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October Calendar

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Area News & Our Views

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 A.M. Sunday School

10:00 A.M. Coffee
Fellowship

10:30 A.M. Worship

PASTOR'S CORNER

October brings Halloween. Like many American children I trick or treated, and remember dark, chilling nights scurrying through my home neighborhood along with ghosts, pirates, skeletons, princesses, astronauts, hobos, cowboys and Indians.

The silliness of Halloween is a natural human response to the greatest enigma we face in life and that is death. Halloween is an evening to thumb our noses at something inevitable and grim. Comic director, Woody Allen, said it best when he said, "I'm not afraid of dying; I just don't want to be there when it happens."

For believers in Jesus Christ we have the one sure hope that rises above the darkest grave and that is the promise of our resurrection in Christ. While we will, no doubt, miss loved ones when they pass from this life we are given an assurance of meeting all the faithful again and living with them for eternity.

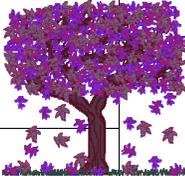
This all sounds too good to be true, but we must remember that from beginning to end God's Word is a story of God doing whatever it takes to reunite us with Himself as He had originally intended. This means, and can only mean, life with Him forever. Death will not stand in God's way.

So when you say 'boo' to the next hob-goblin that knocks on your door on October 31st remember that, as Christians, we can thumb our noses at death.

"O death, where is your victory?"
O death, where is your sting?"

1 Corinthians 15:55

Happy Halloween!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:00 Lead Team	3 5:00 HS Youth 6:15#507 Rally at American Reformed Church 6:45 Youth Groups 7:00 Adult Bible Study	4	5	6 Arnold Sexe
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship	8 Pearl Soderholm	9	10 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Bible Study Harold Wass	11	12 Easton Harms	13
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship	15 Arnold & Elna Sexe	16 Paul Jans	17 7:00 Adult Bible Study Isaac Collin Molly Fenske Jude & Mavis Gravenhof	18 Kyle & Jenna Jans	19 Nick & Marci Moshier	20 
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship Mavis Gravenhof	22	23 Bethani Fellows	24 6:45 HS Boys & Girls Youth Group 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Adult Bible Study	25	26	27 Madeline Roos
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship Abel Collin	29	30	31 6:30-8:00 Trunk or Treat 7:00 Adult Bible Study	OCTOBER 2018		

SERVING YOU IN OCTOBER

SCRIPTURE READERS:

7 Kris Fischer
14 Deb Joens
21 Carol Christopherson
28 Gretchen O'Donnell

GREETERS:

7 Dave & Sheila Bos
Ron Hyvari & Howard Rachuy
14 Jude & Mavis Gravenhof
Ted & Sarah Martin
21 Tom Ahlberg & Ron Hyvari
Duane & Molly Fenske
28 Marc & Judy Gustafson
Dale & Shirley Martin

WORSHIP NURSERY:

7 Paul & Deb Olsen
14 Colin & Gretchen O'Donnell
21 Susan Collin & Kadence Hyvari
28 Chad & Jeani Harms

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

7 Ted & Sarah Martin
14 John & Emily Buarapha
21 Gene & Lil Foth
28 Duane & Molly Fenske

SOUND SYSTEM:

7 Tom Ahlberg
14 Dave Bos
21 Jeff Ling
28 Jerry Luinenburg

COMMUNION SERVERS (October 7th):

Shirley Martin
Tom Ahlberg
Jeff Ling
Dale Martin

USHERS:

Doug & Marcia Anton
Tom & Sharon Klucking

**If you cannot serve on your assigned Sunday, please find a replacement or call the church office at 376-5109.*

By Gene Foth

ANGELA PETERSON, age 90, passed away on Sunday,



September 16, 2018. Mrs. Peterson loved her Lord and Savior. She was active in Spirit Lake's CrossWinds and Worthington's First Covenant church.

When her health declined, and she was no longer able to live alone, she moved to Lancaster, South Carolina in 2011 to live with her daughter's family. She passed away peacefully from dementia complications at her daughter's home. Burial will be at a later date in Spirit Lake, Iowa.

