



The Covenanter

September 2026



Winter Park
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Worship Services: 8:15 & 10:30 AM | Sunday School: 9:15 AM

Newsletter Submissions: cindym@winppc.org

Watch us online at <https://www.youtube.com/@audio-visualministryatwppc5595/streams>
400 S. Lakemont Avenue | Winter Park, FL 32792 | 407-647-1467 | www.winppc.org

September

		TUESDAY 1	WEDNESDAY 2	THURSDAY 3	FRIDAY 4	SATURDAY 5
		Scout Troops Mtg 7pm, Rms 202/204 Pack 246 Mtg 7pm, FH	Wed Night Study 5:45pm, FH WPPC Handbells 6pm, Rm 102 Chancel Choir 7:15pm, Sanctuary		Office Closed Tai Chi 11:30am, FH	
SUNDAY 6	MONDAY 7	TUESDAY 8	WEDNESDAY 9	THURSDAY 10	FRIDAY 11	SATURDAY 12
Communion Sunday Worship Services 8:15am-Chapel 10:30am-Sanctuary Sunday School 9:15-10:15am Children's Church 10:30am	Office Closed for Labor Day	Scout Troops Mtg 7pm, Rms 202/204 Pack 246 Mtg 7pm, FH	PS Board Mtg 10am, Rm 301 Wed Night Study 5:45pm, FH WPPC Handbells 6pm, Rm 102 Chancel Choir 7:15pm, Sanctuary	Budg/Finance Mtg 4pm, Rm 303 Worship Mtg. 6pm, Library Compassion Mtg 7pm, Zoom	Office Closed Tai Chi 11:30am	
SUNDAY 13	MONDAY 14	TUESDAY 15	WEDNESDAY 16	THURSDAY 17	FRIDAY 18	SATURDAY 19
Worship Services 8:15am-Chapel 10:30am-Sanctuary Sunday School 9:15-10:15am Children's Church 10:30am Personnel Mtg 11:45am, Rm 315 CE Mtg 11:45am, Rm 303 Line Dancing 1:30pm, FH	Tai Chi 11:30am, FH Hannah Circle 6pm, Rm 301	Scout Troops Mtg 7pm, Rms 202/204 Pack 246 Mtg 7pm, FH	WPPC Handbells 6pm, Rm 102 Chancel Choir 7:15pm, Sanctuary	N&F Lunch 11:30am, FH	Office Closed Tai Chi 11:30am	
SUNDAY 20	MONDAY 21	TUESDAY 22	WEDNESDAY 23	THURSDAY 24	FRIDAY 25	SATURDAY 26
Congregational Mtg after the 10:30 Worship Service. Worship Services 8:15am-Chapel 10:30am-Sanctuary Sunday School 9:15-10:15am Children's Church 10:30am Welcome Home Reception 11:30am, FH Deacon Mtg 11:45am, Rm 301	Tai Chi 11:30am, FH	Scout Troops Mtg 7pm, Rms 202/204 Pack 246 Mtg 7pm, FH	Wed Night Study 5:45pm, FH WPPC Handbells 6pm, Rm 102 Chancel Choir 7:15pm, Sanctuary	N&F Planning Mtg 11am, Rm 301 Session Mtg 7pm, Rm 301	Office Closed	
SUNDAY 27	MONDAY 28	TUESDAY 29	WEDNESDAY 30			
Worship Services 8:15am-Chapel 10:30am-Sanctuary Sunday School 9:15-10:15am Children's Church 10:30am Line Dancing 1:30pm AGO Concert 4pm, Sanctuary	Tai Chi 11:30am, FH	Scout Troops Mtg 7pm, Rms 202/204 Pack 246 Mtg 7pm, FH	Wed Night Study 5:45pm, FH WPPC Handbells 6pm, Rm 102 Chancel Choir 7:15pm, Sanctuary			



WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Study

WE HAVE WRAPPED UP THE SUMMER CLASS ON CONTEXT OF THE BIBLE. JOIN US FOR A CONVERSATION ON THEMES FROM THE BIBLE. EACH NIGHT IS A STAND-ALONE TOPIC SO FEEL FREE TO COME AS YOUR SCHEDULE ALLOWS.

