

# Country Faith Church

## Fall Newsletter

"Growing & working together to love God, love each other and spread the Gospel."

September - November 2020

### Inside this issue:

• Adult Sunday School	2
• Forge Ministry School	
• Baptism Service	3
• "Giving" - Brian Tronnes	
• Library News	4
• Prayer Shawl Ministry	
Ruby's Pantry - Volunteers Needed	5
Women's Bible Study	6
Children's Ministry News	7-9
Youth Ministry News	10
Backpack Outreach	11
Missions Update - Keith, Sissie, & Sarah Pennel	12
Clear Waters Life Center News	13-15

### Pastor's Heart - Pastor Nathan Nordlund

#### Engage Life Groups on the Move

In this season of disruption and uncertainty there are a couple things I would like to remind us. The first is that God is still on His throne. He is moving His Kingdom forward and He invites us to be active participants in the expansion of His Kingdom.

Secondly, our connection to one another, the Body of Christ, is vital in supplying us with the resources we need to effectively live out God's calling and purpose for our lives. It is in connection with the body that we receive encouragement to keep pursuing the good works God has planned for each of us. It is in connection to the body that we are challenged and refined; iron sharpens iron. It is in connection and participation with the Body of Christ that we experience joy. We need the encouragement, support, and life that flows from God through His body, the church.

Finally, I want to encourage you to engage; to actively seek out connection to our church family. You have giftings and resources that can bless, encourage, and support others. There are others who can and will be a blessing and encouragement to you as well. Engage Life Groups are a great way to get connected and to build meaningful relationships that will advance God's kingdom.

If you are looking for people to connect with, Engage Life Groups are a great place to do so. We have groups that are actively meeting now and some which will be soon. If you would like to learn more about life groups and get connected please let our Life Group Team know. We will work with you and life group leaders to get you fitted into a group. You can also sign up to participate in life groups on our website, [countryfaith.org](http://countryfaith.org), or at the information center.

I desire to see each one in our church family connected in a meaningful way and want to remind you of Hebrews 10:24-25 "And let us consider how to stir one another to love and good works, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another..." God has a place for you to be connected to His body, seek it out.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Nathan and Life Group Team

(Nathan & Charis Nordlund, Andy & Nicky Ubert, Larry & Becky Dorman)



Service Times: **Sunday School: 9:00am** **Worship Service: 10:00am** **Youth: 7:00pm (Most Sundays)**

218-776-3367 - [cfchurch@gvtel.com](mailto:cfchurch@gvtel.com) - [countryfaith.org](http://countryfaith.org) - Find us on Facebook

# Adult Sunday School is starting Sunday, September 13th

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## TIPPING POINT THE END IS HERE



Adult Sunday School 9:00 am ~ Starting Sunday, September 13th

Tipping Point has recently been redone by Jimmy Evans and will be a 4-week video study. Families are welcome to attend, however no other Sunday School classes will be offered during this time.

Blurb from back of the book:

"We are living in tumultuous times. From corrupt world politics to global pandemics to an unprecedented rebellion against God and His Word, humanity has reached a critical stage. What happens next? In this eye-opening study, Jimmy examines biblical prophecies about the end times and points to their unmistakable parallels with today's world. With clear, insightful analysis of Scripture, he answers many common questions, such as: Are we living in end times? How should believers respond to increasing immorality? Will Christians go through the Tribulation? What role does Israel play in God's prophetic plan? Are Covid-19 and other world events announcing the imminent return of Jesus?"

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## The Forge Ministry School

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What in the world is "The Forge Ministry School"? Maybe you have seen it on the CFC website or maybe heard somebody mention it in passing. Who is it for and why is it being done? All good questions!

As many of you know, around 6 years ago, a word was spoken over CFC that the Lord was calling it to branch out into church planting. Since then, TLC has been planted in Erskine and your CFC Leadership is seeking the Lord as to what other church plants might be on the horizon, if any.

Whether it's a new church plant or raising up the next generation of leaders for existing churches, the need for well-equipped leaders is very real, hence the need for a ministry school.

The Forge Ministry Schools mission is to equip and train up future leaders who feel a calling to full time pastoral, church planting, or one of the 5-fold ministries.

If you feel you may have such a calling and your spiritual oversight senses the same thing, The Forge may be for you. We are excited about this new venture and covet your prayers as we endeavor to fulfil what the Lord has called us to do here at CFC. Thank You!