MARY WASS

age 97 died Monday, September 17, 2018 at the Sibley Specialty Care Center.

A memorial service will be held later at the Dingmann & Sons Funeral Home



"Bryce, Andrew, Kya and I had the amazing opportunity this summer (thanks to many of your generous donations!!) to go to the Covenant's youth conference down in Knoxville, Tennessee. It was SO fun, and it really showed me many opportunities I hadn't seen to serve here at home. We learned so much about our identity in Christ, and how to focus on loving those around us the way Jesus would. We also learned about how to ignore the voices trying to drag us down, and focus on the truth that Christ breathes into us every single day. I'll admit, I was skeptical because I'm not a huge crowd fan, and 5,000 kids freaked me out, but I am SO glad I went. I know my heart was changed. Thank you so much, friends, for giving me this opportunity!! If you have any questions about our trip, or what we learned, please ask. I'd love to talk about it! "



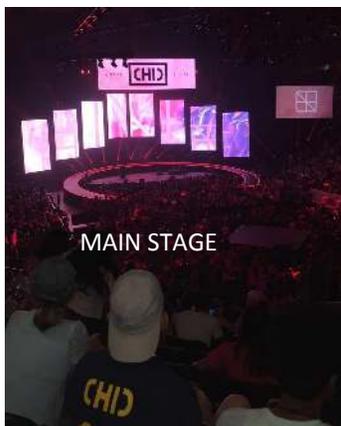
Photo courtesy of The Globe

-Katie O'Donnell



The Lings have been doing conservation no-till for nearly 35 years. In a recent newspaper article, Brian was quoted as saying "A lot of it we just figured it out—we just worked at it and now I would not go back to tillage. I think we have an advantage in drought years".

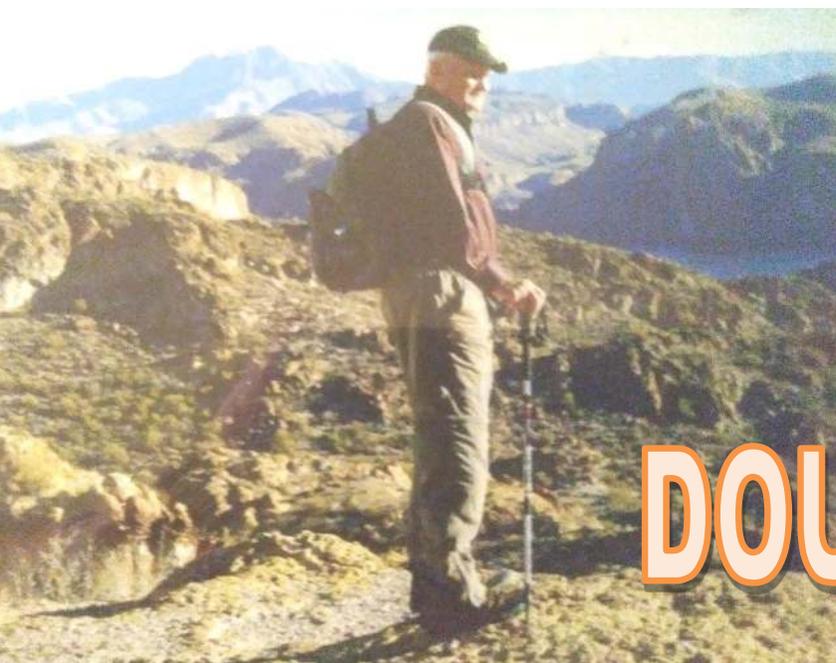
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LINGS!



RYAN & SHEILA MIDDAGH

Married September 15, 2018

BEST WISHES



DOUG ANTON

has been hiking mountain trails for 18 years. While wintering in Phoenix Arizona, he is a member of the VALLEY DE ORO HIKING CLUB which originates from their park, They hike 5 days a week –Monday thru Friday. They never hike when the temperature is above 80 degrees because that is when the snakes come out to sun themselves on the trails. They never hike in the snow peaked mountains IF they see bear tracks.