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

CREATION, BLESSING, RELEASE, RELATIONSHIP,
LAND, KINGS, PROPHETS, WISDOM.



DATES

8/26, 9/2, 9/9,
9/23, 9/30



TIME & PLACE

5:45 P.M.
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Bring a side or salad to share with those coming from work or continuing on to choir practice.



Winter Park
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

400 S. Lakemont Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32792 | 407-647-1467 | www.winppc.org



Winter Park
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

2:00 PM

ROOM 301

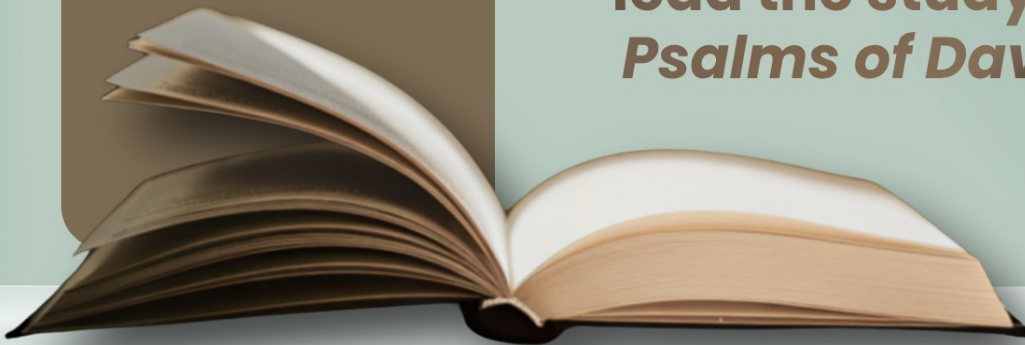
EVERY TUESDAY
IN OCTOBER

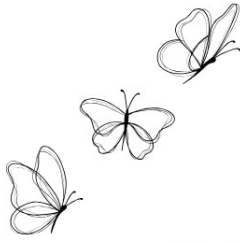
FOUR WEEK STUDY

OCTOBER

6, 13, 20, 27

**Phyllis Woods will
lead the study on
*Psalms of David.***





NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
11:30AM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Reservations must be made by Monday, September 14 . Call the church office or sign up on the sheet located in the front office hallway.

Please remember that there is a charge for any reserved meals not taken. We are requesting that you please call if you have a change of plans and aren't able to attend. As always, you are welcome to bring your own meal or just come for the program.

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for information, fellowship, and a good meal!

The lunch, catered by Chef Scott, will begin at 11:30 a.m. and will be followed by two short presentations addressing concerns, support, and services available to seniors.

SCAMS

Janet Hope will talk about Scams that target senior citizens,

NEIGHBORS NETWORK

Cindy Williams will provide information on the Neighbors Network, a local nonprofit organization that helps seniors.





Winter Park
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

You are invited to a

WELCOME HOME RECEPTION

Sponsored by the Neighbors & Friends Ministry, a
part of the Community Life Outreach Committee.

Please join us for a Welcome Home and Welcome
Back Reception! This is a time for fellowship and a
time to catch up with everyone we've missed during
the summer. We welcome all, including our members,
those who regularly attend, those of you who have
been gone for the summer, former members, and
those who have been absent for any reason.



SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY

20

11:30 AM

Plan to come and celebrate the joy that comes
from being a part of this Community of Christ.



Please RSVP by 9/16

Place this form in the offering plate or
call 407-647-1467 to make your reservation.

There is no cost for the food, but Chef Scott will base how
much he prepares according to the reservations made.

I would love to attend the reception on 9/20!

Name: _____ # Attending _____

SAVE THE DATE



Get your hairnets ready! WPPC is hosting a food packing event. Open to all ages and abilities. The more volunteers, the more fun!

IN THE MORNING ON

**Saturday
10/3/2026**

*A Special Event
Is Coming*



Line Dance Class is back!

SEPTEMBER 13 & 27

1:30 PM

Never say you're too old, or too young to Line Dance!