Pastor Jim



# Baptism Service

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There will be a brief baptism service at Dave & Karleen Dahlberg's Pine Lake cabin following the Sunday morning worship service on Sunday, September 13th. If interested in being baptized, please talk with one of the pastors.



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## Giving - written by Brian Tronnes

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Giving: I think of giving and what it should mean to me and where my heart should be when I give.

It has been placed on my heart that it's like the person who is excited to help, a chance to give of him or herself, not of a grumbling nature but instead filled with joy for the chance.

So the wife says to her husband, "I want you to do the dishes." The husband thinks, why would I want to do the dishes? Then it hits him.

2 Corinthians 9:7 *So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

This is what should be in my heart every time I get a chance to give of my time or money, thankful that I have a chance to give of myself to help. Giving all I can, when I can. For it says in the verse before it "But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. "

So if someone needs your help and you can give it, be of good cheer. If you can give to your church your time, or money, be filled with joy! This is God giving us a chance to both sow and reap! To my wife, I just want to say, "I do want to do the dishes!"



# Library News

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Just a reminder that the Library is still up and running for your use and enjoyment. There are books and videos suitable for all ages. Books may be checked out for 4 weeks and videos for 2 weeks. New books and videos are added regularly. Enjoy!



One word to those of you who have checked out books and videos in the past: please check around your home to see if you have items you have forgotten to return. Return those items so others can enjoy them as well. Thanks!

If you have a suggestion for a book or video to be added to the Library, please let me know. Fun!

Laurel and Ruth :)

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## Prayer Shawl Ministry

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On the third Monday of every month, you will find a small group of ladies meeting at the church to knit, crochet, share, pray and giggle. You may have wondered what this is all about, and it is time we gave you a good look at what we are doing. You may want to join us!

Our mission statement would go something like this: Working together to create, with love and prayer, shawls to wrap around and comfort hurting people and those needing encouragement, reminding them of how dearly they are loved by God. A physical reminder of His love, and ours, surrounding them every day. Isaiah 41:10 is often shared.

Since early spring 2019, we have blessed 68 persons with shawls. Included in that number are a few men who received a lap-robe style shawl, and children who received a tie blanket. Of that 68, 26 were given to persons of CFC and 42 were given to persons outside our church; some to persons in our community and some mailed even to other states. Three went to Las Vegas with the team.

We work on our shawls at our meetings as well as at home. We have a stash of yarn we draw from and we try to get ahead of the need but are often hurrying to finish a shawl for a particular person. We pray for needs as we work. Love and prayer is always added to our stitches.

Most of our shawls have been given to women. Women are most often the ones who tend to carry the weight of the world on their shoulders as they care for and are concerned for their loved ones. And we know that while physical brokenness can be obvious, a broken heart cannot be seen and needs a special touch.

We invite you to join us if you feel this ministry calling you! Want to know more? Call Lisa at the church or Laurel Jones at 218-766-3275.

**Prayer Shawl  
Ministry**

**MEETING  
THE THIRD  
MONDAY  
6:30PM**



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# Ruby's Pantry - Volunteers Needed

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Ruby's Pantry has been a steady blessing to our community. Through it we have demonstrated the love and care of Christ to thousands of families over the last 2 plus years. It has and is a privilege to be a part of this ministry and I know many others feel the same. I can think of a few volunteers who enjoy it so much that they say it's the highlight of their month. We are blessed with an amazing team of coordinators and volunteers that make serving together a blessing and joy.



That being said, volunteer participation has been down as of late. To be fair I know much has changed with the disruption of COVID. To limit chances of exposure and transmission of COVID we streamlined our setup in accordance with guidance from the Ruby's Pantry organization and drastically limited volunteer participation. Volunteer numbers were cut from an average of just over 100 volunteers at a distribution to less than 40. Our volunteers did an amazing job in this time! They worked hard distributing over 400 shares of food at a couple distributions, the most we had distributed, but it was a workout! It was apparent that the skeleton crew we were running was wearing thin. We needed to add some more meat to our skeleton crew, so we did add a few more volunteers.

The last few distributions we have been aiming to reach 50 to 60 volunteers but have been falling short. We would love to have you get back in the mix of volunteering. If you haven't been a part of the team and would like to, please get ahold of me and I will get you connected. Also, I would like to encourage current volunteers to invite others to come alongside and help us. Please have interested people contact me or fill out a volunteer application online at [rubyspantry.org/become-volunteer](http://rubyspantry.org/become-volunteer).