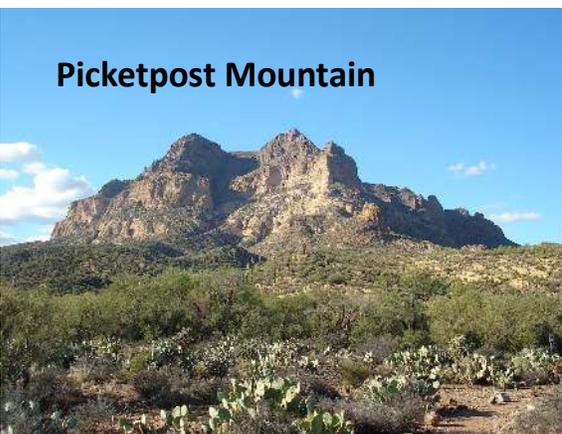
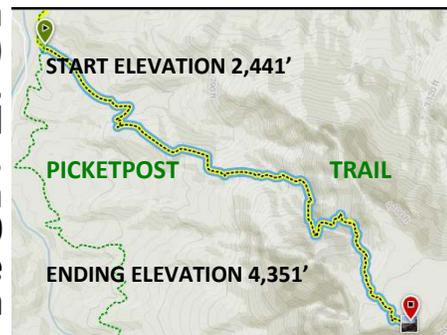
Doug says, “You can never outrun a bear downhill!”.

They do see Javelina during their hikes. Javelina is a member of the peccary family but looks like a wild hog.



There are two types of trails. Some are In and out on the same trail (4.4 miles long) and others make a loop (10 miles long). Some hikes are called “exploratory” and

do not follow a marked trail and they are more dangerous!. The summit of the mountain trails in the Phoenix area run from 2,398 feet to Superstition Mountain summit of 5,000 feet. Doug said it takes him a week to adjust to the altitude when he first arrives in Phoenix. His equipment consists of a backpack, extra jacket & gloves, a poncho in case of rain, medical supplies and it is important to take along plenty of water. He takes along a peanut butter, jelly and cheese sandwich and some munchies.



Picketpost Mountain

Doug tells the story of when a lady on Picketpost Mountain slipped and fell on the loose rock shale injuring her shoulder. It took the group two and one half hours to get her down the mountain.

He also says, “The legend of Picketpost mountain is that a farmer from Oregon had a mailbox and someone ran over it. He put up another one and again someone ran over it, so he put his mailbox on the summit of Picketpost mountain.” This past winter Doug



and his crew lugged up fresh paint and decals to freshen up the mailbox. Inside the mailbox is a ledger for people to sign their names indicating that they arrived at the top!

MORE MOUNTAIN HIKING ON NEXT PAGE

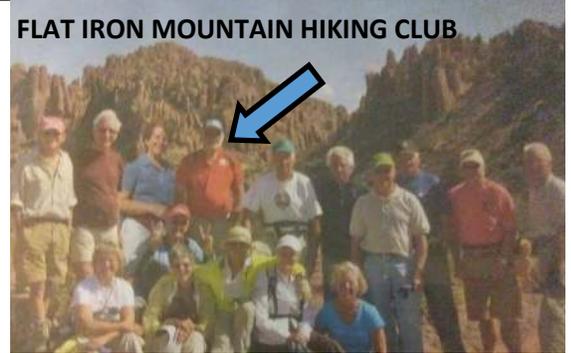
DOUG ANTON

Superstition Mountains: **Flatiron** hike requires nerve, rewards with views overlooking Phoenix..



