



# The TIDINGS

October 2024

Covenant Congregational Church  
*Celebrating 140 years of ministry*

During worship this past Sunday, a verse from the hymn we were singing stuck with me.

*We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place*

*Born in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace*

*We die alone, for on its own each ember loses fire*

*Yet joined in one its flame burns on to give warmth and light and to inspire.*

(Bryan Jeffery Leech, "We Are God's People" Covenant Hymnal #600)

The last two lines provide a gripping image: a fire burns throughout the night, and as time passes the various embers spread out and begin to smolder. Small corners of red coals slowly cool. This is not the end of the fire, however, as Someone comes along and pushes the isolated embers together. Feeding off one another, the embers build heat, reignite and build back into a roaring fire.

In this season of cool nights, hot cider and burning campfires, the illustration reminds us of the importance of community. Alone we struggle, falter and have difficulty holding on. Together we support, grow and build life.

This past spring our church wrote a why statement describing the church in its best self. In it we highlight "welcoming community" as a core value of our church. At its best, our church community has felt like the warmth and light of a roaring fire as people come together to support one another. How appropriate that a scenic campfire area sits on our church property! (If you haven't seen it, the path to the outdoor chapel runs off the back of the church parking lot).

This welcome differentiates our community from corners of our fractured world which are based on divisions and "sides". Apart, they are like smoldering embers. Perhaps a welcoming community can help us all learn to live with one another. It doesn't define itself by who is "not us" and who is "other" but seeks to welcome in others and show them God's love. "How good it is", the Psalmist writes, "when brothers and sisters live together in unity!" (Psalm 133). It is a fire which can inspire the world around us.

I join with all of you in deep prayers for our country this coming month. It seems few people hear and see one another and fewer are trying to live in a community of love. We are lonely embers. It will be good for us to vote and pray—but perhaps as Christians we should not be surprised by the deadlock, dead ends and deep division. We serve a God who is the Prince of Peace and who brought his own welcoming community—the Kingdom of God. This is the example and power which can change the world.

As our hymn says at another point:

*He wills us be a family diverse yet truly one.*

*Oh, let us give our gifts to God*

*and so shall his work on earth be done.*

May God bless our country in this important season. May God's kingdom come quickly. And, as we wait, may we be a fire to give light and life and to inspire.

-Pastor Ryan

# coffee hour notice

Covenant Congregational Church

## Beginning November 3, 2024 Coffee Hour will be changing to a weekly sign-up system

Coffee Hour helps strengthen our community and fellowship. It is a space where bonds of friendship in Jesus are created or strengthened. Greeting people and joyfully serving them a cup of coffee helps people feel welcome. To keep coffee hour brewing, please consider volunteering for this important ministry.

### Ministries are still encouraged to host as a group

Now you can choose the weeks that work for your group. You can have one person sign-up for all the spots or have members sign-up for each individual spot. Please add your ministry name in the comments.

### Celebrating special occasions

Planning to celebrate a baptism, an anniversary, a special thanks? Please note it in the comments when you sign-up. If you plan to bring a cake, please plan for someone to cut and serve the cake.

Online sign-up is available at <https://tinyurl.com/h6d2es7r>

Each week has a spot for coffee maker/server, punch maker/server, and snacks. *The volunteers for each of the spots are also responsible for set-up and clean-up.*



questions? contact [fellowship@ecovchurch.org](mailto:fellowship@ecovchurch.org)





**OCTOBER 2024**

## COVENANT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Children and Youth Ministry strives to provide enriching and fun activities for the youth to grow in their faith and build friendships with other youth in the church and community. As a general guideline, pathfinders are children grades K-2, trailblazers are 3-4 grade, Jr high are grades 5-7 + 8th grade optional and Sr high are post confirmation grades 8 and older. Please reach out to Laura Slomba with questions or if you would like to volunteer in this growing ministry (laura.slomba23@gmail.com).

Sunday School Classes Weekly during Worship  
Grades K-4 and Grades 5-8

Wiggle Worship  
1st and 2nd Sunday of the month  
Toddlers - Pre-K

The Children's Ministry fundraiser requires adults and children to load and deliver all the collected clothes to Savers in Norwood. This annual fundraiser helps defray the cost of camps for families and supplements the annual budget. Volunteers please contact Erin Gomes or Laura Slomba.

### **TRUNK OR TREAT**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH @ 2-4 P.M.**

(Rain date: Sunday, October 27th)

**COVENANT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
204 CENTER STREET**

**INVITE FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS. ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Candy donation box will be located in the narthex.

Easton Food Pantry donations are appreciated!

Want to decorate a car? Contact Joyce Nelson (508) 941-4510 to be added to the list.

Sun 10/6  
Worship Night (All Ages)  
5:00-6:00 pm  
Open Gym & Pizza (Jr. High)  
6:00-7:00 pm  
Friends Welcome

Sun 10/13  
Bible study  
Sr High  
5:00-6:00 pm

Sat 10/19  
Fundraiser for Children's  
Ministry  
8:30 am

Sun 10/20  
Pathfinders & Trailblazers  
gym time  
12:00-1:30 pm

Jr High  
Flint Farm corn maze  
3:00 -5:00 pm  
Friends Welcome

Sat 10/26  
Trunk or Treat  
2:00-4:00 pm

Sun 10/27  
Sr High  
Flint Farm corn maze  
3:00-5:00 pm  
Friends Welcome



Michael Fiore	2	David Sproul	10	Thomas Wheeler	14	Marlena Silva	19
James Armstrong	3	David Cudmore	11	Martha Bouchard	15	Meredith Whitelaw	22
Myles Johnson	4	Megan Plante	11	Nora Wallace	15	Sharon Finlayson	24
Susan Santry	7	David Hayes	12	Scott Finlayson	16	Linda Cohen	25
Alex McIlhatten	8	Beth Abreu	14	Marcia Johnson	16	Peter Burch	26
Kameron Burton	9	Ava Anderson	14	Emilee Medeiros	16	Sarah Bean	28
Jordan Whitley	9	Robert Driscoll	14	Samuel Wheeler	16	Cathy Zelinski	28
						Thomas McCormick	30