Again, I am so appreciative of the team we have. Thank you all for promoting and participating in Ruby's Pantry. I look forward to continuing the work of this ministry with you. I'm looking forward to all God will continue to do through you and this ministry!

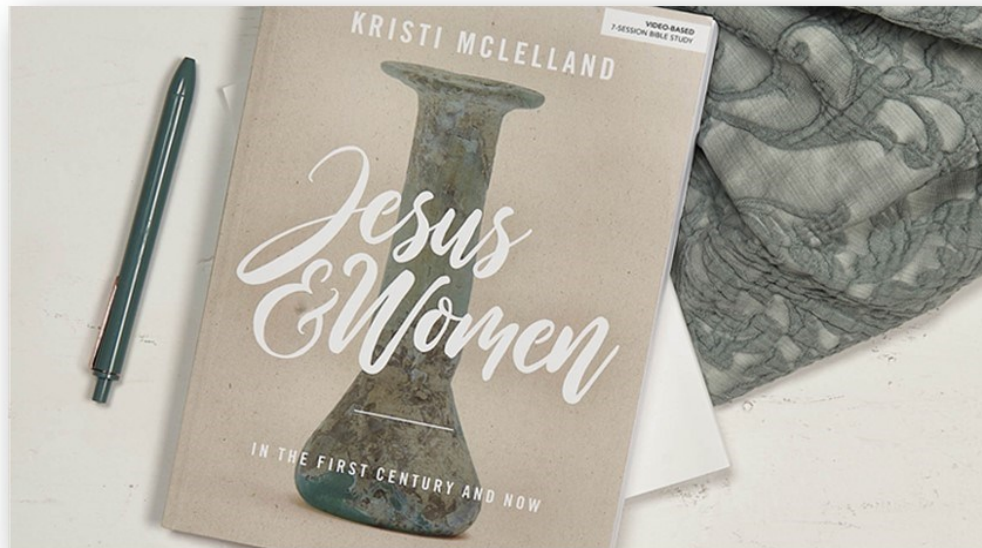
Blessings,

Pastor Nathan

Ruby's Pantry Volunteer Coordinator

218-766-7714

# Fall Women's Bible Study



Imagine walking the dusty roads of Galilee with Jesus of Nazareth—braving jostling crowds just to touch the edge of His cloak and hear Him say, "Take heart, daughter, your faith has healed you." Those words, once meant to comfort a hurting woman's soul thousands of years ago, were also meant for you. Join biblical culturalist Kristi McLelland on those dusty roads as she transports you back to Jesus' world, following in the footsteps of the women who came face-to-face with the Living God. Over 7 sessions, examine the historical and cultural climate of first-century Middle Eastern society to not only understand Jesus more deeply but to fuel your worship of Him today.

## Seven Sessions with Two Meeting Options

### Option 1: Friday Mornings at Country Faith

9:00-11:00am starting Sept 11th

Child Care is yet to be determined. Please contact the church if interested and in need of child care.

**Cost is only \$15 for the workbook.**

### Option 2: Evening Meetings in Various Homes

7:00pm starting after Friday, Sept 11th

After first time meeting, each group will decide when to meet based on what works best for them.

\* Currently 4 homes are available. More may be added if needed.

**Sign up preferred by Sun, Sept 6th at  
the Information Center at CFC or  
by contacting the church.**



46125 149th Ave  
Clearbrook, MN 56634  
218-776-3367  
cfchurch@gvtel.com



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## Regathering of Children's Ministry Jr Church Program

Our CM team has met a few times over the past couple months evaluating our Children's Ministry program and how best to return programming for the kids/families. This is new territory, so we based many decisions on existing best practices and with the information we have from the CDC & MN health department.

Our guiding verse as we navigated what would work for CFC has been Psalm 32:8... "I will instruct you and show you the way to go; with my eye on you, I will give counsel." We fully believe that during this time God is our guiding compass.

There were a few points we wanted to be sure to consider as we navigated what CM would look like at this time. They are as follows:

- We want to do the essential things well!
- We do not want to work hard to accommodate guidelines that will make church, for the kids, a super "weird" experience.
- We do not want to completely ignore guidelines and recommendations and potentially put our church community at risk.