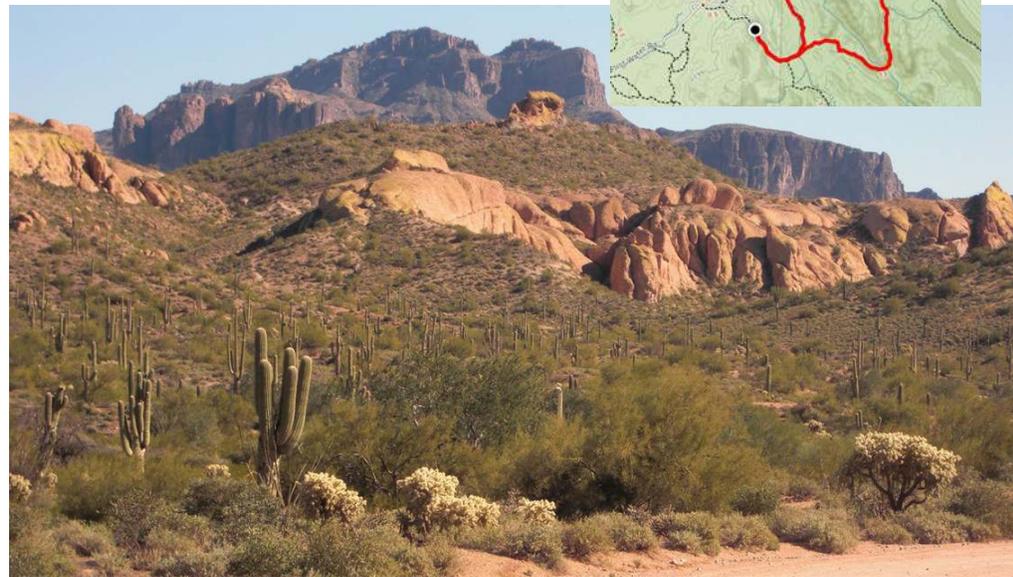
MOUNTAIN HIKING

PAGE 2

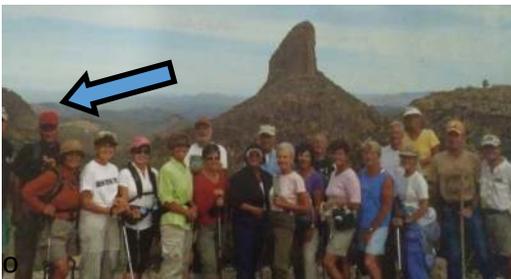


FLAT IRON MOUNTAIN HIKING CLUB

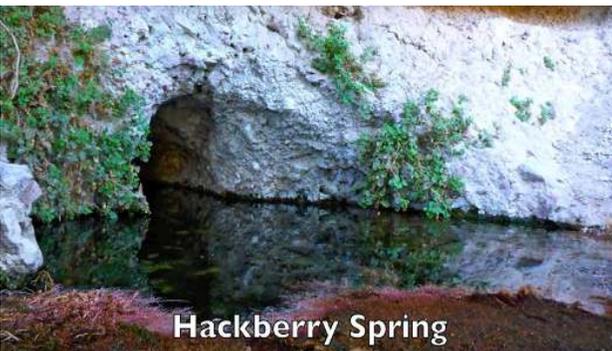
HACKBERRY SPRINGS LOOP Has the most variety of views.... cactus, an abandoned mine, streams, etc. This loop was adopted by the **VALLEY DE ORO HIKING CLUB** and they maintain it from being overgrown with brush, trash etc.



FREMONT SADDLE TRAIL HIKING CLUB



Arizona has a large variety of cacti. One variety Doug says you do not want to get close to is the Jumping cholla. They are covered by a very dense mass of sharp, easily



Hackberry Spring

detached spines. The Saguaro Cacti are the tall up-right ones.



