



The TIDINGS

Covenant Congregational Church

January 2026

Over the past few years, I've noticed the progression of my daughter as she has learned and grown as a soccer player. When she was very young the premise was simple: kick the ball into the goal. There was one singular focus, one main aim and one way to accomplish it: run towards the ball and kick it. What resulted was a group of youngsters traveling as a mob up and down the soccer field in a clump with a ball in the middle of a flurry of feet. As she has grown, the team's approach has changed. Not only has each individual player improved their form and technique, the actions of the players on the field have become more nuanced. Instead of all running towards the ball at once, they often will spread out, covering different areas of the field. There may be a set play where a player runs in a certain direction while another player looks to pass the ball into an open space for a clearer shot. Some even remain back to defend their own goal! Their aim remains the same: get the ball in the goal; but the technique and approach have developed to improve the ability to score.

When people discuss the goal of a church, our aim is quickly summarized in one word: Jesus. He is, indeed, the focus and aim of all we do, learn and worship. As the Apostle Paul writes "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14). But as we grow and develop in our faith, we recognize that there are many wrinkles and nuances in knowing Jesus Christ. Part of our growth is growing in faith and knowledge of God in Christ.

This January and February during worship, we will be focusing on the Covenant Affirmations. The Covenant Affirmations are ways of speaking with greater specificity and clarity about what our church believes. They are not a long, detailed doctrine statement, but instead several key points of understanding of what is important and guiding for our life together. Each Sunday we will focus on a different topic, go into detail on what it means, and then think creatively about how it is witnessed in our church.

So, yes, the answer will always be: "Jesus" and he will be our goal and aim. In this next year, let's improve our game-learning what it means to go deeper with our understanding of following Christ as his church.

- Pastor Ryan

Covenant Affirmations

- 1) *the centrality of the word of God.* The Bible is at the center of everything we do, think and believe.
- 2) *the necessity of the new birth.* Coming to faith in Christ means having a new life and entering into a new family, with God as our Father.
- 3) *a commitment to the whole mission of the Church.* The work of the church is both the work of loving God and the active work of loving our neighbors.
- 4) *the Church as a fellowship of believers.* We gather together with our faith in Christ as central as a diversity of people from many different situations.
- 5) *a conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit.* Following Christ means relying on his Spirit for our help, guidance and hope.
- 6) *the reality of freedom in Christ.* Christ's victory over death breaks the power of sin and allows us to live in dependence on him as we were created to be.

MISSIONS AND SERVICE MINISTRY

the mitten tree

Inspired by the book *The Mitten Tree* by Candace Christiansen, we invite you to “decorate” our tree with new, 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. Let's fill the branches with warmth, care and love.



Thank you all for your generosity, sixty-seven Christmas shoeboxes were delivered to New England Seafarers in Boston on December 7, 2025!

Souperfest, the Cans for Change, and the freewill offering on November 23 all together raised over \$1000 that went to support Covenant World Relief and Development, Thank you!



A Milestone Year: 10th Anniversary of Tokyo Life Church, Our 20th Anniversary, Graduations: Zoe-Elementary and Allie-Middle School, Grant completing all 7 World Major Marathons, Miho - elected Chair of Japan Lausanne.

ADULT *Sunday School*

Loving our enemies seems impossible! Even being patient with our own family is often difficult. How can we put on the gentle garments of grace when we are so busy battling our old behavior patterns? In *The Fruitful Life*, author Jerry Bridges explores the nine aspects of the fruit of the spirit described in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Join us for Adult Sunday school starting January 11th in the youth lounge 9:15am – 10:15 and learn how to cultivate the beautiful fruit given by the Holy spirit. Everyone is welcome. We hope you will join us.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays, 10:00 am in the fireside room

pilgrim pines



if you're interested in attending a retreat, contact the church for more info or visit pilgrimspines.org



SAVE SHOES

The Covenant Congregational Church is having a shoe drive.

Donate your gently worn, used and new - Flip Flops, Sandals, Casual and Dress shoes, Sneakers, Cleats, Golf Shoes, Boots, Rubbers, etc. (all sizes accepted).

Shoes must be in reusable (resale) condition.
We DO NOT ACCEPT shoes with holes (inside or outside),
worn or missing soles, cracked or peeling leather,
missing or broken buckles, etc.

The drive will officially begin in February, but we can accept early donations.

Your donations Raise funds for our church,
Keep shoes from landfills and Supports families
of micro-enterprises in reuse economy.