So...we needed to come to a place between those extremes, even if it looks a little bit different, God can and will do amazing things in this season. Different does not have to be bad. We get the opportunity to create a positive narrative in this season. Our Kids are watching, and we want to show them Jesus in all this.

Please keep in mind we need to be very flexible/fluid and filled with grace for each other and the process. With that said here is the plan for CM returning.

**JR Church Start Date: Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, for ages 1 year old – Kindergarten.** Our goal is to add 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade starting the 13<sup>th</sup> as well but that is "tentative" based primarily on volunteer response. We will build for the additional ages based on numbers returning and volunteer response. **There is a preparedness plan created in response to Covid that has been mailed out to each family. If you did not receive a copy, please contact Nicky Ubert.**

**We will put out a communication prior if we need to delay starting due to volunteer response or changing circumstances.**

**Currently NO CM Sunday School classes available until further notice.** We will continue to evaluate and update our plan accordingly.

**Additionally, there will be NO Kid's Worship at this time.**

For those of you that have children in high risk situations we would encourage you to prayerfully consider if returning to Jr Church right now is a good fit for your child/family. **We will continue to provide resource packets for all children who remain in service or want them for home use. Please connect with me if you**

## CM Regathering - cont.

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would like additional resource options for home use. If you do not have access to our online Facebook parent group, please inquire.

If anyone would like more information about our specific classroom procedures/preparedness plan or how we arrived at our decisions, please do not hesitate to ask. We are a multi-generational environment unlike childcare centers or home daycares, so we do want to be thoughtful and consistent in our approach to reduce concern and risk for others.

We do greatly look forward to seeing movement in the children's wing again!

On behalf of the CM Team~

God is with us,

Nicky Ubert

Chelsey Erickson, Leah Watne, Cindy Wishard, Ashley Weems, Lisa Peldo, Tim & Sandy Gray, Lori Lundell, and Pastor Larry Dorman

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## 2020 Children's Ministry 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade Christmas Program

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During a recent Children's Ministry meeting it was determined our annual Christmas program would not be able to look the same this year. This is something we enjoy and know is looked forward to by kids and adults alike. It takes a lot of coordination, by many, to put together our programs but it is always fun and fulfilling to see what the kids present.

With Jr Church just kicking off, the uncertainty of what the coming weeks will bring and the necessary volunteer support it takes we believe it is important to simplify the program this year. Our team will meet again shortly to determine the specifics of this year's Christmas program (what, how & when). Those details will be shared as they become available.

So, all that said, we are holding loosely to the idea of doing a full musical/play for Easter presented by the kids Spring of 2021. Again, these are fluid plans based on many circumstances, but we are looking forward towards that potential plan.

God is with us,

Nicky Ubert





# KidCheck “Maintenance”

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Families as we begin to regather our children’s ministry program please take the time to update your information in KidCheck. This is very beneficial and helps us provide best care.



- Update Your Child’s Pictures.
- Check their health Information! Leave this area blank if they do not have health needs. Please list here if they can NOT use hand sanitizer.
- Check if you have enabled receiving text messages.
- When you check your child in for the first time you WILL need to select their new grade/age level. We have not used the program in awhile so it will have saved your old selections for grade/age.
- Check authorized guardians and update if needed.
- Update any personal information (address, phone number, and email).

Lastly, if you do not have KidCheck Express on your phone please download from the App store and give it a try. You can complete the check in process on the way to church and finalize by hitting submit once you enter the church doors. Stop by the KidCheck cart and your labels will be ready for you.

Pease let me know if you need assistance or have additional questions about KidCheck.

Nicky Ubert

# Youth Ministry

**Sunday, Sept 6th** - No Youth Night

**Sunday, Sept 13th** - 7:00pm Youth Night

**Sunday, Sept 20th** - 7:00pm Youth Night

**Sunday, Sept 27th** - 7:00pm Youth Night

**Sunday, Oct 4th** - No Youth Night

**Sunday, Oct 11th** - 7:00pm Youth Night

**Sunday, Oct 18th** - 7:00pm Youth Night

**Friday, October 23rd** - NerdCon Event

**Sunday, Nov 1st** - No Youth Night

**Sunday, Nov 8th** - 7:00pm Youth Night

**Sunday, Nov 15th** - 7:00pm Youth Night

**Sunday, Nov 22nd** - 7:00pm Youth Night

**Sunday, Nov 29th** - No Youth Night (Thanksgiving weekend)

**Sunday, Dec 6th** - 7:00pm Youth Night

**Sunday, Dec 13th** - Elevate Christmas Open Event

**Sunday, Dec 20th** - 7:00pm Youth Night

**Sunday, Dec 27th** - No Youth Night

For 7th - 12th Grade Youth on MOST Sundays from 7:00-9:00pm here at the church.