MORE MOUNTAIN HIKING ON NEXT PAGE



Saguaro

DOUG ANTON

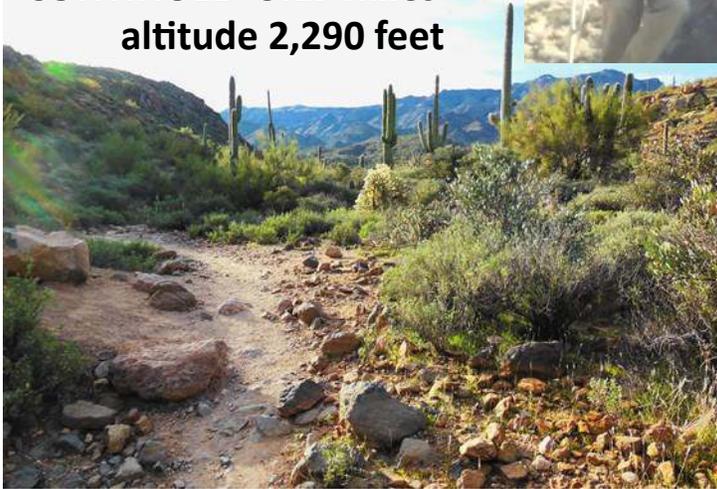


MOUNTAIN HIKING

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HACKBERRY SPRINGS TRAIL

CONTINUED 5.17 miles
altitude 2,290 feet



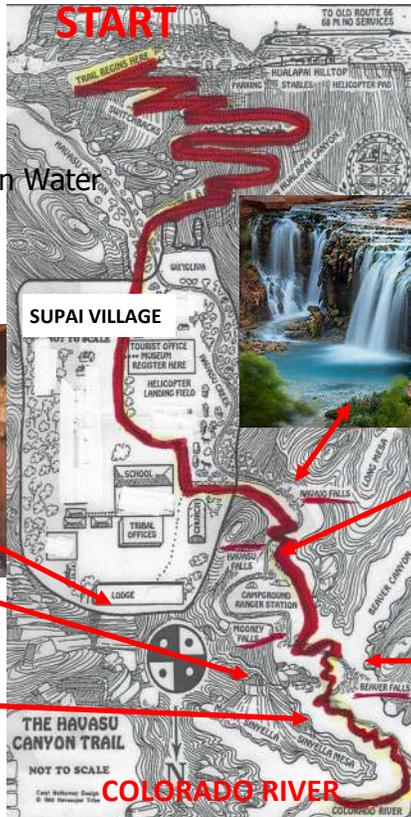
It is amazing to me how easily the desert can change. On the other side of this mountain are jumping chollas and mesquites, and here are grasses growing in the wet soil amidst lush green shade

Lost Dutchman's Gold Mine according to legend, a rich gold mine hidden in Arizona's Superstition Mountain range.



Five years ago DOUG hiked the **Grand** to the Colorado river at the bottom of the canyon. It's 17 miles yon. 34 miles round trip! Could you do this at age 73?

The Havasupai Tribe
People of the Blue Green Water



Canyon. It's 17 miles yon. 34 miles round trip! Could you do this at age 73?

MOONEY FALLS



STAYED AT THE SUPAI LODGE FOR TWO NIGHTS



BEAVER FALLS

NAVAJO FALLS

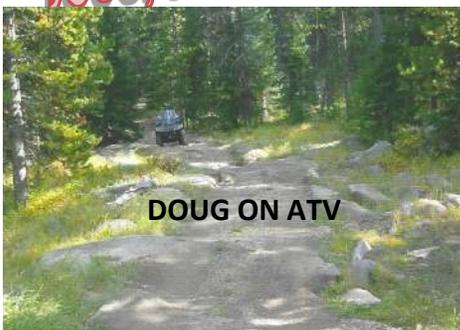


HAVASU FALLS



CROSSING THE RIVER

DOUG, SON CRAIG AND SHANNON RICKERT RODE THE BIG HORN MOUNTAINS OF WY!



DOUG ON ATV

September 6,
2018

Stayed at the
BEAR VIEW
LODGE



Spotted Moose along the trails!



CRAIG ANTON ON HIS DIRT BIKE



The Lead Team will meet
Tuesday, October 2nd at
7:00 P.M. at the church

2nd Annual Women Seeking God conference

The dates for this year's conference
are Friday, October 12th
and Saturday, October 13th.

Postcards with information are on the
tables in the lobby.
Early registration is \$40—
due October 1st

WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, October 3rd

5:00 P.M. High School Youth
6:15 P.M. #507 for 5th-8th grades at
American Reformed Church
6:45 P.M. Youth Group for K-4th
7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, October 10th

6:45 P.M. Confirmation
7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, October 17th

7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, October 24th

6:45 P.M. Confirmation
6:45 P.M. High School Boys & Girls
Youth Group
7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, October 31st

6:30-8:00 P.M. Trunk or Treat
7:00 P.M. Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, October 3rd

Youth Group for K-4th meets at
church at 6:45 P.M.