Summer is rapidly coming to a close, and September is here!

Line dancing is a great way to get a bit of exercise as well as testing our memories together from week to week as we learn new dances. Our wonderful instructor, Bethany, is available to join us once again.

We will meet every two weeks up until the holiday season and beyond if we continue to have sufficient interest. If you would like to join us, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Admin Building hallway.

The cost is \$7-\$8 per week based on the number of people who attend.

Please join us and feel free to bring your friends. The more the merrier and possibly the less expensive!

Syd Davis | sydd@winppc.org

Pipes and Voices

Presented by

*The Central Florida Chapter of
The American Guild of Organists*

Sunday, September 27, 2026

4:00 p.m.

WP Presbyterian Church

ORGANISTS

David Ludwig
Penny Slightom Walsh
Phoon Yu

CHURCH CHOIRS

Winter Park Presbyterian
Westminster Ringers
First UMC of Orlando
All Saints of Winter Park
Prince of Peace Lutheran

DIRECTORS

Justin Chase
Jason Locker
Andrew Minear
Scott Beck, Bells



Winter Park
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

400 S. Lakemont Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32792 | 407-647-1467

Thank You! THANK YOU!

for generously contributing "Back to School Supplies" to Killarney Elementary School.

The Compassion Committee of WPPC and the Killarney students and teachers thank you, our congregation, for the many useful items that will benefit students and teachers as they learn together this year.

School supply needs were identified.



The congregation generously responded.



Killarney Elementary School "Gave Thanks!" 😊



WPPC NEWS

HANNAH CIRCLE –SEPT 14

We are looking forward to the Hannah Circle starting up again on Mon. Sept 14 with a series on *The Gifts of the Holy Spirit*. The circle will meet on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in room 301. All women of the Church are welcome to be part of this lively and dedicated group, which has been part of our Church for decades.

OUR COMMUNITY

Over the past several months the congregation has been rediscovering who we are through a congregational survey and discussing what resources we have to minister to our neighbors in focus groups. Now we turn our attention to who those neighbors are and what they want from a church. Check out the bulletin boards in the Admin Building to take a sneak peak at information the newly formed Mission Study Team will be using in their report to support the search for a new pastor.

Here are a few items of interest:

Our neighbors are open to learning more about God; but say that people in the church don't act like Jesus.

Top life concerns center on financing the future and current social and political tension.

Reasons given for not being active in church include the over emphasis on money and a lack of trust in religious leaders. Those considering leaving cite lack of spiritual connections.

Our neighbors are looking for warm and friendly encounters, opportunities to develop relationships and volunteer in the community, and adult social activities.

These are things we already do at WPPC. Maybe we just need to get the word out!

A NOTE FROM BUDGET & FINANCE

Qualified Charitable Distributions

If you are age 70½ or older, you may be eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to our church.

A QCD allows you to make a charitable gift directly from an eligible IRA to a qualified charitable organization. For individuals who are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), generally beginning at age 73, a QCD can count toward the year's RMD.

To make a QCD to Winter Park Presbyterian Church, Inc.:

Please contact your IRA custodian or financial institution and request a Qualified Charitable Distribution. Instruct them to make the distribution directly to Winter Park Presbyterian Church, Inc. rather than sending the funds to you personally.

For cash distributions, the check should be made payable to:

Winter Park Presbyterian Church, Inc., 400 S Lakemont Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789

Please notify the church when the QCD is sent so they can properly acknowledge and credit your gift.

Please consult your IRA custodian and/or tax advisor regarding your individual circumstances. The church cannot provide tax advice.



INTRODUCING NOMINEES FOR THE NEW CLASS OF ELDERS & DEACONS

Affirmation of the nominees will be held during the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 20 after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Bios on each individual are below.

ELDERS

FRAN MORRISSEY, Class of 2029

Fran has been blessed to be a member of WPPC for 25 years. During that time she has been grateful for the chance to serve the Homeless Coalition, the Education committee, the Health Cabinet, the Compassion committee, and Vacation Bible School, among other ministries. She has also served as a deacon and an Elder. She had the privilege to join a mission trip to Peru and to visit our partner church in Santa Clara, Cuba. Fran is a retired middle school science teacher and enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and time at the beach. With God's love and grace, she looks forward to serving again as an Elder alongside Pastor Melanie and her fellow Elders.

