



Artwork by Maud Lewis

THE TIDINGS

January 2022

Covenant Congregational Church

Celebrating over 135 years of ministry

“Look, I am making all things new!” Revelation 21:5

Each January many of us undertake the yearly ritual of making resolutions. At the start of this new year, we resolve to do things differently or begin things we have never done or stop something we know we shouldn't be doing. Many of these resolutions don't last into February, of course, but occasionally one sticks and our lives change as a result. A new year begins each January; and at its best it can be a fresh season for our souls.

In January of 2021 our family packed up our home and moved to New England. It was an exciting, emotional and challenging start to a new phase for our family. There was quite a bit of grief in leaving friends and a church, but there was much joy coming to a great town and a wonderful new congregation. It was a fresh and new season.

Thinking about new starts reminds me of a passage in the book of Revelation. Near the end of the book, God Almighty is seated on a heavenly throne at the end of time and declares a litany of truths which ends with this stunning statement: “Look! I am making all things new!”

Look closely at this verse. God does not declare he is making all new things; he says he is making all things new. At the end of time, the things of this earth and this world will be *renewed and enriched by God Almighty*.

Most of you have noted that it seems like we are entering a fresh season at Covenant Congregational Church. New and different people are engaging, ministries are being modified and shifted, and there is a certain energy of the Spirit in our midst. As we think of new seasons, including the new season at this congregation, I find an interesting lesson in this short verse. Typically, churches tend to fall into two camps. One type of church wants everything completely new. Nothing in the past should continue, they declare, we must be trendy and hip to reach people today. The other type of church doesn't want to change anything at all. Things worked in the past, they declare, and we need to keep doing it exactly that way!

The truth, however, lies in the work that God is already doing in our lives and congregation: He is renewing and enriching all things. If we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives and community, things we cherish and love will be given new life and form as all things are revitalized, modified and deepened.

Early on in my ministry, I led a camp which a church ran for children in the neighborhood. One day, a new child was dropped off by her babysitter, a retired woman. The woman asked me, “Is this the church which used to be on 7th street?” “Yes,” I replied, “it moved a few decades ago into this new building.” “Well,” she said, “this church really impacted my life by having an afterschool program for my siblings and I. I'm glad you are still doing it.” The camp we were running that day had only the faintest connection to that earlier ministry which had impacted her, but the spirit of the mission was renewed and reformed into this new ministry of care and witness.

I wonder if the same can be true for Covenant. What will this coming year bring? Can we allow God to use the gifts and ministry of our church and renew them in this fresh season? If we stay in step with God's renewing and enriching spirit, it is certain to be a great year.

Happy (re)New Year!



Annual Meeting

Don't forget the annual meeting is Jan. 23 directly after worship service. There will be a virtual platform available for those who will not be in person.

Winterfest 2022

Pray for our high schoolers at Winterfest, January 7-9. It will be at Pilgrim Pines this year (a change from NY.)



Friendship Club

The January luncheon and meeting of the Friendship Club will be held on Tuesday, January 18th at noon in the Fireside Room. The luncheon will be hosted by Connie Dumoulin and Nancy Hall. We hope you can join us. Please bring a dish or dessert to be shared and your place setting (plate/utensils). Program will be announced. All are welcome!

Care Ministry

“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

-Galatians 6:2

GREETINGS! Many many thanks to all who stepped forward to help with meals and errands for our fellow congregants who are going through a rough patch. It is wonderful to see the Christian spirit so alive and at the ready throughout the year. It makes evident to all that we are not just fellow church “members”, but an actual church family.

We are all hunkered down for the winter, yet despite the ongoing pandemic there will always be those in need of help inside (and outside) our fellowship.

Moving forward, the Care Ministry continues to be in need of a more active membership. We would like to play a more active role in our church and would look forward to a renewed involvement. Years ago, under the leadership of Pastor Earl we attempted to reorganize, and identified many areas where the Care Ministry should and could be actively productive. We had assumed that the membership of the ministry would be in keeping with those goals. And yet, it became necessary to scale down our focus considerably – we frankly didn’t have the numbers. Subsequently, in a brief meeting with Pastor Mohn, he and I identified a more simple focus more in line with a ministry consisting of just a few members.

As such, currently we aim to assist with:

Prayer needs.*

Meals during or after an illness or surgery.

Driving to appointments or needed errands.

Organizing visitations.

Ray Wallace also solely organizes the collations – an area that MUST have a “second in command” in the instance he is unable to fulfill this task (such as right now).

Once again – please consider joining our Care Ministry. The time requirements are minimal yet so greatly needed.

Personally - I consider *helping our brethren* foundational to the Christian ethic. *It truly defines who we are.*

Melissa Gallinaro

*Prayer requests can be accomplished quickly through emails or phoning the church office. Remember that emergent needs can route to our pastor directly by following prompts. Also, please be sensitive to privacy needs when *submitting a prayer request on behalf on someone else*. It is imperative you have their permission to do so. Please discuss with your person of concern before submitting.



Current COVID Protocols for CCC

*Please note that the below changes were made prior to the recent covid spike. Please contact one of the pastors or the office for current protocols. Thank you for helping keep our community safe.

