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Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday
9 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Connect

Hilmar Covenant Church
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209 668-0400
info@hilmarcovenant.org

Place
Stamp
Here

A Note From Our Pastors

September is Fall Kick-off

What is Fall Kick-off? Why does an established church need to Kick-off? What are we starting? Many other questions about a Fall Kick-off may be in your head. Let me share a little about it. Life is lived in seasons and rhythm. God designed it that way. We see these in the Old Testament rhythm of Sabbath and 7's. We know this to be true from our experience of the world around us. Fall brings with it the beginning of school which is a major rhythm in the life of families. The church being a family experiences this rhythm too.

Fall Kick-off aligns with this natural rhythm and serves as a good opportunity to call families to other rhythms that help us to focus and orient our lives around the One whom we believe, and is, to be the highest relationship in our lives. Our walk with Jesus involves disciplines that help us maintain that relationship, but we must not confuse those disciplines for being the relationship. I can do all the right things but if it does not lead to a deeper relationship with Jesus, I have missed the point. Relationship is more than behaving the right way. Relationships are based on intimacy, the knowing and being known by another individual.

So, what is Fall Kick-off for Hilmar Covenant? It is a time we will be doing some special attraction activities, but it is more significant than that. It is a time to call all of us to go deeper in our relationship, in our intimacy with God. Whether we have been out of the rhythm of going to church, reading our bibles, praying, doing bible studies, etc. (all disciplines) or whether we have been in those patterns of behavior to take steps to not only know about Jesus but to be known by him. To open ourselves to a transforming relationship. One that changes us because we fall in love with the Creator God and follow His plan and design because we love Him.

Invite someone you know whom you have been having God conversations with to a deeper experience with Jesus. Don't invite them to church, there is a difference. Share how your involvement grows your relationship with Jesus. That is what people want to hear about, witness to them. In a more robust explanation be a witness to the transforming power of relationship with Jesus. It's not a big threatening thing, it's telling your story and emphasizing your experience with God.

Sincerely,
Aaron Crumrine

Please Keep in Your Prayers:

Magui Guimaraes, Cricket Higginson, Anita Johnson, Bruce Johnson, Mark Johnson, Lynn Lea, Cindy Postma, Pat Wickstrom, Dave Wesley

Please remember if you would like to be included on our prayer list call the church office at 668-0400.

MEMORIAL BRICKS

It's not too late to add your family brick or a brick commemorating a loved one to our columbarium walkway. We have constructed the walk in such a way that bricks can easily be added. Please notify Kaitlin in the church office or Carolyn Ahlem if you would like a brick. There is a cost of 150.00 which is tax deductible. As soon as we have enough bricks for an order (12 or so) we will send it in.

HILMAR HELPING HANDS

The Hilmar Helping Hands donation tub is in the church lobby every Sunday. This is a great way to serve our local community!

Items needed include all non perishable foods.

If you have any questions please contact Sam or Cindy Postma

You may also drop off any donations in the church office Tues.-Fri. 9am-4pm

Choir and Handbells Resuming

Come join choir on Wednesdays starting September 7th at 7pm

Handbells To Be Determined

Contact Marilyn Fullmer (209) 604-1689 for more information



SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- SEPT. 7TH — CHOIR 7PM (MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY)
- SEPT. 8TH — COUNCIL MEETING
- SEPT. 9TH — MERCED COUNTY COVID-19 CLINIC 12-3PM
- SEPT. 11TH — FALL KICK-OFF (TACOS & ITALIAN SODAS)
- SEPT. 17TH — WOMEN'S MINISTRY GATHERING AT SWEET LIFE 10AM
- SEPT. 18TH — FALL KICK-OFF (BOUNCE HOUSE & SNO-CONES)
- SEPT. 23RD — MERCED COUNTY COVID-19 CLINIC 12-3PM
- SEPT. 24TH — ROOTED PAINTBALL 11:15AM
- SEPT. 25TH — FALL KICK-OFF (CLASSIC PICNIC LUNCH)
- SEPT. 30TH-OCT. 2ND — PSWC WOMEN'S RETREAT AT MISSION SPRINGS
- OCT. 2ND — CRESCENDO HYMN SING 6PM

Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, crushed down, full and running over, they will give to you. For in the same measure as you give, it will be given to you again.