#507 for students in 5th-8th
students; students should meet at
FCC at 6:15 P.M. to carpool to
American Reformed Church and will
be back to FCC by 8:15 P.M.

High School Youth Group will meet
at 5:00 P.M. to do yard work. The
group will then have supper and will
continue their time together until
7:45 P.M. Bring rakes & gloves.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Wednesday, October 31st
6:30-8:00 P.M.

High School students are invited
to participate by decorating their
cars and handing out treats to
kids (some treats will be
provided but you are welcome to
bring your own as well.) Elementary and
Middle School students may help hand out
candy if they're interested.



CONFIRMATION
Wednesday, October
10th & 24th
at 6:45 P.M.



We are in the middle of the largest forced migration of people ever in recorded history. Today, more people have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict and crisis than any other time on record. These are unprecedented days and it is time for us as a church to respond. The Refugee Journey allows us to learn a piece of the story of what it means to be a refugee and gives us a glimpse into real-life journeys of refugees from Syria and South Sudan, two of the largest refugee producing countries right now. On **Sunday, October 14th** during worship, we will be participating in the Refugee Journey.

**FAREWAY & HY-VEE
GROCERY CARDS
AVAILABLE!!!**

Don't forget to pick yours up on Sunday mornings, contact Howard Rachuy or Dean Christopherson or stop in the office during the week.



CHURCH'S WEBSITE

Check out the website at www.firstcovenantworthington.org
You will find the bulletin, newsletter, Sunny Days calendars and much more there.

FACEBOOK

Did you know that First Covenant Church has a Facebook page?

Like us on Facebook and follow all the news!

FYI

Any money that is still being donated to the Building Fund will go toward building up the Contingency Fund.



DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

Copies of Covenant Home Altar are available.

Pick up a copy on the table in the narthex.



TRIP

(Tuition Reduced Incentive Program)
Support Sunny Days Preschool with your purchase of TRIP. Slips listing the participating businesses are available in the office or at Main Street Kids.

"Pray Worthington"

Tuesdays at noon at the Love INC office



Soles4Souls

Village Northwest is collecting new and gently used shoes providing work opportunities for 180 people with a disability. Shoes will be shipped for distribution domestically and internationally to individuals that do not have proper footwear.

Bring your shoes and place them in the collection box in the narthex.



CURRENT NEEDS FOR LOVE INC

Watch the bulletin boards by the office and by the Jerusalem Room for their current needs.

Check out the bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall for posters with announcements of things that are happening around the area.



Check out the brochures on the table in the narthex about upcoming events. Also check out their website at:

First Covenant Church is offering the option of giving your offering online.

If interested, go to firstcovenantworthington.org, click on the "ministries" tab and choose "giving" from the list of ministries.

If you have any questions, please contact John or Kris Stewart.



SUNNY DAYS PRESCHOOL NEWS

We are falling into a routine and starting on the ABC's. Preschool kids are amazing, they are a blessing, and so curious.

We are planning to go on a field trip to Grandpa's Fun Farm but need warmer weather. We are learning about God's creation.

Fall Blessings

Fall is another one of my favorite times of the year. I love to see God's creation change in front of our eyes with all the beautiful colors. Also, the farmers in the field, since my husband is a farmer and we farm.

"See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains." James 5:7

Thanks & blessings to you,
Ms. Jen

Faith at Home Connection

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Parents (and grandparents), thank you for bringing your kids to church to learn more about Jesus, whether it is for Sunday school, youth group or for children's time during worship. We know that faith begins at home with you and it is the goal of the Formation team to help equip families so these important conversations and learning opportunities can continue to happen.

This month, the preschool through 1st graders have been learning about God creating the world, while the 2nd – 7th graders have been looking at Israel becoming a nation and wanting a king. Ask your kids what they remember. The high school kids have been working through the UNITE curriculum as a follow-up from CHIC. This will culminate in a Refugee Journey experience for the whole church.

Stay tuned for more information.