Please join the Elevate Youth Group on Facebook, download the band app, or check out the website for the most current information on upcoming Youth events.

**As always, please invite your friends.**



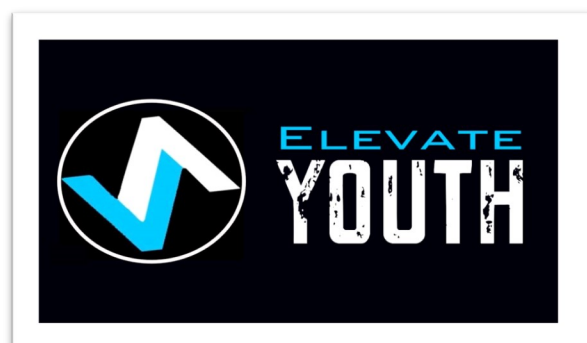
## NERDICON Youth Event

Friday, October 23rd

6pm-11:30pm

Join us for a fun night at Nerdcon. This costume party, with food, fun and games. There will be a MarioKart Tournament, Escape room race, card tower contest, Big Hero 6 movie, Popular table top games and more. Look for more details as we get closer.

Pastor Brad Binder - 218-358-1221



# Backpack & School Supply Distribution

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I want to say thank you so much, for all the volunteers, support, and prayers for the Backpack & School Supply Distribution night. This was my fourth year over the event, and of course it kind of felt like my first. So much was different with us switching to a drive-thru distribution and trying to figure out the logistics of having things packaged up ahead of time and how to get things to the people, in the most efficient manner.

My volunteers arrived ready to be put to work and got more done than I expected. Every year, I'm just amazed at how hard my volunteers work and what they're able to accomplish in less time than I think. So once the doors opened we were prepared. Things seemed to really go smoothly and we were able to get through the line and hand out 123 backpacks filled with school supplies in just over an hour. We had helpers of all ages working together to get it done. Since we had planned for around 300 to attend this year, we have plenty of supplies and backpacks left over.

I am so thankful to be able to lead up this event and be able to give back to the community and bless them in a practical way. This night would not have been possible without each and every one of you & your prayers. Thank you so much for helping spread Jesus' love to those in need!

\*We ended up distributing a total of 165 backpacks with supplies so far. If you hear of any families in need during this coming school year please let me know or point them my way. I would love to be able to help!

- Lisa Peldo



# Missions Update - Keith, Sissie & Sarah Pennel

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July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Dear Country Faith Church,

Where has the year gone? A year ago this time is when Keith started on the journey with the Center for Indian Ministries and Mokahum Ministry Center, accepting the role as the Interim Director of Education. We did not know where this would lead us and, if it would be a good fit along with Pastoring at Destiny Fellowship.

But here we are, a year later and what a year it has been. We were blessed to be involved with the students and staff of multiple levels and see lives changed. Then, Covid-19 brought many challenges and interruptions to our lives, including the students at Oak Hills and Mokahum and closing of both campuses. No one ever anticipated a pandemic striking!

So, through the challenges and adjustments and even learning curves, the decision has been made that role is indeed a good place for Keith to be and, where we need to be as a family in ministry.

We want to thank you for your prayers and financial support. Without you, this would not have been possible. Keith's position will remain a missions-based position at Mokahum, and he is about 35% funded toward his full support. The Lord has been gracious to us and sustained us as we have taken this step of faith. Please pray that others like you, will commit to supporting us financially on a monthly basis.

Here are a few things you can be praying with us about, Bill Haas, the former Mokahum Director resigned and moved out of state for family reasons. Please pray for the Lord to send the right person to fill this crucial staff position. Also, be in prayer for new and returning students and the upcoming school year.

We look forward to what is ahead, and though none of us knows what the future holds, we embrace the future knowing God is in control.

Again, thank you for all you have done for us this past year.

In His grace,

Keith, Sissie, and Sarah





# CWLC - Youth Connection

This year we are welcoming change to our Youth Connection programming. To many people, change is a scary word. Change carries us into the unknown and is usually accompanied by fear and apprehension. But change is not always negative. Change is the tool that allows us to respond to new challenges and circumstances. Change can be an opportunity – without change there is no improvement or new experiences.