ROBERT NEVILL, Class of 2029

Robert is currently serving Winter Park Presbyterian Church as a Deacon but has been called to be an Elder in the class of 2029. He is a frequent liturgist, contributes articles to the Deacon's Den in the Covenanter, and is a member of the Pastor Nominating Committee. He and his wife Tracy were married at WPCC. Robert believes service is a gift that one both gives and receives when doing.

NELSON ROE, Elder Class of 2027

Nelson grew up in Winter Haven, Florida and attended Grace Lutheran Junior High, where his faith took root. He has been attending Winter Park Presbyterian Church since the late 1980's, serving on several committees and Session over the years. Nelson is continuing to serve as Elder, completing the term held by Carel Thompson.

CHUCK SCHINDLER, Class of 2029

Chuck has been an active member of three Presbyterian churches, being confirmed as a youth in the 1960s at Summerville Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York. He and his wife Linda were members of the former First Presbyterian Church of Sanford in the 1970s-80s, and members of Tuskawilla United Methodist Church for 34 years. They began visiting Winter Park Presbyterian Church in 2019, joining in 2024. Chuck has been active in youth and adult fellowship groups and has served as an usher since his teens. He also enjoys decorating his home and church for the holidays.

SARA VAN ARSDEL, Class of 2029

Sara has been a member of Winter Park Presbyterian Church for more than 20 years. She retired in 2014 where she was the Executive Director of the Orange County Regional History Center. She headed the plan to convert the 1927 Orange County Courthouse to the Regional History Center, which opened to critical acclaim in 2000. She has been an Elder and Deacon and has served as the chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, served on the Preschool Board as well as in other areas of the church. Her motto: "I will go, Lord, if you need me."



DEACONS

PAMM FERGUSON, Class of 2029

Pamm was a life-time member of Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY. As an adult she was active as a Deacon, helped with Sunday coffee hours, and volunteered for junior choir theatrical performances. Since moving recently to Westminster Winter Park she regularly attends WPPC and became a member last spring. She's joined the Neighbors and Friends committee and worked as a volunteer receptionist in the office. She is a reverse snowbird — see you in the fall!

JANET HOPE, Class of 2029

Janet was married in the Presbyterian church in Detroit, Michigan and her three children were baptized there. She has lived in Winter Park, in Seminole county, for the past 45 years. Janet retired from Florida Hospital as a Supervisor of the Mammography department. She enjoys this church and feels that it is the friendliest and most joyful, and she is glad to be a part of it.

SEVILLA MORSE, Class of 2029

This will be Sevilla's third term as Deacon here at Winter Park Presbyterian Church. She was a music teacher in the Cleveland, Ohio area for 48 years. In 2011 she moved to Winter Park and soon joined WPPC. She sings in the choir and plays handbells here at the church. She also serves on the Worship and Music committee. Sevilla appreciates all the friendships she has made at this church.

TRACY TROTTA-NEVILL, Class of 2027

Tracy retired in June after a 27+ year career at Darden Restaurants. She is a CPA and served in various leadership roles throughout her career. Tracy gained extensive experience in finance/accounting, organization, and working with people. She is grateful for God's guidance throughout her career and feels called to serve as a Deacon, using her skills, time and gifts of service to the church community. Tracy is honored to support her church family and is committed to helping strengthen and encourage others in their walk of faith.

JEANNE VINCI, DEACON Class of 2029

Jeanne and her family have supported Winter Park Presbyterian Church for 40 years. During the 20 years that her family has resided in the area, Jeanne has served as a Sunday School and VBS teacher, active member of the Family/Community Life/CLOC Committee and choir member. Jeanne's credentials as a Stephen Minister/Leader allowed her to assist the Parrish Nurse with long term visitation/complicated assignments and eventually facilitate required continuing education/supervision meetings once the Parish Nurse stepped away from the position. She has served one full term as a member of the diaconate and has stepped in to complete two one-year terms and served as the Chair, Christian Education Committee during her Elder tenure.