### *Words of Appreciation*

I am appreciative beyond measure. This church and people like you helped me so much back in May through November 2020 when I was at home with terrible back pain, then in the hospital, then at W. Bridgewater Life Care Ctr, then back at home. So many people helped me with countless acts of kindness: meals, grocery shopping, Pharmacy pick up, books from library, books back to library, and so much more. So many people. I thanked all of them individually but never in the Monthly newsletter.

Then in April and May 2023 another but less serious joint problem occurred and the same people helped me again! With no family nearby it was the blessing of a lifetime. And all these people helped other people, too, not just me. That is truly giving as unto the Lord.

I have been so blessed to be a part of this church for the past twelve years. And now I have had to move to California to be near my children. If I could have stayed in Easton I would have (I have loved living in Easton the past 37 years.). And I will certainly miss this church too.

Know that the Lord and this church truly care.

Love in our faithful Lord Jesus, Julie Pick

### *Care Ministry*

#### **Prayers of Petition**

- Those dealing with addiction, isolation, financial trouble, and loss.
- The health of marriages in the church and for those who long to be married.
- Continued prayers for those with health challenges: Karen Bassett, Rebecca Carroll, Carole DesLauriers, Lynda Valenzuela, Linda Wainwright, Dave Sproul, Kym Silva, Shana McCarthy and Ginny Elson
- Prayers for those grieving the loss of loved ones: particularly the family of David Branco, the family of Carly Absher, the family of Bob Davis, the family of Wally Siciliano, the family of Ed Dauphinais, the family of Mike Santry, the family of Paul Schigg, the family of John "Jack" Cummings and the family of John Tyler.
- Please pray for our missionaries abroad, Grant & Miho Buccholtz (Japan) & Rev. James Tang (Africa- South Sudan/Ethiopia) & their families.
- For the war in Israel and Gaza. May God bring peace!
- Prayers for Jeff Goldberg who has entered hospice.
- That God would continue to provide the resources and volunteers needed to do his work at CCC.
- For individuals struggling with mental health challenges, domestic abuse and addiction.
- Please give parents wisdom and strength.
- Prayers for Julie Pick and Lynda Valenzuela as they move.
- Pray for the launch of fall ministries: choir, adult Sunday school, children's programming, wiggle worship, youth group etc.
- Would we read and pray the Bible and trust that the Lord is with us
- May we bear with one another in love (Eph. 4: 1-6).
- For the newly baptized: Charlotte Dorfler, Bella Drago, Savannah Mulholland, Clara Long, Copper Wilson, Lillian Driscoll, Jaxson & Austin Aylward and Brynn Burch.

#### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Celebration**

- For many new faces in worship and fellowship activities.
- For an amazing Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Pines
- For a successful and spirit filled Vacation Bible School this summer!
- For Owen & Hazel Hayes celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary
- For the birth of Allie Zelinski's healthy beautiful baby girl Maelie Jo on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 7lbs 15oz

# October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>6</b> 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:15a Adult Sunday School (youth lounge) 9:30a Children's Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 10:30a Worship &amp; Communion (sanctuary) 5:00p Worship Night (Sanctuary) 6:00p Middle School YG (gym) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)</p>	<p><b>7</b> 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library) 7:00p Stephen Minister Caregivers Training (classroom)</p>	<p><b>1</b> 7:00p Worship &amp; Music Meeting (fireside)</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> 7:00p Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel)</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> 10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside)</p>
<p><b>13</b> 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:15a Adult Sunday School (youth lounge) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 5:00p High School YG (youth lounge) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)</p>	<p><b>14 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day</b> 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library) 7:00p Stephen Minister Caregivers Training (classroom)</p>	<p><b>15</b> 7:00p Children &amp; Youth Ministry Meeting (fireside)</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b> 7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel)  <b>*Tidings Deadline*</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> 10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside)</p>
<p><b>20</b> 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:15a Adult Sunday School (youth lounge) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 2:00p Second Nurture (gym &amp; youth lounge) 3:00p Middle School YG Corn Maze (Flint Farm) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)</p>	<p><b>21</b> 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library) 7:00p Stephen Minister Caregivers Training (classroom)</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> 7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel)</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> 10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside) 2:00p Trunk or Treat (parking lot)</p>
<p><b>27</b> 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:15a Adult Sunday School (youth lounge) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 3:00p Highschool YG Corn Maze (Flint Farm) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)</p>	<p><b>28</b> 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library) 7:00p Stephen Minister Caregivers Training (classroom)</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31 Halloween</b> 7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel)</p>		





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North Easton, MA 02356

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## CCC AT A GLANCE

### Sunday Mornings

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

(Online and In-person)

### Staff:

Pastor Ryan & Pastor Devyn Chambers Johnson

### *Co-Pastors*

Yuna Lee

*Director of Music Ministries*

Marlena Silva

*Office Administrator*

Nick Zelinski

*Church Custodian & IT Wizard*

[www.ecovchurch.org](http://www.ecovchurch.org)

508.238.6423



### *Our Mission*

To *Connect* the generations to Christ, to

*Grow* in our love for His Church, and to

*Serve* God in the greater Community