



The TIDINGS

April 2025

Covenant Congregational Church
Celebrating 140 years of ministry

One of the most beloved worship services here at Covenant Congregational is on Maundy Thursday. This year the service will be held on April 17th at 7:00 p.m. We will gather to remember Christ and his disciples at the table as he instituted the Last Supper. We will gather to hear the story of Jesus' final moments with Pilate, on the road to Golgotha and hanging on a cross.

At some point during the service, typically near the end and in the growing darkness, a well-known song will be sung:

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?*

These lyrics invite us to imagine ourselves at the cross, at the tomb and, eventually, in the garden early that first Easter morning. As the women and John stayed at the foot of the cross, we are invited to stay at the cross in the depths of pain and sorrow. You may know that the song comes from the Black gospel tradition. First sung during American slavery, these questions invited the first singers to see the connection between Jesus' terrible final days and vicious death and their own experience of beatings and death in the horrors of slavery and Jim Crow. As the song states: *Sometimes, it causes me to tremble*. These questions faced stark reality, the depth of Jesus' pain. We do not have the same experiences as those first singers, but we can get something similar from the song: Christ is there in the dark places of our lives.

The song doesn't want us to answer those questions literally—none of us were literally there, obviously—but it poses a question for us to ponder. We can answer “no” and refuse the invitation to place ourselves in the greatest story ever told or we can answer “yes” and imagine ourselves there, there when they crucified the Lord.

The invitation of Easter is to enter into that story which holds such pain and trouble for our Lord but which ends with such hope and joy. Those first singers were invited into believing that these horrors they lived in were not the end—for Christ or for themselves. This is the hope of Easter morning and resurrection; this pain is not the end. It is God's way of working, taking places of such pain and sorrow in our own lives and, through the power of his resurrection, bringing hope and joy. As we sing this song this year, we ache with the places of pain and sorrow in our world and pray for the day when the Resurrected Christ will come again and bring with him joy unbounded.

On Easter Sunday morning, we gather with a much different tone and ask a much different question:

Were you there when the stone was rolled away?

That is the day of joy and hope.

Christ is Risen, he is risen, indeed.

-Pastor Ryan

Upcoming Events with the Mission and Service Ministry

SAVE THE DATE: Adult & Teen Challenge Men's choir will visit on Sunday, April 27, 2025.

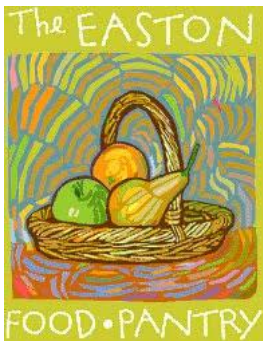


A lunch will follow the Service. We are reaching out for help with food donations for the lunch such as salad, sandwiches, chips, desserts). Please access this link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054DA5A92DA5F9C61-55743939-food/167028317/#/>

In addition, look for a box in the Narthex to collect regular and sample size toiletry donations such as:

- shaving cream
 - disposable 3-blade razors
 - Deodorant
 - soap/body wash
 - Shampoo
 - Toothpaste
 - Toothbrushes
 - mouthwash (non-alcohol)
 - floss picks/dental floss
 - hand lotion in tubes
 - Combs
 - Q-tips
 - nail clippers
- Non-toiletry items:
- Notebooks
 - boxed T-shirts/briefs (all sizes)



SAVE THE DATE: Easton Food Pantry- food drive!!!

Saturday, June 21, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., @ Shaw's in Easton.

The Missions & Service committee is asking for adult and youth volunteers on that day, to cover the donations at both entrances.

A volunteer sign-up board will be posted in the Narthex for volunteers.

We thank you for making this such a successful community drive each year!

Gifts of Love Appreciation

Thank you for your donations to the Missions and Service Ministry's "Gifts of Love" drive. Your thoughtful gifts will help and encourage those moving from emergency shelter to permanent housing.




Yard Sale 3 is Kicking Off!


We will begin collecting your awesome stuff starting NOW downstairs in the far end classroom.