Deacons' Den

Debbie Pauzar

What should the church's top priority, our mission in everything that we do as a church and as His beloved child, be?

Jesus revealed the answer to that question in the very same mandate He proclaimed to His disciples after His resurrection, in Mark 16:15-20. This was His last commandment, the most important message He was giving to His disciples, *and to us*, before ascending to heaven:

¹⁵ *He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.*

¹⁶ *Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”*

¹⁹ *After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was taken up into heaven and He sat at the right hand of God.*

²⁰ *Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them confirming His word by the signs that accompanied it.*

Our church does many wonderful things to help others and to honor God. Each one is very important. Yet, if we do “good works” without including the message of Grace, making that message the priority, it is like the old saying: “Give a man a fish, you only feed him for a day.”

Likewise, when offering our time and talents without the message of the cross, we are only “feeding” others for a day.

For it is only by lovingly sharing, teaching and witnessing the Power of Saving Grace, that we truly offer everlasting, “spiritual nourishment.”

Luke 19:10



Without the knowledge, understanding and acceptance of Grace through repentance and evidence of a changed life, there is no eternal home with the Lord.

For Jesus clearly states the consequences of believing or rejecting His Message in verse 16:

“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

The message of the cross is eternal life with Christ...without Christ, eternal condemnation. *Therefore, there is nothing in this life more important than knowing and believing this Truth:*

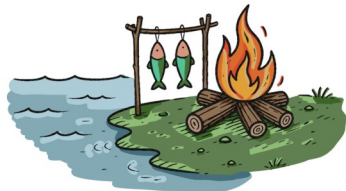
Jesus
is the (only) Way, Truth and Life.

So let us love others in many ways as we serve
our Lord and Savior,
yet always alongside our loving witness of
Saving Grace.

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Bible Quiz

After his resurrection, Jesus asked one of his disciples the same question three times: "Do you love me?" The disciple felt hurt, wondering why Jesus kept asking. Who was this disciple?



- A. James
- B. John
- C. Philip
- D. (Simon) Peter

Answer: D (John 21:17)

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



Bread—One of the oldest and most familiar foods, bread carries deep meaning throughout Scripture.

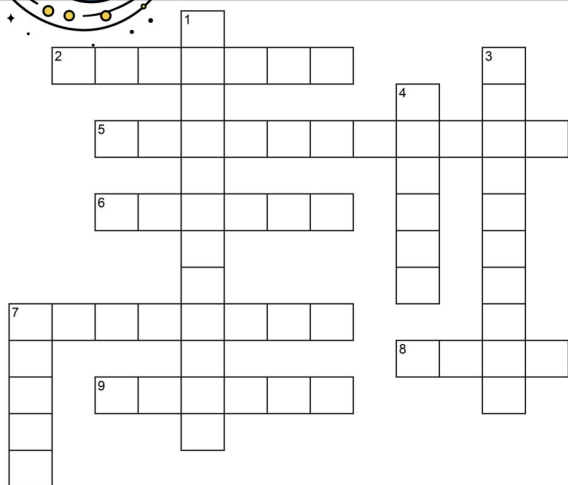
In the Old Testament, God provided manna, or "bread from heaven" to sustain His people in the wilderness. In the New Testament, Jesus declared "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35), pointing to himself as the true source of spiritual nourishment. Bread also holds a central place in the Lord's Supper, where it represents Christ's body, given for us. Simple and sustaining, bread has become a lasting symbol of God's provision, Christ's presence, and the shared fellowship of believers.

Puzzle!



BEATITUDES

Fill in the blanks below to complete the crossword. Answers are based on Matthew 5:1-13, NIV.



ACROSS

2. _____ and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.
5. Blessed are the _____, for they will see God.
6. Blessed are those who _____ and thirst after righteousness.
7. Blessed are the _____, for they will receive mercy.
8. Blessed are the _____, for they will inherit the earth.
9. Blessed are those who hunger and _____, for they will be filled.

