

Love God and Neighbor

Luke 10:27



FIRST COVENANT
CHURCH of Omaha
Celebrating 140 Years

January 27, 2023

WORSHIP

Every Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

Second Saturday Serve with ABIDE



Join the Love Omaha Team as we partner with ABIDE on:

Saturday, February 11th at 9:00 a.m. for their monthly community impact outreach.

Abide provides resources and beautification in inner city Omaha. They have opportunities for all ages!

To learn more about Abide's mission check out their website:

<https://www.abideomaha.org/>

If you would like to sign up for this event, [CLICK HERE](#)

All Church Bowling

Don't miss out on the fun!

All church bowling on

Sunday, February 12th

2:30-4:30 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Bowlatorium

Prizes for:

**Best Dressed-High Score-Low Score
Raffle Prizes**



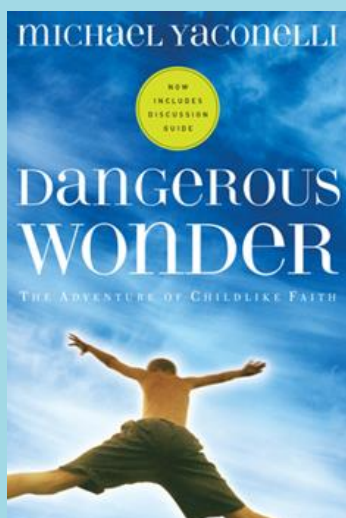
Bring a snack to share (optional)

To sign up for this event

[CLICK HERE!](#)

If you would like to help with this event, of have questions or raffle prizes to donate, please contact [Terry Johnson](#) at 402-598-8760

Bowling not required to attend this fun event!



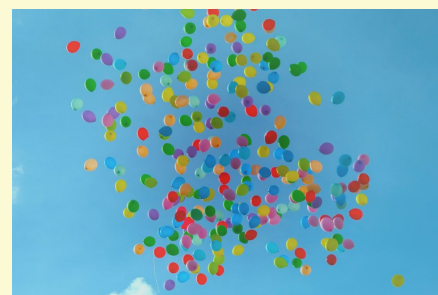
Men's Group

All men are invited to a book discussion on Friday mornings at Vidlak's Cafe (15668 W Center Rd) at 6:00 a.m. The group will meet every other Friday until mid-May. The next meeting is scheduled for February 3rd . We will be reading Dangerous Wonder by Michael Yaconelli. Contact [Scott Lickteig](#) if you have questions or [Click Here To Register](#)

Annual Ministry Celebration

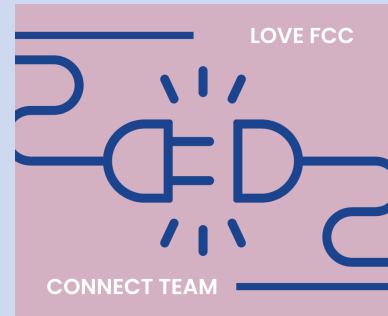
The ECC Midwest Conference will hold it's Annual Meeting April 21-22 in McPherson, Kansas. If you would like to represent First Covenant Church at this celebration, please contact the church office for more information.

office@firstcovenantomaha.org



Love FCC - Connect Team

We are looking for a few people who are interested in helping our church connect together and have fun! We are starting a Love FCC: Connect Team that will be tasked with creating a few events each year that draw our congregation together for times of connection, fellowship and fun. If you are interested in learning more about or helping with this team, please contact Pastor Greg.



Together 2023

Covenant Cedars is offering a marriage retreat February 10 - February 12. Brochures are available in the church office. Registration is due by February 1st. For more information or to register go to www.cedars.org.

Preparing to Draw Near

As the Evangelical Covenant Church convenes this week for their annual meeting, meet two of this year's speakers highlighted in the article [Preparing to Draw Near](#) from the Covenant Companion.



Special Offering Next Sunday

The special offering for February will go to Covenant Cedars Camp and will be collected next Sunday following the Worship Service. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Mark Your Calendars!

- Feb 3 Community Conversations #3 - 6:30 p.m.
Feb 11 Second Saturday Serve - Abide - 9:00 a.m.
Feb 12 All Church Bowling *Extravaganza* - 2:30 p.m.

