



# Mission Covenant Church

**Who We Are and Want to Be**



Photo by Darlene Ostrum

*"I need not shout my faith.  
Thrice eloquent are quiet trees and the  
green listening sod;  
Hushed are the stars,  
whose power is never spent;  
The hills are mute:  
yet how they speak of God!"  
Charles Hanson Towne,  
Poet (1877-1949)*

"How fitting are the above lines when  
applied to the region around our  
'Little White Church on the Corner!'  
Everett Landin, Historian



Our mission is to help others:

**M**eet Jesus

**C**onnect deeply with Jesus and each other

**C**ommit to follow Jesus wherever He leads

7205 Jackson Run Road  
Sugar Grove, Pa. 16350  
[SugarGroveMCC.org](http://SugarGroveMCC.org)  
814-489-3044



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Erie International Airport

Camp Mission Meadows

First Covenant Church  
Zion Covenant Church

Pleasant Community Church

Sugar Grove  
Mission Covenant Church



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- [Houghton College](#)
- [Grove City College](#)

# Sugar Grove

is a beautiful, small town of 615 residents in Warren County, Pennsylvania and is named for the large grove of maple trees in which it is nestled.

For a Birds eye view of Sugar Grove check out this drone video

The Sugar Grove Ministerium is a group of local pastors that meets regularly for fellowship, prayer, and support. The churches take turns hosting the community for lunches and holiday gatherings.

The home of many small family-owned businesses, our town features four churches, two restaurants, a medical center, pharmacy, dentist, convenience store, animal feed mill, hardware store, lumber store, public library, post office, gas station, auto repair, fire department and a thrift store managed by a church.





Palm Sunday  
“preparations”  
with the youth

*And let us consider  
how we may spur one another on  
toward love and good deeds,  
not giving up meeting together,  
as some are in the habit of doing,  
but encouraging one another—  
and all the more  
as you see the Day approaching.  
Hebrews 10:24-25*

## Our Sanctuary

Welcoming all people and encouraging the sense of belonging, we have no dress code and allow all people the freedom to dress in the way that each one feels is most honoring to God in His house.

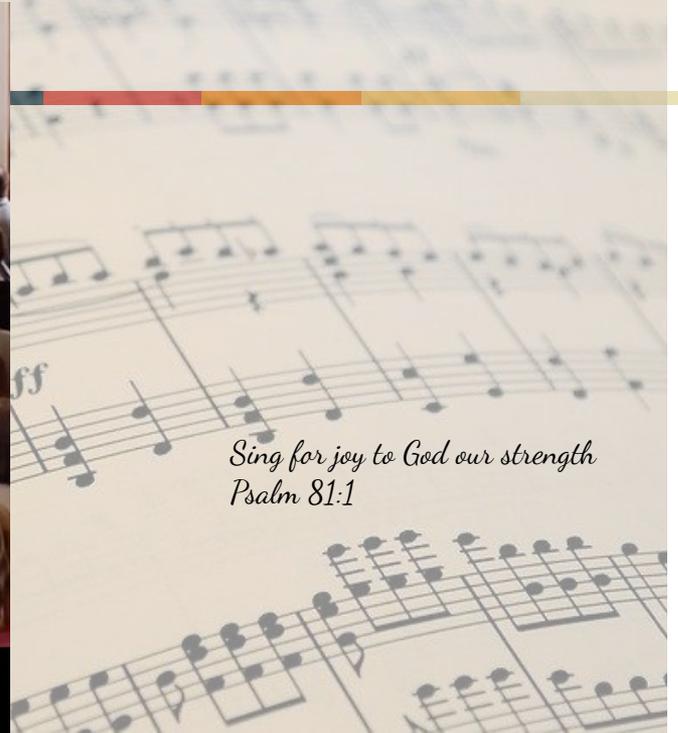


# Music Ministry

*Musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord.  
2 Chronicles 5:13*

Blessed with many talented musicians since its earliest years, MCC has enjoyed many choirs for all ages, vocal and instrumental soloists, professional accompaniment on our Galanti organ, and a few music teams, including adults and teens.

We enjoy using various styles, including contemporary, hymns, and others, to reach all people.



*Sing for joy to God our strength  
Psalm 81:1*

# Parsonage

Lovingly built and maintained by volunteers, our parsonage is a beautiful home across the corner from the church, "close enough, but not too close."





