

December 2026

The TIDINGS

Covenant Congregational Church

"Sometimes you feel two things at the same time, and that's OK."
-Daniel Tiger

Most parents and children from the past several years are aware that the legacy of Mr. Rodgers continues with an animated show entitled "Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood." It follows the characters of Mr. Rodger's "Land of Make Believe" as they attempt to find their way in the world of preschool and beyond. The lead character is, of course, Daniel Tiger. Perhaps the most enduring part of this new show is the music. Each episode contains a short, catchy tune whose lyrics are relevant to that week's plot. There are several excellent ones, but I perhaps like the one quoted above the best: "Sometimes you feel two things at the same time, and that's OK."

It's a good lesson for all of us throughout our lives, but seems particularly poignant during this season of Advent. Advent is the season of "sitting in the middle." As the prelude to waiting for Christmas, we of course know the feelings of remembering Jesus' first coming. We begin to decorate our homes. We purchase gifts for loved ones. We often serve and give in response to the great gift of God's son given to us. On the one hand, we are in a season of celebration and joy as we remember the great light of Jesus' birth which now enlightens our darkened world.

All of these celebrations and all of this excitement, however, could hide the other feelings of Advent. Indeed, Advent is also a season of remembering that not all is right in our world. God has promised to not only come once through the power of the incarnation in Bethlehem, but God has promised to come again, finally in glory, to make all things right and to bring peace, love, and joy to every corner of the world which would receive him.

This more somber note of the season is often drowned out in upbeat Christmas carols and extensive light shows, but it is important to recall. Not all is right with our world; grief and pain still linger; we need Christ to come again. Advent has two feelings at the same time: joy, appreciation and remembrance of God's gift on the one hand and need, sorrow and waiting for God's coming again on the other hand.

This December, I encourage you to dwell in the great joy and love of a special season where we revel at the great grace given to us in the manger. We are right to feel things are made "right" by the baby Jesus who sets off the redemption of the world by his coming to us. But let me also encourage us to dwell in the pain and difficulties of our current lives and world. In doing so, we recognize that Christ's project of redemption is not done yet-that there will be a day when all will be made right and every eye will see him. So let us feel two feelings at the same time this Advent: celebration and longing, together. And that's ok.

-Pastor Ryan

the mitten tree

The Missions and Service Ministry, inspired by the book *The Mitten Tree* by Candace Christiansen, invites you to "decorate" our tree with <u>new</u>, warm mittens and gloves of all sizes, for people in our community who are experiencing homelessness.



The tree will be in the church's front entrance through January 3. Let's fill the branches with warmth, care and love.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

A Touch of Elegance

Christmas Tea Party

Wednesday, December 16
1:00 p.m.
Fireside Room

WEAR YOUR BEST!

Wear something that you consider special from your closet. It could be a beautiful dress, an old favorite sweater, a wedding gown, or even a uniform of some kind!

We would appreciate a few volunteers to bring small sandwiches or pastries.

Enjoy a lovely afternoon of friendship, laughter, and Christmas cheer!



New England Seafarers Mission Christmas Shoeboxes

We are accepting Christmas shoeboxes for the seafarers who visit our ports from around the world. Drop off shoeboxes at the church during business hours or after church services. **The deadline to drop-off shoeboxes is December 6, 2026**, after Sunday service. For more information about this mission please visit http://neseafarers.org

Please fill a shoebox with the following New England Seafarers suggested items:

Be sure to include a card and wrap the box in festive paper!

- Soap
- Shampoo
- Mouthwash
- Toothpaste/Toothbrush
- Deodorant
- Comb
- Tissue packets
- Nail clippers
- Lip balm
- Hand sanitizer
- Winter knit hats
- Heavy duty gloves
- Bandanas
- A pair of white crew socks
- Air fresheners
- Sewing/mending kit
- Paper notepads and pens
- Cough drops, gum, hard candy, vitamin C drops

Due to the seafarer's limited storage space, the recommended shoebox size is roughly 12" x 7" x 5". The above suggested items have been reviewed by NESM but feel free to add additional items. Examples are sunscreen, hand cream, rain poncho, deck of cards, mini flashlight. **Need an empty shoebox to fill?** There is a table in the Narthex with a limited supply of empty shoeboxes.



Saint Lucia Christmas Tea
Saturday, December 5 at 10:00am



Please join the women of the Covenant Congregational Church at a Saint Lucia Christmas Tea. We hope you can bring your moms, daughters and granddaughters as we share the Christian story of Saint Lucia, celebrate the Swedish roots of our church, and share a time of fellowship as we sample some traditional Swedish treats. **Please rsvp to attend no later than November 30th** so that we can plan appropriately. You can sign up two different ways - use the rsvp sheet in the Narthex or rsvp online at https://forms.gle/Qef1FXFBJmYM67sm9 or scan the QR code. All women are welcome to join us. If you have any questions or would like to help out with baking or set up, please reach out to Ruth Carrigan (rwcmed@gmail.com) or Nancy Waugh (N_Waugh@msn.com) or contact the church office.