Weekly Activities

Tuesday	8:00-11:30 a.m.	Retired Men
	1:30-2:30 p.m.	Tai Chi
Wednesday	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	6:30-9:00 p.m.	Jr./Sr. High Midweek
Thursday	9:00-11:55 a.m.	Sisters of the Skein
	1:30 -2:30 p.m.	Tai Chi

WORSHIP SERVICE
LIVE STREAM
AVAILABLE

Join our [Live Stream](#),
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.



Prayers

Thank you for keeping the church family in your prayers. If you have specific requests, please reach out to our staff so we can support you.

Scripture This Week:

Sunday Worship Scripture:

Matthew 6:1-18



Jan. 29, 2023 _____ Matthew 6:1-18

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

“This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Preparing to Draw Near

Staff Author

January 10, 2023



In anticipation of the annual **Midwinter Conference** for all Covenant ministers less than two weeks away, the *Companion* caught up with a few speakers to help us prepare.

We sat down with a group of pastors who will comprise one of the panel discussions on drawing near to our communities. The group, serving in a wide range of contexts across the Covenant, is asking how we serve the people around us without getting in the way. “We often engage communities with good intention, but who is really being served by our efforts?” asks Kimberly Wright, senior pastor of Church of the Resurrection, a Covenant congregation in East Harlem, New York. “Are we humble enough to get away from serving self?”

“What I appreciate about the Covenant,” adds Cindy Wu, “is that as we seek the renewal of our community, the emphasis on development is not just about relief and charity. We look at the whole person.” Wu is an ordained Covenant minister and co-founder of

Mosaic Formation, a nonprofit that focuses on spiritual formation care and training for leaders serving diverse and underserved communities.

The panel will be hosted by David Swanson, pastor of New Community Covenant Church in the Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago.

We also checked in briefly with a couple of plenary speakers.

Peter Ahn

Peter Ahn is the lead/founding pastor of Metro Community Church in Englewood, New Jersey. He will speak on the theme of drawing near to God with our whole self.

What is one way God surprised you in your ministry this year?

My greatest surprise is coming to grips with the reality that when God speaks, it will always come to pass—but that is not the surprise. The surprise is how much my process in getting there varies from his. God will often take the longer, more painful, self-denying route, rather than my preferred quick and easy way. Spiritual growth happens in “the process,” even more than God doing what he said he would do.

How does the Midwinter theme “draw near” resonate with you?

Drawing near to God does not come naturally for me. I have to work hard at it. However, I believe that one can never really draw near to God until they have learned to draw near to a few people. Intimacy can only be present when there is vulnerability. I hope I can do that with some folks at Midwinter this year. If that happens, then I’ll be drawing near to God.

What’s the last song you sang aloud to?

“Dreams” by Van Halen

What was your first job?

Working at Burger King at the age of 12 years old. I lied about my age and they believed me. Hey, I needed the money.

What’s a good book, TV show, or podcast that you can’t wait to get back to?

Yellowstone is my favorite TV show. I’m going to be self-promoting here: *Weak Pastor* is my favorite podcast. I can’t wait to start recording again.

Where in your home or your neighborhood do you do your best thinking?

I do my best thinking in my dining room. It is my office because my wife, Jenny, has taken over our spare room as her office.

Jeanne Stevens

Jeanne Stevens is the co-lead pastor of Soul City Church in Chicago and the author of *What's Here Now? How to Stop Rehashing the Past and Rehearsing the Future—and Start Receiving the Present*.

What is one way God surprised you in your ministry this year?

I was reminded and surprised in fresh ways that God is faithful. There are no limits to his love.

How does the Midwinter theme “draw near” resonate with you?

I am reminded of what Jesus says in John 15:5: “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” Drawing near to Jesus is where we bear much fruit.

What’s the last song you sang aloud to?

“Breakthrough Miracle Power,” by Patrick Mayberry (a Soul City Church original)

What was your first job?

Taking orders at a pizza company a few blocks away from my house.

What’s a good book, TV show, or podcast you can’t wait to get back to?

I am rereading *Atomic Habits*, by James Clear. I am also reading *The Best of You*, by Dr. Allison Cook.

Where in your home or your neighborhood do you do your best thinking?

Walking around my neighborhood or through the forest preserve near my house.

About the Author

Staff Author

The Communications staff at The Evangelical Covenant Church works to bring you the most complete information on the stories that matter to the Covenant.