



# Welcome to our morning worship celebration!

## good to KNOW

- ❖ **FOR CHILDREN/FAMILIES** (Ask an usher if you need assistance.)
  - \* **Infant/toddler nursery** (ages 6 mo.–4 yrs.) *Please take shoes off in nursery.*
  - \* **Mothers' room** is open during both services for your use. (Down CE hallway)
  - \* **Children's Activity Bulletins** (ages 4-7) and **Jr. Sermon Notes** (ages 8-12) are available on the wall by the nursery
- ❖ **TO OUR GUESTS/VISITORS** *Please do not feel obligated to give to our offering, which is the privilege and responsibility of our church family. As an expression of appreciation, please take a FirstCov green reusable tote* (at the Guest Center) that also has info to get to know us better.
- ❖ **WELCOME PADS** The welcome pads are an important tool to help us care for our church family, contact visitors, and sign up for Wed. night suppers (during the school year). Please write your contact information (address and phone number) and pass it down the row. Cards for prayer requests, comments, and to request additional information are inside.
- ❖ **RECEIPTS FOR CASH GIFTS** You can get a receipt for tax purposes at the end of the year for your cash donations to the ministry of First Covenant Church by using the gray envelopes at the Guest Center. Ask an usher for assistance.
- ❖ **PRINTOUTS WITH WORDS** to the music at Guest Center or from an usher.
- ❖ **PLEASE REMEMBER** to turn off your cell phones during our worship service!

---

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## Soups On! CHIC 2012 fundraiser lunch & Silent Auction Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> - 12:15 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to come support our youth who will attend CHIC this summer, a Covenant triennial youth event which will be held at the Univ. of Tennessee/Knoxville from July 15-19, 2012. At the silent auction you will be able to bid on services the youth will provide such as babysitting, yard work, animal care, & more!

## Following the soup lunch, our Congregational meeting will focus on our 2012 budget.

Our mission and ministry as a church is enhanced when we participate together in decision making! All are welcome and members are encouraged to attend. There are votes to be made.

*Agenda is posted on bulletin board. Budgets are in your mailboxes.*

## church LIFE

- ❖ **NEXT SUNDAY (Jan. 29)** Pastor Todd continues the Matthew series, *Follow Me*, focusing on Matt. 3:1-17 and helping us know how to follow Jesus in living differently than the world around us.
- ❖ **WEDNESDAY SUPPER** 5:15-6:00 p.m. This week: Mystery Meal! Cost \$2.50 and \$1.50 for children (max. family=\$10.00) Sign up on the welcome pad or call the office by Tues.
- ❖ **MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT** This month: **Missions Commission with a focus on Intervarsity**, a ministry we support. Check it out just to the right of the hallway door.

## marriage & FAMILY

- ❖ **FAMILY ACTIVITIES FOR A HOME MAKEOVER** Learn how activities can help a family grow in Christ. Join us (& share) at this week's blog post: **Home Makeover Activities: What is Being Caught?** (Coming out tomorrow, Jan. 23.) Find the blog at [www.rfcov.org](http://www.rfcov.org).
- ❖ **NEED A FREE & FUN VALENTINE'S DATE?** **Fri., Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm** An evening encouraging relationships with comedy (your relationship isn't the only funny one), music, and inspiration! Come laugh, love and be entertained during this great event. Cost: FREE! A dessert will be provided. Free will offering accepted. **Invite a neighbor!**

## reach the WORLD

- ❖ **ECUADOR MISSION TRIP** Please be in prayer for the 12 member team going to Lote Tres in March from our church. You can **donate** to the special projects using the envelope in today's bulletin. (Note in the memo: *Ecuador Mission's Projects.*)

## fundraiser for CHIC

- ❖ **SOUP'S ON & SILENT AUCTION** CHIC (gr. 9-12) fundraiser on **Sun., Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>**. Youth - sign up on the Youth Board with ways you'll help (food donations, serving, clean up etc.)!

## children's MINISTRY

- ❖ **GOOD NEWS CLUB** Mondays // 3:30-5 pm, Westside School, Rm. 157. ?s, contact Trudy Jarosek.
- ❖ **AWANA** This Wed., Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>: **Black Out Night!** Glow bands and flash lights for game time & council time! **Also, anyone willing to help with leading or listening to verses can contact Vern Larson.**
- ❖ **NO SHOES IN NURSERY** In order to provide a safe environment for the children on the ground (putting hands in the mouths, etc.) there are no shoes in the nursery. As an adult, if you wish, you can place a provided "covering" over your shoes. Thank you for your help with this.