Thank you for your support!



Friendship C L U B

Thank you all for making our Christmas Tea Party such a success—the goodies, hats, and especially the music by Bob McIlhatten, Dave Sproul, Doug Falls, and Lita Kuipers.

As time moves on and as they retire, we are deeply grateful to Carol Schigg and Judy Davis for their many years of dedication as co-hosts. I am now looking for others to step in and help keep this wonderful group going.

To avoid winter weather issues, our next gathering will be March 17 with a St. Patrick's Day theme. Please bring your own place setting, a potluck dish, and your favorite leprechaun! Lunch will be at noon. Let me know if you need transportation. A sign-up will be posted in the narthex, but last-minute guests are always welcome—this is a club for anyone who wants to be a friend.

—Sue Plante, 508-944-8781

Mondays
in the fireside room

5:30 YOGA



7:00 KNITTING

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the bakers who donated cookies, bars, and breads for our Christmas Cookie Walk! Your generosity helped make the event a great success. Thanks to your delicious contributions and the kindness of our buyers, we raised over \$700 to support church ministries and events. We are so grateful for your time, talent, and giving spirit.

— Fellowship Ministry

NOTICE OF CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Covenant Congregational Church of North Easton, MA will be held after worship on February 1, 2026.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday Classes

during 10:30am Worship Service

Wiggle Worship Toddlers to Pre-K (volunteer and parent-led)