# Our History



The Evangelical Covenant Church

DEEPER IN CHRIST • FURTHER IN MISSION • TOGETHER

Joined  
the  
ECC

Levi  
Hagberg

David  
Vennberg

Steven  
Elde

Jerry  
Lange

Brian  
Haight

1883

1928

1936

1953

1989

1991

2004

2021

*A plain country setting and a simple wooden building, but our language is far too limited and meager to enable us to express the richness with which it is all associated in the heart and mind of all who are a part of this loyal little flock. Here a church and an especially scenic spot in nature work together to remind the daily wayfarer of the beautiful and challenging Way of Life.*  
Everett Landin, Church Historian (1918-2003)

We treasure the relationships we have built with our pastors through the years. We hope and expect that our pastor will inspire us to use our spiritual gifts to serve God together in our mission.

Recognizing our challenges and valuing our traditions, we embrace new direction and change according to Scripture as the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct.

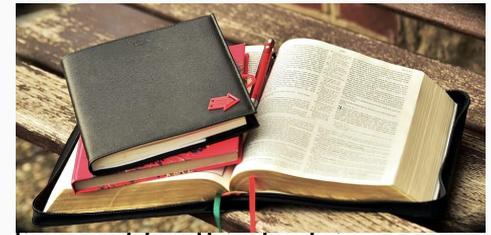
“Where is it written?”

“Why is it written?”

“How is your walk?”



“God has placed upon all Christians the great responsibility of being His co-workers in the promotion of His Kingdom on the earth. One of the most influential means we have at our disposal for this task is the education of the young in Christian doctrine.”  
Arthur Olson, Superintendent 1943



Primary	Birth through Grade 3
Junior	Grades 4-6
Confirmation	Grades 7-8
High School	Grades 9-12
Adult 1	Sermon Review/Preview
Adult 2	Home Study and Discuss a Study Book
Adult 3	Read Aloud and Discuss a Study Book
Adult 4	Read through the Bible at home and Discuss

# Sunday School



- Worship
- Bible lessons
- Prayer Partners
- Play
- Visit Elders



# CKC = Covenant Kids Club





Silly fund raisers



Creation Festival

- Worship
- Bible study
- Serve
- Play

# MCY = Mission Covenant Youth



Youth Team



**Student Discipleship Team**  
Students Grades 9 to 12  
Starts Wednesday, February 26th  
5:30 to 6:30



Loving our neighbors



- Mountain Biking
- Heavenly Stitchers
- Men's Breakfast
- More to come!

# Community Groups



# Faithful Stewards

In deference to one another, we do not demand an opportunity to lead but support through donations of time and money those who present an idea, program, or activity.



We are generous in our church and community, the denomination, and global missions.



We do not borrow money but raise funds necessary for each project directly or through faith promises. We usually do the work ourselves but occasionally hire professionals in our community.

# Advent



Each Sunday of Advent, our Primary class sings this favorite for the congregation:

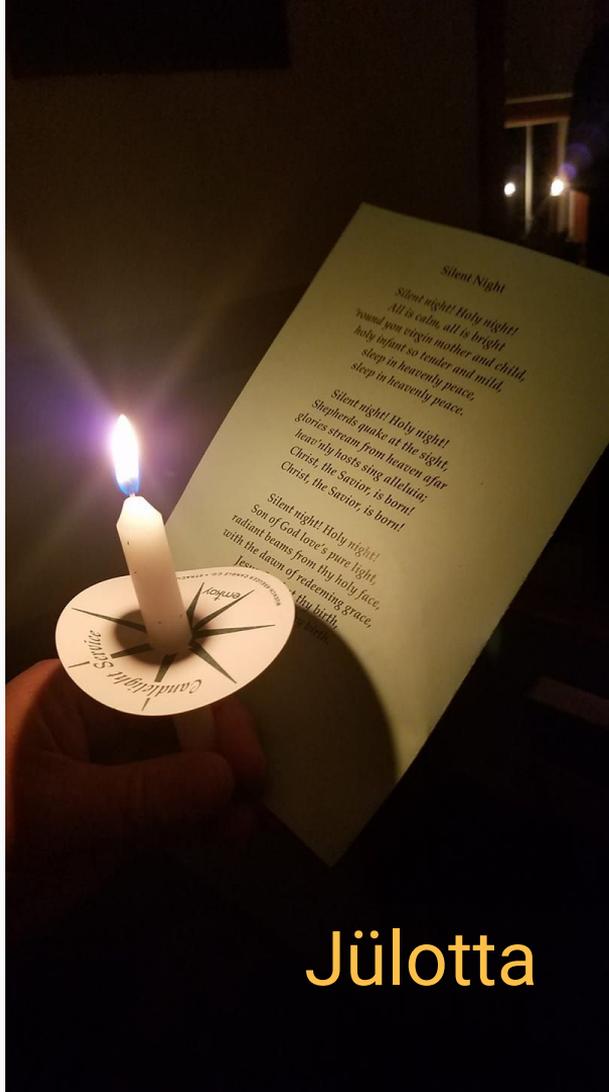
*Four More Weeks 'Til He Arrives,  
He who's filled and changed our lives.  
Let the bells ring loud and clear;  
Let the children shout and cheer.  
Let all kinds of drums be heard;  
Let all people get the Word.  
Let's clap our hands and slap our thighs,  
Raise our voices to the skies,  
Allelujah! Allelujah!"*



On the eve of the first Sunday in Advent, we gather to decorate the church. We share the excitement of the season and enjoy laughter and favorite stories as we work.