 Your awesome stuff **SHOULD NOT INCLUDE:** 

- Dirty items!! All donations must be clean.
- Large furniture such as: sofas, bureaus, china cabinets etc.
- Large appliances, smaller is fine but they must work.
- Stuffed animals
- Text books or encyclopedias

 Need help transporting things to church? Please call Melissa Gallinaro (508-241-2708) or Diane Cidado (508-559-3248)

 There will be a sign up for help needed in the weeks to come. (General set up and workers day of, baked goods, Carol's Carrot Cake makers, cashiers, parking lot attendant, clean up and removal).

 Note - cleaning up becomes tough thus many hands are needed. We specifically need to fine tune the disposal and removal of unsold "stuff" ...a real problem last year.

Note!! All donations must take place after Tiny Tots is dismissed at 3 p.m. Do not bring them earlier as this is against regulations.

Fellowship

fellowship@ecovchurch.org

Women's Potluck Brunch

APRIL 12, 10am

Ladies and girls are invited to join us for a morning filled with delicious food, uplifting conversations, and a wonderful opportunity to connect with one another. Feel free to bring a friend.

Please RSVP by April 6. Sign-up on the board at church or by email: fellowship@ecovchurch.org

We look forward to sharing this special time with you!



Yoga

Mondays in the narthex

5:30 - 6:30

\$10 per class

Bring a mat, water bottle,
and a friend!



Looking forward...

Men's
Blue Hills Hike
late May



Coffee Hour Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers for **May 11** and **May 25**. Can you provide a snack? Can you make and serve coffee or punch? Sign up on the board at church, email fellowship or at:

<https://tinyurl.com/CoffeeHourCCC>

Christ is Risen



COVENANT
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH



Easter Egg Hunt

APRIL
19
10:00 AM

TODDLERS - GRADE 5
FRIENDS WELCOME!

Covenant Congregational Church

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

10:30 AM April 13 | Palm Sunday

7:00 PM April 17 | Maundy
Thursday Service

6:00 AM April 20 | Sunrise Service
at Sheep Pasture

9 & 10:30
AM April 20 | Easter Sunday

ecovchurch.org

Easter Egg Hunt

Save the date for Saturday, April 19th 10:00 a.m. SHARP! Rain or Shine!

Toddlers to 5th grade will be hunting for the eggs, we ask that you arrive a little early to receive announcements and be ready to go for 10! The parking lot will be closed at 10 to make sure it is safe for the little ones, so make sure you aren't late.

Grades 6 and up will hide the eggs at 8:30 a.m.

Egg stuffing will be adults only on Monday, April 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the fireside room.

Vacation Bible School

Save—the—date!!

August 11-15, 2025

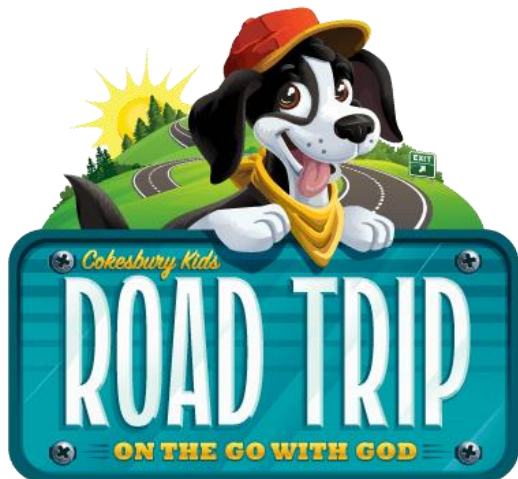
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Grades K-5th

Donations accepted and All Welcome!

Registration coming soon!!