Holiday Parade Live Nativity



CCC will again be part of this year's Easton Holiday Parade. **The parade is immediately after worship December 6th**. This is a great way to be present in our community! Contact Pastor Devyn or Diane Cidado if you would like to join the parade.

youth group

Sunday, December 13

5:30-7:00pm

All kids Grades 5-8 are invited to join us for a Christmas celebration in the youth lounge and gym. Please bring a yankee swap gift ($5-$10 limit).



Thank you!

Thank you for cleaning out your closets. You donated over 2500 pounds of clothing, accessories and books! We were able to raise $475 to support Children + Youth activities. Thank you!



CAMP SQUANTO SQ SWANZEY, NH

2027 Registration Opens December 1st!

www.pilgrimpines.org/squanto-information



2027 Ministry Teams

The nominating committee has begun its prayerful work of filling the various committees and teams at the church. If you are sensing the call to join a team or know of a person who might be interested, please contact a committee member - Melissa Gallinaro, Leslee Buckley, Erin Gomes and Pastor Ryan.

Worship & Music: Work with pastors and Music Director to plan & coordinate worship. Choir, musicians, worship tech, scripture readers, ushers all fall under this ministry.

Whole Life Stewardship: Encourages the congregation to be good stewards of our time, talents, and treasure. Coordinates yearly pledge drive.

Fellowship: Oversee & recruit volunteers for weekly fellowship coffee hour. Plan other events to help the congregation connect with one another

Missions & Service: Coordinates service opportunities for the congregation—connecting us with the needs of the community. Makes regular contact with our global missionaries and local partners.

Youth & Children: Oversee the spiritual formation of children & youth. This committee oversees Sunday school, youth group, Vacation Bible School, Wiggle Worship & special events.

Care: Organize meals & rides for those in need. Coordinate collations-funeral receptions- for members. Prayer shawls, Stephen Ministry, visitation

Evangelism & Outreach: Oversees outreach events that connect CCC with the community. Sends mailings 3x a year to new Easton residents.

Adult Formation: Oversees adult formation opportunities. This includes Adult Sunday School, Bible studies and special events.

Properties: Oversee upkeep of the building & parsonage. Organize work days. Receive bids for repairs

2027 Pledges

Giving pledges for 2027 are still being accepted

Please return your pledge card as soon as possible as planning for the 2027 budget has begun

You may place your pledge card in the offering plate, the basket in the narthex, or send them to the office, c/o Financial Secretary

GIVE SERVE ATTEND GROW


SOUPERFEST
2026



Murray Kidd, Conductor

Yelena Dudochkin, Soprano
Sandra Piques Eddy, Alto
Michael Gonzalez, Tenor
Gray Leiper, Baritone

50th Annual Messiah Sing

A beloved Easton community tradition continues

Thursday,
December 17, 2026
8:00 PM

Covenant Congregational Church
204 Center Street
Easton, MA

Presented in collaboration with
the Easton Chamber Music Festival, Sharon Community Chamber Orchestra,
Covenant Congregational Church, and Jubilate Chorale.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Eva Cudmore
5 Rosie Johnson
7 Peter Gay
7 Leslee Buckley
9 Tim Driscoll
13 Brayden Burton
18 Nancy Waugh
19 Heather Willis
20 Elise McCormick
22 Nick Cidado
23 Brooke Bassett
24 Anna (Nelson) Rothschild-Shea
24 Tom Hyde
29 Carole Giberti
29 Heather Carroll
29 Derek Fredericksen
29 Christian Fredericksen
31 Emma Gill

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Celebration

- For God's continued providence and the generosity of church members.
- For several successful ministry events including Souperfest and the Holiday Fair.
- For our post-confirmation students who serve the church by assisting with Children's Ministry, Worship Ministry and Missions & Service Ministry.

Prayers of Petition

- Please pray for our missionaries abroad and their families:
  Grant & Miho Buccholtz (Japan) - They have requested prayers as they connect with churches while on Ministry Assignment in the US.
  Rev. James Tang (Africa- South Sudan/Ethiopia) - Rev. James has asked for prayer as his communities face violence, famine and disease.
- For the families and friends mourning the losses of Jay Chambers, Barbara Anderson Bracci, Jack Bevan, Anna Goodwin, Bill Plante, Gini Cushman, and Theresa Hodges.
- For the conflict in Israel and Gaza, Ukraine, Iran and South Sudan. May God bring peace!
- Continued prayers for those with health challenges: Lyn Carroll, Gordon Mears, Joyce Nelson, Kym Silva, Karen Bassett, Dana Morse, Rebecca Carroll, Tony Ivaldi's uncle Tony Vandermeel, Ginny & Jim Elson, Andrea Siciliano, and Bob Carroll.
- Those dealing with addiction, isolation, financial trouble, and loss.
- Would we read and pray the Bible and trust that the Lord is with us.
- 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.
- The health of marriages in the church and for those who long to be married.

DECEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		**01** **5:00pm** Worship + Music Meeting (zoom)	**02** **7:00pm** Stephen Minister Training (library) **7:00pm** Nominating Committee (fireside) **reserved** 7-8pm Classroom	**03** **6:30pm** Choir Practice **7:30pm** Prayer Hour (chapel) **reserved** 9-11:30am Fireside 4-8pm Gym	**04** **2:30pm** Mahjong (fireside) **4:30pm** St. Lucia Setup (fireside) **reserved** 10am-12pm Sanctuary 5-6pm Classroom	**05** **10:00am** Women's Saint Lucia Christmas Tea (fireside) **reserved** 6-10pm Gym
06 **9:00am** Choir Rehearsal **9:15am** Adult Sunday School (youth lounge) **10:00am** Youth Choir (chapel) **10:30am** Worship **6:00pm** Bible Basics Study (fireside) **7:30pm** Men's Basketball **reserved** 2-6pm Gym	**07** **5:30pm** Yoga (fireside) **6:30pm** Missions Meeting (zoom) **7:00pm** Knitting (fireside) Stephen Minister (youth lounge) Men's Bible Study (offsite) **reserved** 7-9pm Gym, classroom	**08** **7:00pm** Church Council Meeting (Fireside)	**09** **10:00am** Choir Practice **7:00pm** Stephen Minister Training (library)	**10** **7:30pm** Prayer Hour (chapel) **reserved** 9-11:30am Fireside 5:30-7pm Classroom	**11** **2:30pm** Mahjong (fireside) **reserved** 5:30-7pm Classroom	**12** **10:00am** Women's Bible Study (fireside)
13 **9:00am** Choir Rehearsal **9:15am** Adult Sunday School (youth lounge) **10:00am** Youth Choir (chapel) **10:30am** Worship **4:00pm** Second Nurture **5:30pm** Youth Group **7:30pm** Men's Basketball	**14** **5:30pm** Yoga (fireside) **7:00pm** Knitting (fireside) Stephen Minister (youth lounge) Men's Bible Study (offsite) **reserved** 7-9pm Sanctuary 7-9pm Gym, classroom	**15** **Deadline** for Submissions to January Tidings	**16** **1:00pm** Friendship Club (fireside) **7:00pm** Stephen Minister Training (library) **reserved** 4-8pm Gym	**17** **8:00pm** Handel's Messiah Sing + Reception (sanctuary + gym) **7:30pm** Prayer Hour (chapel) **reserved** 9-11:30am Fireside	**18** **2:30pm** Mahjong (fireside) **reserved** 5-6pm Classroom 5:30-8:30pm downstairs	**19** **10:00am** Women's Bible Study (fireside)
20 **9:00am** Choir Rehearsal **9:15am** Adult Sunday School (youth lounge) **10:30am** Worship Christmas Pageant **6:00pm** Bible Basics Study (fireside) **7:30pm** Men's Basketball	**21** **5:30pm** Yoga (fireside) **7:00pm** Knitting (fireside) Men's Bible Study (offsite) **reserved** 8:30-10am Sanctuary 7-9pm Gym, classroom	**22** **10:30am** Choir Practice **reserved** 8:30-10am Sanctuary	**23**	**24** **4:00pm** Christmas Eve Service - Carols & Candles **10:00pm** Christmas Eve Service - Contemplative Candlelight	**25** 	**26** **10:00am** Women's Bible Study (fireside)
27 **9:15am** Adult Sunday School (youth lounge) **10:30am** Worship **7:30pm** Men's Basketball **reserved** 3-5pm Classroom	**28** **5:30pm** Yoga (fireside) **7:00pm** Knitting (fireside) Men's Bible Study (offsite) **reserved** 7-9pm Gym, classroom	**29**	**30**	**31** **Office Closed** **7:30pm** Prayer Hour (chapel)	**1** 	**2** **reserved** 6-10pm Gym

204 Center Street
North Easton MA 02356



Covenant Congregational Church exists to build a welcoming community
so that all generations can know God, participate freely, and grow in faith together.

Sunday Mornings
10:30am Worship Service
(Online and In-person)

Co-Pastors
Rev. Ryan Chambers Johnson
Rev. Dr. Devyn Chambers Johnson

508-238-6423
www.ecovchurch.org