Although the challenges of life in 2020 are not easy to navigate, we are embracing the changes that allow us to continue to pursue our mission of supporting and caring for youth and families in our community. And we are excited for the new experiences these changes will bring. The details might look different but underneath, our heart is still the same. We focus on building relationships and creating an environment where youth feel safe to be themselves. We provide a place to belong and feel valued – a place to experience community.



**After School  
Youth Activities**

**Youth Connection begins September 29th!**



**Tuesdays 3:30-5:00  
CWLC—Clearbrook  
\*\*Grades 5-8\*\***

**Pre-Registration is  
required by Sept 18!**

Youth Connection looks a little different this year, the registration form and letter explaining those changes are on our website at [clearwaterslife.org](http://clearwaterslife.org).

Please print off and return the Registration form to register.

Questions? Contact Clear Waters Life Center for more information: 218-776-2789  
[cwlc@gvtel.com](mailto:cwlc@gvtel.com)



**Tuesdays 3:15-5:45  
CWLC—Clearbrook**

**YC: Leadership Edition every Tuesday Sept. 22nd—Dec. 15th**

**Application Process:**

1. Fill out registration form on our website [clearwaterslife.org](http://clearwaterslife.org).
2. Write essay
3. Mail to or drop off at CWLC—Clearbrook **due date is Sept. 8th**

YC: Leadership Edition is an accessible and fast-paced opportunity for youth grades 9-12 to have practical leadership mentoring while in a position to put their leadership principals into practice.

Apprentice leaders will each be assigned a class to assist YC volunteers in leading our younger Youth Connection classes from 3:15-5:00 every Tuesday with specific leadership assignments to complete. They will then attend a leadership mentoring group until 5:45 where they will debrief from the afternoon, learn and discuss leadership principles, and be challenged with new assignments.

YC: Leadership Edition uses a faith-based youth leadership curriculum.

# CWLC - Senior Activities

## Senior Connection Transportation Service

Clear Waters Life Center

Are you 60 or over, a Clearwater county resident, and need a ride to your medical appointments, a community event, or shopping . We would love to help!

Call to schedule YOUR ride or for information about the affordable cost share contribution.

Call Karen at 218-776-2223 or 218-637-0509 (cell)



*24-hour notice required to arrange transportation*

October 5-November 16th!

**Exercise for Seniors—Free**

**Mondays: 10:00 - 10:30 AM**

**CWLC•Gonvick in the**

**Senior Connection room**

**Game time in the Coffee coop  
afterwards for anyone that would  
want to join!**



226 Elm St.  
Gonvick, MN 56644  
(218) 487-5290  
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[www.clearwaterslife.org](http://www.clearwaterslife.org)



# CWLC - Connection

## Mondays

### First Session

### Oct 5 –Nov 16

Do you want to stay active and engaged as you age?  
Come, join us on Mondays at **CWLC•Gonvick**, 226 Elm St.

#### Read aloud Book Club “The Garden”

**A spiritual fable about ways to overcome fear, anxiety, and stress.** by Jon Gordon

Oct 5th—Nov 16th 9-9:45 AM

Call Becky to let her know you are coming!  
218 487-5290 ext 5 (you can leave a message)

***Free of charge***



An energizing way to get exercise:

### **Pickle ball! EVERY MONDAY**

10:00 - 11:30 AM

***\$1 suggested donation***

If YOU would like to come and watch, there are bleachers and tables on stage with coffee available, or enjoy playing games in the coffee coop!



***Light lunch of soup and homemade bread served in the coffee coop at noon.  
(Free will offering)***

#### **Afternoon Art Classes: 1-3PM** \$5 per class for supplies

Oct 12,19,26– **Pottery Class**—Hand building focus with Todd and Julie Spray

Nov 2,9,16 Learn how to create **Crazy Quilts** with Vickie Kolden. You can make these by hand or bring your sewing machine and enjoy sewing together!

#### **Evening Art Classes 6:30-8PM in Pottery Studio** \$5 per class for supplies

5 weeks of **Wheel throwing basics for the potter** with Leanne Walberg Oct 12,19,26, Nov 2 and 9

**CALL TO REGISTER FOR ART CLASSES (218) 776-2789**