## small GROUPS

- ❖ **SMALL GROUP LEADERS TRAINING** *Life Together* // Sat., Feb 18 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **All SG leaders and those interested in future leading are to attend (once)** this overview of essentials to leading a small group. Lunch provided. Please RSVP with Brian Majerus ([brian@rfcov.org](mailto:brian@rfcov.org))

## support the MANCHES.

- ❖ **HOPE FOR HANNAH** Any donations go to support the Manche family. (See her table.)
  - Bracelets (green) for \$1 donation.
  - Ribbons to remind you (& others) to pray!

## stewardship fund CAMPAIGN

Please note these training & equipping times:

- Campaign Cabinet Training I // Mon., Jan. 23rd 6:30-9:30pm (All directors)
- Campaign Cabinet Training II // Tues., Jan. 24th 6:30-9:30pm (All directors)
- Support Services Director Training // Wed., Jan. 25th TBA
- Graphics Director Training // Wed., Jan. 25th TBA
- Publicity Director Training // Wed., Jan. 25th TBA
- Special Projects Director Training // Wed., Jan. 25th TBA

# PRAYER REQUESTS TO REMEMBER THIS WEEK!

January 22, 2012

- That we may trust in the Lord when life doesn't make sense.
- For all human life to be valued as God values.
- For His direction for our ministry future as we enter the Stewardship Fund Campaign
- Missionary of the Week: Judy Gomoll
- College Student of the Week:
- For our shut-ins: Martha VanBeek, Irene Hilden, Marilyn Pierre, Dorothy Owen
- For Healing: Shirley Kreider, Jake Schramm, Julie Place, Hannah Manche, Gene Aune, Ruby Nelson, Caye Bakken & her brother, Kim Gustafson
- For our Elder Board: John Aune, Terry Traynor, & Jerry Hallstrom
- For our church staff: Pastor Todd Ertsgaard, Brian Majerus, Leah Gunderson, & Jackie Wallace

## SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (SOHL) is a day originally set aside in 1983 by President Reagan to focus on the intrinsic value and the fundamental right to life. The annual date is connected to the Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions being handed down by the Supreme Court on Jan. 22, 1973. It is a time for Christians to remember to value all life whatever the nationality, ethnicity, fit or ill, facing physical or mental challenges, born or unborn, young or elderly, etc. How can you worship God through honoring the value of human life He has given each of us?

**PRAYER SHEET:** Offers ideas for a week-long prayer focus on human life

**BABY BOTTLE BANKS:** Please take one with you today! You can return them to FirstCov by Sun., Feb. 19th. Donations go to the Pregnancy Helpline (see below).

**PREGNANCY HELPLINE:** 216 N. Main St., River Falls (715.425.8539). Helping women in crisis pregnancies and those recovering from abortions. Services provided include pregnancy testing, info, and referral to medical, adoption, shelter, and legal resources.

**FOCUS ON THE FAMILY:** MANY kinds of resources on life issues (marriage, family, parenting, elderly parent care, etc.). Contact them at (800) A-FAMILY or [www.family.org](http://www.family.org).

**FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY:** Roger Anderson, Brett Fugate, Zach Zellmer, Mike Findlay, Aaron Reiss, Melissa Leitl, Ryan Neel, and for Steve Kubera, Air Force reservist, and Tyler Splittgerber, Army reservist.

**MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK:** **Judy Gomoll**, is celebrating 25 years of ministry with *The Navigators* in Africa and the U.S. In Denver, she mentors, disciples, and "does life" with a dozen "20 something" women. Her primary role with *The Navigators* allows her to serve nationally by providing professional development, designing and delivering ministry training among the 1500 Navigator staff, and writing relevant Bible studies and ministry resources for use in the *The Navigators* and in churches. She and her team will release their 9th book this year, exploring how images can be used in spiritual transformation. Her address: 11961 Ridgeview Lane, Parker, CO 80138. E-mail: [judygomoll@usfamily.net](mailto:judygomoll@usfamily.net)

**COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE WEEK:** **Murray Stoffa**, son of Don & Julie Stoffa. **Murray** attends Ripon College. Remember him in prayer! His address is: 600 Campus Drive, Unit 897, Ripon, WI 54971

Pastor Todd

Follow Me

January 22, 2012

## Following Jesus When Life is Uncomfortable

Matthew 2:13-23

Jesus offers us a full and rewarding life but it's not always easy. Sometimes following Jesus can bring difficult and challenging times leaving us perplexed and wondering what God is doing. How do we respond and keep our faith strong in times like these? In this passage, Mary and Joseph have some important lessons to teach us. If we are going to experience God's best and follow Jesus when life doesn't make sense, we need to keep the following before us:

1. We will often be at \_\_\_\_\_.

2. We will often be led \_\_\_\_\_.

3. We have the assurance of \_\_\_\_\_.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight"  
- Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

## ***Jesus Lead On***

(Chorus) Jesus lead on, I will follow. Jesus lead on, let your love light the way. Jesus lead on, I will follow, Jesus lead on.