DOWN

1. Blessed are the _____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
3. Blessed are those who are _____ for righteousness' sake.
4. Great is your _____ in heaven.
7. Blessed are those who _____, for they will be comforted.

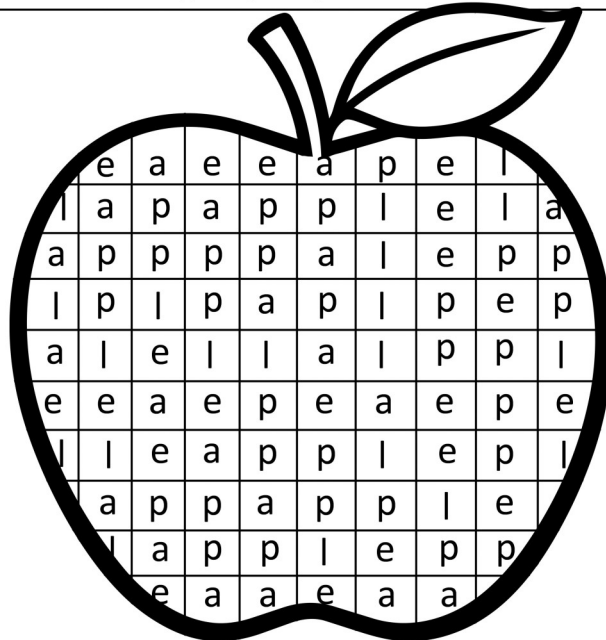
Answer key: 2 Across: Rejoice, 5 Across: pureinheart, 6 Across: hunger
7 Across: merciful, 8 Across: meek, 9 Across: thirst, 1 Down: mourn
3 Down: persecuted, 4 Down: reward, 7 Down: mourn



Apple of Your Eye

"Apple of your eye" means something very special that you protect. As school starts again, remember what God says in Proverbs 7:2 (NIV): "Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye."

Can you find the word "apple" 12 times in the puzzle?
Look up, down, across, and even backward!



**9/2****Rachel Myers
Victoria Snyder****9/13****Ray Schieber
Elaine Young****9/14****Andrew Boyle
Janet Hope****9/16****Myrna Ham****9/21****David Robinson
Dona Stepp****9/22****Wendy Jamison****9/23****Keith Naylor
Barbara Halterman****9/25****Debby Roberts****9/28****Jim Esch****9/30****Mike Galyean
DeLores Mamone
Nancy Ocque
Andy Riccio
Paula Smathers
Jim Spivey****10/9****Frank Jamison****10/14****Rusty Baldwin****10/18****Carolyn Boyle****10/19****Camden Dreasher****10/20****Ann McIntosh****10/27****Charlotte Brown
Alan Woods****10/29****Bette Blanchfield**



Rev. Melanie Ruta, Interim Pastor
 Justin Chase, Director of Music
 Penny Walsh, Organist
 Sandra Shafer, Pianist
 Scott Beck, Director of Handbells
 Cindy Mitchum, Executive Assistant
 Pattie Lavelle, Bookkeeper
 Mark Greenleaf, Property Manager
 Jessica Grablewski, Children's Ministry Coordinator
 Nicole Fye, Director of Preschool Programs
 Rosaura Velazques, Assistant Director of Preschool Programs
 Katie Daniels, Preschool Administrative Assistant

SESSION

2026

Syd Davis
 Betty Johnston
 Shaheed Mohammed
 Nelson Roe

2027

Maria Garton
 Lil Rea
 Phyllis Woods

2028

Rusty Baldwin
 Steve House
 Jayne Leach
 Ron Thompson

DIACONATE

2026

Meg Baldwin
 Ernestine Beattie
 Debby Roberts
 Jeanne Vinci

2027

Marilyn Bryant
 Cynthia Nants
 Robert Nevill
 Paula Smathers

2028

Sue Howard
 Lynne McKnight
 Debbie Pauzar
 Frances Swope

MISSIONARIES

Mark Hare & Jenny Bent - Costa Rica
 Dr. Dan & Elizabeth Turk - Madagascar

For Covenanter or Sunday bulletin submissions, email Cindy Mitchum at cindym@winppc.org.