We celebrate Christmas Eve in the Swedish tradition called "Julotta" with a message from the pastor, special music offered by our members, and the singing of favorite hymns. The evening is closed with the singing of Silent Night by candlelight.





VBS is a highlight of the year. Over 55 adult volunteers provide spiritual growth through skits, lessons, games, and snacks for more than 70 children from the community.



# Vacation Bible School

# Ministries



*Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart and  
with all your soul and  
with all your strength and  
with all your mind and  
love your neighbor as yourself. Luke 10:27*

We have a rich history of ministry to many people. In 1946, we sponsored a displaced family from Estonia, helping them become established in this country. They lived and worshipped with us several years before moving on and settling in Arkansas.

- Mission Meadows Camp in Dewittville, NY
- Love INC (In the Name of Christ)
- Warren County Women's Care Center
- UCAN Jamestown City Mission Men's Shelter
- Outpost Thrift Store
- Community Lunch (monthly)
- Impact Campus Fellowship
- Care and Share local ministry
- Heavenly Stitchers
- Host MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)
- Angel Tree

## Weddings

### Rally Day

kicks off the Fall Season of Sunday School. We celebrate Moving Up for the students graduating from the Primary department to the Junior Department during the worship service. The Pastor and the Sunday Superintendent present a Bible to each one.



Host Community Groups and Events

# Missions

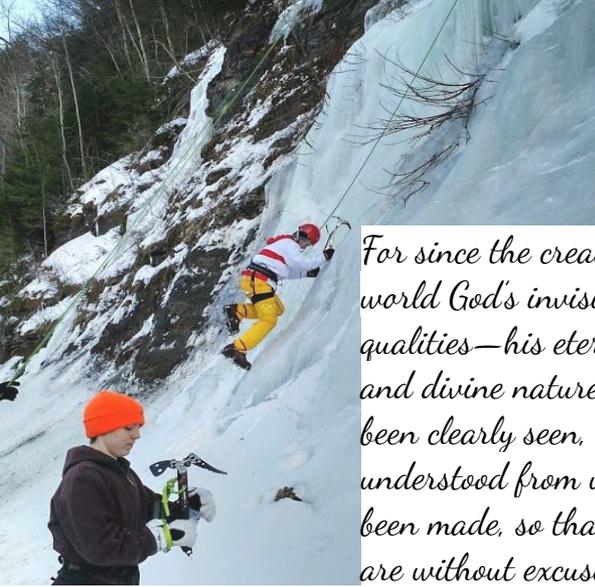


## Mission trips:

- Nicaragua
- Dominican Republic
- St. Vincent
- Tennessee
- Pittsburgh

*Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

*Matthew 28:19*



*For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*  
*Romans 1:20*



We show our love for God by our care for His creation and each other.

- Ice Climbing
- Skiing
- Ice fishing
- Rock Climbing
- Canoeing
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Horseback riding
- Target shooting
- Archery
- Hunting





# Attractions:

Warren County Fair

Allegheny River

Kinzua Dam

Holiday Valley Resort



# Demographics

**Staff:** pastor, secretary, payroll service, janitor

Attendance	Pre-covid	Covid
Sunday Worship	115	55
Sunday School	55	20
Covenant Kids Club	22	22
Mission Covenant Youth	12	6

# ECC Vitality Pathway



Continuing on the ECC Congregational Vitality Pathway, our congregation participated in PULSE in 2018. None of the attributes assessed qualify as “Healthy Missional,” as we had imagined and hoped, but many were in the “Stable” category, and a few qualify as “Critical Moment.”

Our “Fruitful Organizational Structures” are gradually improving. After the conclusion of PULSE, the pastor emphasized the sharing of personal testimonies. Our leadership set goals for the next year for people to share their stories with the congregation. Sunday School teachers spent time on the subject and provided encouragement and opportunities for practice.

When one of the four adult classes resumed after the Covid shutdowns, those who attended realized that they missed something more than just seeing friends and acquaintances; they missed hearing about experiences those people had sharing their faith.

The ECC leadership recommended that the pastor create a vibrant and well-organized small group ministry. We do not have this ministry in place, but we have just begun working on it.

We are eager for God to reveal His plan for our future ministry together!