Nelson—Guatemala	Western Michigan Teen Challenge
Dave & Daphne Smith—India	Zimbabwe
Alex & Amanda Velasco—Merge Mexico*	*Covenant Missionaries

“Run for God” Study

Run for God

A summer devotional series facilitated by Nikki Thompson!

*Preparing people to be better witnesses for Christ
Physically, Mentally, and Spiritually.*

- Have you dreamed of running a 5k, but don't know where to start?
- Or have you become so engrossed in your health and fitness that you worry it is becoming an idol in your life?
- Do you want to learn how to use your faith in the Almighty God to guide you in achieving goals?
- Do you want to be a better witness, but feel intimidated by approaching people?



Run for God is for you! Men and women of ALL ages and abilities are welcome. We can tailor the program to fit your specific needs.


We will meet Sunday late afternoons starting May 13, and conclude with a 5k race on Saturday, August 11.

Please sign up on your communication card, we would love to have you!

Contact Nikki at nicoletthompson1023@gmail.com or 231-670-0219.

ECC Calendar of Events

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Junior High @ ECC 6:30-8pm Hi-League @ ECC 7:30-9pm	3 Night of Prayer 7pm	4	5
6 9:00 & 10:45am Worship Base Camp 4.0 1-4pm	7	8 Covenant Quilters !! 6-9pm @ Wood Home	9 Junior High @ ECC 6:30-8pm Hi-League @ ECC 7:30-9pm	10	11	12
13 9:00 & 10:45am Worship	14	15	16 Junior High @ ECC 6:30-8pm Hi-League @ ECC 7:30-9pm	17	18	19
20 9:00 & 10:45am Worship ECC Partners Class 12:30pm	21	22	23 Junior High @ ECC 6:30-8pm Hi-League @ ECC 7:30-9pm	24	25	26
27 9:00 & 10:45am Worship	28 	29 Covenant Quilters !! 6-9pm @ Wood Home	30	31		

BASE CAMP



**MONTAGUE AREA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
Education in the Right Direction



WHITEHALL
DISTRICT SCHOOLS

BASE CAMP 4.0—SUNDAY, MAY 6 1-4PM

Join us as we bless **Montague** and **Whitehall** Schools with our hands and feet in assisting in various indoor and outdoor projects.

Project signup lists are in the Erickson Room!

Jobs for everyone!

Painting, clearing brush, fence removal, raking,

Questions? Contact Craig Smith—csmith@eccwhitehall.org or 215-7075.

WORK CAMP—JUNE 18-22, 2018

WORK CAMP WILL BE UPON US SOON!

Sign up sheets are in your bulletin and at the Ascend table in the Don Erickson Room. We need your commitment by May 20 to determine which projects we can take on!

There are opportunities for EVERYONE! We need skilled workers, not-so-skilled workers, painters, landscapers, prayer warriors, meal preparers and more!

If you can't work during the day, we have Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-9pm slated for workers as well.

Here is our first confirmed project—the “Dennis Project”. As you can see, this is a BIG home and we are going to need many hands. We are excited to watch God work during this incredible week of service!



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 6:00 PM	Nate Baker & Scott Breuker	Nate: (231) 670-1829 Scott: (231) 893-1749	1540 Anchor Court, Whitehall	Sermon Study/ Topical
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	<i>Church</i>	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 (<i>Church</i>)	Book Study
Monday 7:00 PM	Justin & Lacy Porath	Justin: (773) 888-3730 Lacy: (269) 251-8703	9180 Dicey 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 7:00 PM	Lee Dickinson	Lee: (231) 894-2572	123 Livingston St., Whitehall	Gospel of Mark (Spanish) Speaking)
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

Life Groups

DAY / TIME	LEADER(S)	CONTACT	LOCATION	STUDY TYPE
Wednesday 7:00 PM	Matt & SueEllen Bendelow Brent & Melissa Brower	Matt: (231) 920-0613	900 S. Warner Street, Whitehall (Church)	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 (Church)	Sermon Study
Thursday 7:00 PM	Bruce & Jan Potter	Jan: (231) 893-6820	900 S. Warner Street, Whitehall (Church)	Topical
Thursday 7:00 PM	Linda Wood	Linda: (231) 292-1143	7020 Durham Road, Whitehall	Book of Ruth

Connect—Life Group Serving

	1ST SERVICE	2ND SERVICE
MAY 6	Volunteers Needed!	Craig Smith
MAY 13	Men needed to serve—it's Mother's Day!	Roberge (men)
MAY 20	Green	Christensen
MAY 27	Schmiedeknecht	Hoglund/Clark

We are looking for a few good men to serve during 1st service on Mother's Day. We would like an all-male crew to greet and serve refreshments! If you can serve, please contact Jodi Stratton (jodistratton@yahoo.com or 578-6478).

**Calling
All
Men!**

Picture Directory Photos....



SAVE THE DATE

Be included in our
new family directory


Lifetouch Photography will be here
May 17-19 and May 21-23.

Signup at the table in the Don Erickson
Room or online at
www.eccwhitehall.org/photography

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE. . .

In order to make our church directory photography sessions run smoothly, we will need volunteers to help sign people in as they arrive for their photo session. The commitment would be for 2-2 1/2 hours on the day of your choice.

See the sign up sheet at Guest Services or check the box on your communication card. Questions? See Pastor Justin or Linda Wood.



Volunteer
Opportunities

Monthly Prayer Event

Our next monthly night of prayer will be held on the National Day of Prayer [Thursday May 3rd 7-8pm](#).

Are you in need of prayer? A time of anointing will be offered. Prayer in a time of worship, Corporate and private prayer times.

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).

PRAYER
changes things

Leadership Team Contacts

2018 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Paul Christensen, Chairman—616-607-6986
Dick Smith, Vice Chairman—894-9363
Brent Brower, Secretary—616-607-6084
John Rupert, Treasurer—557-4025
Pastor Tom Beeghly, Member—215-3802
David Holly, Member—329-9911
Todd Jensen, Member—312-203-9247
Nate Baker, Member—670-1829
Dean Schmiedeknecht—231-338-6046

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

2018 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—Breck Adkins—557-6565
Worship—Craig Smith—215-7075
Youth — Craig Smith— 215-7075

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 marked "Benevolence" and place it in the offering plate. Envelopes are located in the pew. This fund assists people from our church body and the community who are in need. Thank you for giving to others!

Unity Festival Tickets

August 8-11, 2018

1-day pass—\$30; 3-day pass—\$50; Family Pass—\$200

Children 5 and under are FREE!

Wednesday is Day Zero and is FREE—no ticket needed!

Amy will be taking your orders for Unity Festival Tickets in the church office. **THE LAST DAY TO ORDER IS TUESDAY, MAY 29.**

Payment is due at the time of ordering (*checks payable to Alive on the Lakeshore*).



Covenant Quilters

COVENANT QUILTERS upcoming meeting dates:

- CQI will not meet again until fall but will soon be delivering the quilts completed since October.
- **CQII will be meeting May 8 and 29 - please note the date change.** They will be continuing to meet throughout the summer - watch for the dates. You are invited to join us at Linda's Lab, 7020 Durham, Whitehall, 5 - 9 PM. Questions? linbobwood@aol.com.



ECC Partnership Luncheon

Want to make your commitment to ECC "official"?

Stay tuned for more information on our upcoming Partnership (Membership) Luncheon on May 20 at 12:30pm.

Pastor Tom and Pastor Justin will be leading this class that discusses the importance of a partnership with the body of Christ and what it means.

Be watching your bulletin for more information and how to sign up!