Luke 6:38

FRONTLINE

- SEPT. 4TH - TEAM #6
- SEPT. 11TH - TEAM #7
- SEPT. 18TH - TEAM #1
- SEPT. 25TH - TEAM #2

Find Us on Social Media

Facebook: Hilmar Covenant Church @ Hilmar Covenant
Instagram: hilmar_cov
Website: hilmarcovenant.org
YouTube: Hilmar Covenant Church

SEPTEMBER



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ken Olds
John Labno
- 2 Frank Durjava
Peggy Dulle
- 5 Ryan Avila
- 9 Mary Wickstrom
- 12 Ainslie Lee
- 14 Carolyn Brown
Luke Schulze
- 16 Ava Stivers
- 27 Pat Wickstrom
- 28 Rebeca Lawton
Teresa Wells
- 30 Maria Vieira
Betty Boehme

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Tom & Teresa Wells
- 6 Bruce & Kris Metcalf
- 8 Paul & Sheryl Noren
- 11 Fred & Judy Honore
- 15 Mike & Monica Boehme
- 27 Stephen & Kaitlin Moore
- 30 Danny & Carla Avila

Average Monthly Giving For JULY:

Weekly budget :: \$9,755

Avg. Offering per wk :: \$7,750

Budget YTD :: \$302,405 YTD giving :: \$275,256 (\$27,149)

Monthly Avg. Attendance: IN PERSON: 63 KS 12 ONLINE: 19

— August Newsletter —
KIDSPACE
EPIC | A LOVE STORY FOR THE AGES

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding."
Proverbs 3:5



Throughout history, God has been faithful to us. A good example, is God keeping his promise of sending Jesus to save us! The Bible shows examples of people who knew firsthand what it meant to trust God in many circumstances. This month, we focus on three of them who happen to be part of the same family: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Through their stories, we'll discover how we can trust God no matter what we face.

**THIS MONTH'S
NEED TO KNOW'S**

PARENT CUE

3 Conversations Parents are Afraid Of by Parent Cue

Featured Article

kidSPACE Team Members Needed

Do you love Jesus? Do you love kids? Join the kidSPACE team! We need adults who love Jesus and are willing to share that love with kids! If you'd like more information, please talk to Ashley!

Fall Kick Off: Family Sunday

On Sunday, September 18th, join us for a family oriented Sunday followed by a fun time of bounce houses and snow-cones! The fun starts at 10am!



ROOTED MIDDLE SCHOOL

Rooted Middle School meets Wednesday nights from 6:30-8 in the Family Center gym. Our September series will be "The Journey" on following Jesus in 2022. Doors open at 6:15. Bring your Bible! And bring a friend!

ROOTED HIGH SCHOOL

Rooted High School meets Sunday nights from 6:30-8 in the Family Center gym. Our September and October series will be "Make a U-Turn" on returning to the Bible as the source for wisdom and guidance in life. Doors open at 6:15. Bring your Bible! And bring a friend!

PAINTBALL

Rooted is going paint-balling on September 24th. We'll be leaving church at 11:15. Cost is \$20 per person. Bring a sack lunch. Waivers need to be filled out prior to arriving. Sign up in the youth room! And yes, this is a combined middle school and high school event.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our annual Swedish Pancake fundraiser is October 22nd! At press time we are unsure of when the next UNITE will be, but there are rumors it could be in 2024. So students in 7th grade and up who'd like to start fundraising should participate!

Additionally, students participating need to help recruit adults to help cook pancakes on Friday afternoon (the 21st) and Saturday morning.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Are you on Instagram? Follow Rooted Youth @rootedyouthhilmarcov

Are you on Facebook? Like Rooted Youth at www.facebook.com/rootedyouthhilmarcov/

WEEKLY EMAILS

A weekly Rooted parents' email is sent out every Tuesday. Want to get it? It's simple. All you have to do is go to http://eepurl.com/c_Moq1 and fill out the brief form!