- Masks are encouraged during Sunday Morning Worship.
(There is no mask mandate)
- Distanced seating available in narthex.
- No passing offering plate, individual communion servings remain.
- Children's and Youth ministries follow the guidance of the Easton Public Schools.
(currently volunteers and children are masked indoors)
- Other groups and ministries will continue to make mask guidelines that best fit their ministry needs and context.
- For all events, the church asks for self certification. (Please stay home if someone or someone in your home has covid symptoms in the past 48 hours.)
- If you have questions or concerns please reach out to Pastor Ryan.



Coffee Hour Host Schedule

January	Properties
February	Stephen's Care
March	Men's Group
April	Wednesday Bible Study
May	Thurs Bible Study
June	Children & Youth



For questions or information, contact:
Janice Marsan
Chair of Worship & Music Ministries
Ginny Elson
Director of Music Ministries

January Music Notes

Choir Rehearsal

Sundays at 9:15 a.m.: January 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

Thursday, January 20, 7:30 p.m.

Men's Sectional Rehearsals

Tuesdays at 1 p.m.: January 4, 11, and 25

Handbell Choir Rehearsals

Saturdays, 11 a.m.: January 8, 15, and 29

Save the Date

We will welcome organist Glen Halvorsen to lead our January 23 worship service. Join us!

From the Church Office

- February Tidings are due January 20.
- The church's Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 23, after the worship service.
- Annual Reports are due January 19. Please submit these in any of these four ways: as a Word document, Excel spreadsheet, text within the body of an email, or a Google document. PDF's do not play nicely with Publisher. If you have questions, please ask Jen.
- Jen is updating birthdays, addresses, and emails. Let her know if your info needs updating: office@ecovchurch.org.



The Christmas Story 2021





January Birthdays

Joyce DeCosta	3	Christine Sutton	10	Tyler Haynes	21	Connie Dumoulin	28
Natalie Fredericksen	4	Brian Edlund	11	Bonnie Hyde	22	Tatum Fritchman	29
Ana McNeil	5	Ella Haynes	12	Alexis MacLean	22	Alexa Malasi	29
Ernie Ortega	5	Roger Miller	13	Eric Whitelaw	25	Janet Linehan	30
Ainslee Medeiros	7	Robert Davis	14	Nick Zelinski	25	Debora Fiore	31
Jordan Benvie	8	Harry Keselman	18	Ariana Siciliano	27		
Jake Benvie	8	Lisa Bailey	20	Doris Strachman	27		

Care Ministry

Prayers of Petition

- Would we read and pray the Bible and trust that the Lord is with us
- Our patience with each other as we have different opinions about Covid and how to bear with one another in love (Ephesians 4: 1—6)
- Families who have lost a loved one to Covid and other illnesses
- Those dealing with addiction, especially with the trials of Covid
- Those who are experiencing financial trouble due to Covid
- Those who are isolated and alone
- Our 2021-22 Confirmands as they learn and grow in their faith
- The health of marriages in the church and for those who long to be married
- Geraldine and Ray Wallace as they recover from their respective surgeries
- Bev Carlson's cancer treatment
- Caleb Hurst: would he continue to grow and develop—specifically learn to walk and talk
- Kathy Murphy, friend of Steve and Sandy Willette, who is battling cancer
- Karen McSherry's brother, Mark, as his health continues to decline. Pray for strength for the family and caregivers as they continue to care for him at home.
- Please pray for continued strength and improvement for Len "Cid" Cidado



Prayers of Thanksgiving and Celebration

- God's promises are trustworthy and true. This is our hope and our rest!
- The many volunteers who make attending worship from home possible
- The many volunteers who make the church a welcoming place to worship
- The continued development of Caleb Hurst (Thad and Jen Krikorian's nephew)
- Our online worship services reaching those unable to attend in person!
- Aimee Slomba's full healing!
- Mike Bassett is cancer free!

January 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:15a Choir Rehearsal 10:30a Worship	3 5:30p Yoga (fireside) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (chapel)	4 1:00p Sectional Rehearsal	5 6:30p Women's Bible Study (fireside)*	6 10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside) 7:30p Prayer Meeting (chapel)	7 High School @ Winterfest	8 11:00a Handbells
9 9:15a Choir Rehearsal 10:30a Worship 5:00p Confirmation 7:30p Basketball	10 5:30p Yoga (fireside) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (chapel)	11 1:00p Sectional Rehearsal 7:00p Council	12 6:30p Women's Bible Study (fireside)*	13 10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside) 7:30p Prayer Meeting (chapel)	14	15 11:00a Handbells
16 9:15a Choir Rehearsal 10:30a Worship 5:00p Confirmation 7:30p Basketball	17 	18 1:00p Friendship Club	19 6:30p Women's Bible Study (fireside)*	20 10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside) 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p Prayer Meeting (chapel) *Feb. Tidings Deadline*	21	22
23 9:15a Choir Rehearsal 10:30a Worship 12:00p Annual Meeting 5:00p Confirmation 7:30p Basketball	24 5:30p Yoga (fireside) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (chapel)	25 1:00p Sectional Rehearsal	26 6:30p Women's Bible Study (fireside)*	27	28	29 11:00a Handbells
30 10:30a Worship 5:00p Confirmation 7:30p Basketball	31					

*Wednesday Bible study is currently full based on covid limitations.



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JANUARY

CCC AT A GLANCE

Sunday Mornings

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

Staff:

Pastor Ryan & Pastor Devyn Chambers Johnson

Co-Pastors

Ginny Elson

Director of Music Ministries

Jen Krikorian

Office Administrator

Nick Zelinski

Church Custodian and IT

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