This is my cry, this is my song. You are my guiding light, when the way is unknown. And when these sunny skies, turn to shades of gray. I'll stay close by Your side, as You lead the way. Chorus

Hear now this cry, hear now this song. You are my guiding light, this journey I'm on. And when my vision is clouded, by the wind and the rain. I'll stay close by your side. As You lead the way. Chorus 2x

## ***Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus***

O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see? There's light for a look at the Savior, and life more abundant and free!

(Chorus) Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.

Thru death into life everlasting – He passed, and we follow Him there; Over us sin no more has dominion – for more than con-q'rors we are! (chorus)

His word shall not fail you He promised; Believe Him, and all will be well; Then go to a world that is dying, His perfect salvation to tell! (chorus)

## ***It Is Well***

1.. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul"

Chorus: It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blessed assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.  
(Repeat chorus)

3. My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
(Repeat chorus)

4. And Lord haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul. (chorus)

## ***A Mighty Fortress is our God***

1. Our God is a consuming fire, a burning holy flame with glory and freedom. Our God is the only righteous judge, ruling over us with kindness and wisdom. And we will keep our eyes on You, we will keep our eyes on You.

Chorus: A mighty fortress is our God, a sacred refuge is Your name. Your kingdom is unshakeable, and with You forever we will reign.

2. Our God is jealous for His own. None could comprehend His love and His mercy. Our God is exalted on His throne, High above the heavens, forever He is worthy.

And we will keep our eyes on You, we will keep our eyes on You.

Chorus.

We will keep our eyes on You. We will keep our eyes on You. So we can set our hearts on You. Lord, we can set our hearts on You.

Chorus 2x

With You forever we will reign. With You forever we will reign.

Our God is a consuming fire. A burning holy flame with glory and freedom.

# Sanctity Of Human Life Sunday

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (SOHL) is a day originally set aside in 1983 by President Reagan to focus on the intrinsic value and the fundamental right to life. The annual date is connected to the Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions being handed down by the Supreme Court on Jan. 22, 1973. It is a time for Christians to remember to value all life whatever the nationality, ethnicity, fit or ill, facing physical or mental challenges, born or unborn, young or elderly, etc. How can you worship God through honoring the value of human life He has given each of us?

**PRAYER SHEET:** Offers ideas for a week-long prayer focus on human life

**BABY BOTTLE BANKS:** Please take one with you today! You can return them to FirstCov by Sun., Feb. 20th. Donations go to the Pregnancy Helpline (see below).

**PREGNANCY HELPLINE:** 216 N. Main St., River Falls (715.425.8539). Helping women in crisis pregnancies and those recovering from abortions. Services provided include pregnancy testing, info, and referral to medical, adoption, shelter, and legal resources.

**FOCUS ON THE FAMILY:** MANY kinds of resources on life issues (marriage, family, parenting, elderly parent care, etc.). Contact them at (800) A-FAMILY or [www.family.org](http://www.family.org).

# Prayers for the Sanctity of Human Life

**MONDAY:** Pray for those who value life to intercede in God-honoring ways. Pray for God-lead moments of connection between those who value life and those who are not, whether in abortion, abuse of any kind, slavery, etc.

Matthew 5:16 "...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

**TUESDAY:** Pray for those who are victims of de-valuing of life or experience life de-valuing circumstances (such as the homeless, mentally ill, abuse victims, etc.)

Isaiah 58:6-7 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"

**WEDNESDAY:** Pray for forgiveness, redemption and healing. Pray for those who have turned from life de-valuing practices (racism, abuse, etc.). Pray that they receive the healing needed in their lives, that their testimonies will help change the political, social and spiritual mindset.

Psalms 107:14,20 "He sent His word and healed them". He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and broke their bands apart."

Psalms 147:3 "He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds."

**THURSDAY:** Pray for abortion to end. Pray for the truth about abortion to be brought to the light through media, entertainment industry, churches, judicial and political systems.

Mark 4:22 "For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it should come to light."

**FRIDAY:** Pray for all the pregnancy resource centers in America, that they will continue to be built up and equipped for every good work and receive support and attention in their communities.

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Lamentations 2:19 – "Arise, Cry aloud in the night at the beginning of the night watches, pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord, Lift up your hands to Him for the life of you little ones."

**SATURDAY:** Pray for revival of hearts and minds of young and old. To work redemptively in the world choosing "life" practices over "death" practices. Pray for people to get involved in positive ways in their communities, and at the national level.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 "This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him."

**SUNDAY:** Pray for pastors to fulfill their God given roles and to preach the truth about the value of human life. Pray that they listen to God first and His Word.

Proverbs 31:8,9 "Open your mouth for the dumb, For the rights of all unfortunate. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the right of the afflicted and needy."