The preschoolers will be continuing their trek through Genesis this month, and will be starting to learn more about Abraham's family. They will learn about Abraham's grandsons Jacob and Esau. Through these brothers our kids will learn that **God loves differences** and that **God blesses all of us!**



ROOTED High Schoolers
at Unite- West with
Covenant Grove

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

With all the Kick-Off stuff happening, Women's Ministry will be enjoying a nice low-key hang out time at Sweet Life this month. We will meet Saturday, September 17th at 10am at Sweet Life for an agenda-free time of fellowship. Hope to see you there!

Also, for those who are interested in Women's Retreat happening at the end of the month, there is still time to register! Be sure to get your registration in ASAP before they fill up! Visit <https://www.missionsprings.com/camp-event/pswc-women-conference/> to register or get more information. Only 14 spots available left!



Women's Ministry is also looking ahead to November when we will be gathering together for an Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing party! During this event we will packing gifts into shoeboxes that will be sent by international relief organization, Samaritan's Purse, to children around the world who may not get any other Christmas gifts. Through these shoeboxes we, and Samaritan's Purse, hope to share the good news and love of Christ with the children who receive them and their communities.

This year we are going to aim to pack 25 boxes! In order to do this, however, we need your help beforehand to get the gifts that we will pack. Please visit the website or scan the QR code to sign up for items to bring. <https://tinyurl.com/7ey93zk3>

Anyone can bring items to be packed!

SHOEBOX
GIFT IDEAS

"WOW" ITEM

- Soccer ball with pump
- Doll
- Stuffed animal
- Shoes

TOYS

- Toy cars
- Jump ropes
- Yo-yos
- Toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrushes
- Washcloths
- Combs
- Hairbrushes

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, and markers
- Notebooks and paper
- Coloring and picture books
- Solar calculators

ACCESSORIES

- Socks
- Sunglasses
- Jewelry and watches
- Flashlights (with extra batteries)

DO NOT INCLUDE

candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items; seeds; food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol cans

For additional gift suggestions and more, visit [samaritanspurse.org/occ](https://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ)



Council Connection – August 2022

We opened the August meeting by looking at a passage from the book *Until Unity*, by Francis Chan and also at 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. We looked at the concept of reconciliation. The idea of the passage is that when we are working side by side for Christ's mission, it keeps us from fighting each other. A shared mission pulls us together. We are tasked with the ministry of reconciliation of people back to God. Should we invite people to church, or should we invite people to Christ? We are ambassadors for Christ. What does an ambassador for Christ look like? Do we exemplify how Christ wants us to act when we're at the football game? Jesus spent time with the sinner and the tax collector, but he was still able to hold his holiness.

We're looking forward to upcoming Fall kickoff events during September. Choir and Bells are starting up the second week of September.

If you're interested in Missions and would like to be part of the Mission's Committee please let Gwen or the office know.

The tech team continues to work on improving lighting for the live stream. Andrew shared before and after images with the Council and there is a marked improvement. Thank you tech team members for your faithful efforts.

The Pastor Search Team is in conversation with a prospect but much prayer and discernment with the prospect is still left before any moves can be made. Please pray for both the prospect and the search team as they look for God's direction in this.

The development of a safety plan and procedures for fire or lockdowns is in process. If you have knowledge of these things and would like to participate in the process contact the office.

As part of the mission of the Church to the community, Merced County may hold a Covid Vaccination Clinic at church in early September.

Three Council members will be going off Council this December as their terms expire. If you are interested in serving on the Council please contact a Council member. Council members are Danny Avila, Javier Carillo, MaryEllen Durjava, Lloyd Erlandson, Wade Fullmer, Andrew Postma, Gwen Schulze, Jeff Strom, and David Ward

In Christ's Love,
David Ward