Covenant Congregational Church
204 Center Street, N. Easton, MA 02356
(508) 238-6423—office@ecovchurch.org



CHILDREN AND YOUTH EVENTS

APRIL

SUNDAY SCHOOL

GRADES K-7TH EVERY SUNDAY DURING WORSHIP

WIGGLE WORSHIP

STORY AND SONG TODDLERS - PRE-K
EVERY SUNDAY DURING WORSHIP

YOUTH GROUP

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL
EVERY SUNDAY 6:00-7:00 PM
TRAILBLAZER 4/13 FOLLOWING WORSHIP GR 3-5
NO YOUTH GROUP EASTER SUNDAY (4/20)

PALM SUNDAY

PALM PROCESSION & SONG - 4/13
ALL AGES TODDLER - HIGH SCHOOL

EASTER EGG HUNT

EGG STUFFING PARENTS & ADULTS ONLY - 4/14 @ 7:00PM
EGG HIDING - 4/19 @ 8:00AM GRADES 6+
EGG HUNT - 4/19 10:00AM TODDLER - GRADE 5
FRIENDS WELCOME

CONTACT LAURA SLOMBA OR MEGHAN DRAY
LAURA.SLOMBA23@GMAIL.COM OR MEGHANDRAY@YAHOO.COM

www.ecovchurch.org



HAPPY Birthday

Lu-Ann Besse	2	Rick Papetti	19
Owen Hayes	2	Joyce Nelson	20
Zac Zelinski	4	Elisabeth Driscoll	22
Brian Cidado	6	Julie Pick	22
Doug Falls	10	Robert Wheeler	22
Lilly Driscoll	10	Ann Cummings	24
Lynda Valenzuela	12	Linda Wainwright	24
Judy Buck	17	Owen Cummings	26
Pastor Devyn Chambers Johnson	17	Elmore Dyer	28
Katie Abreu	18		

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, Kym Silva, Ginny Elson, Elmore Dyer, Andrea Siciliano, Dana Morse, Marilyn Mears and Marcia Johnson.
- . 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 and Ukraine. May God bring peace!
- . For those impacted by the floods caused by Hurricane Helene.
- . 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.
- . Would we read and pray the Bible and trust that the Lord is with us.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Celebration

- . For many new faces in worship and fellowship activities.
- . For God's provision for both finances and volunteers at CCC!
- . Successful surgery for Marilyn Mears
- . For weekly youth group and new volunteers.
- . Baptism of Taylor Cidado and the birth of June Cidado
- . For the seven participants in the Inquirers Class.

APRIL 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6</p> <p>9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:15a Adult Sunday School (youth lounge) 10:30a Worship & Communion (sanctuary) 12:00p Quarterly Business Meeting (sanctuary) 6:00p Youth Group (gym) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:30p Yoga (narthex) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Community Men's Bible Study (offsite) 7:00p Stephen Minister Caregivers Training (classroom) 7:00p Worship & Music Ministry Meeting (office)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:30p Missions & Service Ministry Meeting (zoom)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel)</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside)</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p> <p>9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:15a Adult Sunday School (youth lounge) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 4:00p Second Nurture (Tiny Tots, gym & youth lounge) 5:00p Worship Night (sanctuary) 6:00p Youth Group (gym) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:30p Yoga (narthex) 7:00p Egg Hunt Stuffing (fireside) 7:00p Community Men's Bible Study (offsite)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Tax Day</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Maundy Thursday</p> <p>7:00p Maundy Thursday Service (sanctuary)</p> <p><i>*Tidings Deadline*</i></p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00a Easter Egg Hunt (outside) 10:00a Women's Bible Study (classroom)</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Easter Sunday</p> <p>6:00a Community Sunrise Service (Sheep Pasture) 9:00a Easter Service (sanctuary) 10:30a Easter Service (sanctuary) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:30p Yoga (narthex) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Community Men's Bible Study (offsite) 7:00p Stephen Minister Caregivers Training (classroom)</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel)</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside)</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:15a Adult Sunday School (youth lounge) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 6:00p Youth Group (gym) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:30p Yoga (narthex) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Community Men's Bible Study (offsite)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00p Children & Youth Ministry Meeting (fireside)</p>	<p>30</p>			



204 Center Street
North Easton, MA 02356

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N. Easton, MA 02356

Permit No. 20

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

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