Sunday School grades K-8

Youth Groups

Trailblazers (grades 4 - 6) 5:30-6:30

January 11th and 18th

Covenant Connect (grades 9-12) 5:30-8

January 4th and February 1st

Confirmation

Sunday, 5:00pm -6:30

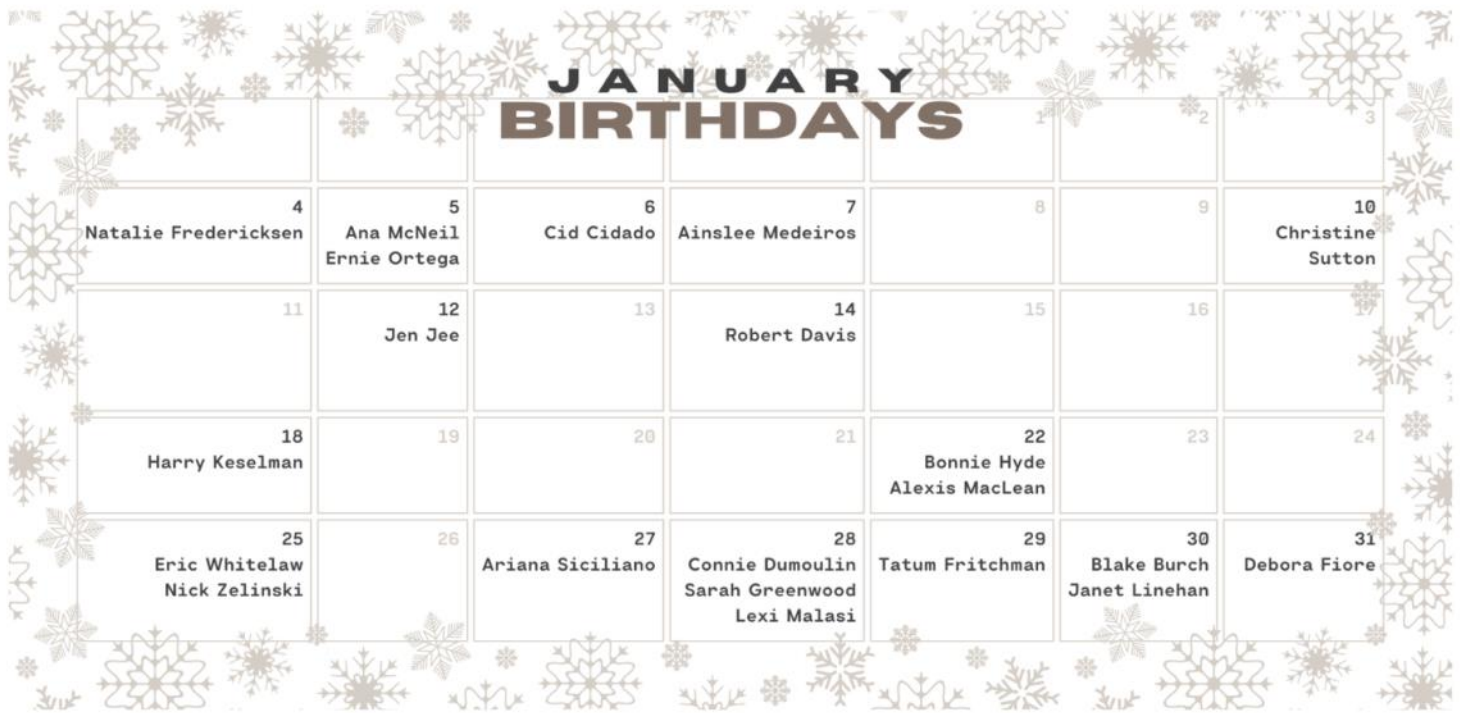
January 11, 18, 25

No Class Jan 4



TRAILBLAZERS





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 & Jim Elson, Andrea Siciliano and Dana Morse.
- Please pray for our missionaries abroad: Grant & Miho Buccholtz (Japan), Rev. James Tang (Africa- South Sudan/Ethiopia) and for their families.
- For the conflict in Israel and Gaza, Ukraine and South Sudan. May God bring peace!
- 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.
- For the Whole Life Stewardship committee as they encourage the church in generosity this pledge season.
- For the Sabin/Abreu family as they mourn the loss of Brenda Sabin, the Miller family as they grieve Janet Miller's passing and the Poirier family as they mourn the loss of Sally's sister Louise.
- For Jeffrey Endriunas of Easton who needs a life-saving kidney transplant due to a genetic kidney disease.
- For the upcoming Congregational Annual Meeting.
- For the pastor's as they travel to Chicago later this month for the annual denominational Pastor's Conference.
- For upcoming winter youth retreats.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Celebration

- For God's provision for both finances and volunteers at CCC! We ended the year financially strong thanks to the congregation's faithful generosity.
- For meaningful advent and Christmas worship services.
- For an awesome Christmas Pageant!
- For the Wiggle Room renovations. Grateful for Vicky Papetti's design and for the Memorial Funds that are making it possible.
- For Alice Fu who has agreed to serve as our Interim Choir Director thru June 2026!
- For successful community events like the Messiah Sing at CCC and our participation in the town Holiday Parade.
- For the marriage of Tony and April Ivaldi.

JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 Worship 5:30 Offsite: Covenant Connect Youth Group 7:30 Men's Basketball-gym	29 5:30pm Yoga (fireside) 7:00 Knitting (fireside) 7:00 Stephens Minister Training (youth lounge) 7:00 Offsite: Men's Bible Study 7p-8 Gym, classroom reserved 7p-8 Gym, classroom	30 6:30 Missions + Service Meeting (zoom) 7:00 Worship + Music Meeting (zoom)	31	01 7:30pm Prayer Hour (chapel)	02 2:30pm Mahjong for Beginners-fireside	03 10:00am Women's Bible Study-fireside 7:00 Sunday Prep- sanctuary reserved 11:00a-12:15 Gym
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11 9:00 Choir Rehearsal-sanct. 9:15 Adult SS- youth lounge 10:30 Worship 4:00 Second Nurture-youth lounge, gym, tiny tots 5:00 Confirmation-fireside 5:30 Trailblazers-gym/yl 7:30 Men's Basketball-gym	12 5:30pm Yoga (fireside) 7:00 Knitting (fireside) 7:00 Offsite: Men's Bible Study 7p-8 Gym, classroom reserved 7p-8 Gym, classroom	13 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00 Church Council Meeting-Fireside/Narthex reserved 5:30p-7 Classroom 5:30p-6:30 Gym	14	15 <i>Tidings Deadline</i> 7:30pm Prayer Hour- chapel reserved 8a-11:30 Fireside 4:30p-6:30 Classroom	16 2:30pm Mahjong for Beginners-fireside 7:00pm Fellowship Movie Night- fireside/narthex	17 10:00am Women's Bible Study-fireside 7:00 Sunday Prep- sanctuary reserved 11:00a-12:15 Gym
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204 Center Street
North Easton, MA 02356

CCC AT A GLANCE

Sunday Mornings

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

(Online and In-person)

www.ecovchurch.org

508.238.6423

Staff:

Pastor Ryan & Pastor Devyn Chambers Johnson *Co-Pastors*

Alice Fu *Choir Director*

Erin Gomes *Office Administrator*

Nick Zelinski *Church Custodian & IT Wizard*



Our Mission

To *Connect* the generations to Christ, to

Grow in our love for His Church, and to

Serve God in the greater Community