



The TIDINGS

October 2023

Covenant Congregational Church

Celebrating 140 years of ministry

This fall, during the children's sermons, we've been collecting items for our journey in following God. Each Sunday, we learn about another story of the people of Israel as they followed God through the wilderness. Then the children look around the sanctuary for a new item to put into our backpack. Previous items have included a water bottle as we learned about how God provided water from a rock and snacks as we learned about how God provided manna in the wilderness.

On our Anniversary Sunday, we had a bit of a different item to help us on our journey: a mirror. While we might not need a mirror to help us on a walking trip, mirrors are desperately needed on a *driving* trip. We can learn some important lessons from how we use mirrors in a car and apply them to what it means to follow God well. First, mirrors are vital at keeping us safe. They give us a sense of what is around us and where we have been. Regularly checking our mirrors is an important part of being a safe driver. Second, mirrors help us in tricky situations. If you are in the midst of backing up or parallel parking, you must use your mirrors to navigate those unique times. Finally, mirrors support the act of driving. Despite mirrors being vital to our drive, they are not the central part of our driving. We don't drive by looking at the mirrors; we drive by looking out the windshield. In fact, just like driving without mirrors is likely to cause a crash, only driving with your mirrors is *certain* to cause a crash!

We thought about mirrors on our anniversary because the lessons apply to our church congregation. We ought to remember that it is vital to look back at the faithfulness of God in our past. Regular work of ministry should involve regular remembrance of how God used us in the past. Particularly in tricky times of transition and change, we should "check our mirrors." That said, most of our time should be spent looking out the windshield at where God is taking us and planning and preparing for the coming trip! If not, we're nearly certain to crash.

There are tendencies of churches to miss in both directions. One type might barrel full speed ahead working in ministry and mission, not pausing at critical junctures to look at how this match with how God worked in the past. Others might spend most of their time looking in the mirrors-either being distracted from the road in front of them by what was behind them or, potentially even stopping the car and looking backward for long stretches of time. Churches are best when they face forward toward the future, regularly glancing in the mirrors to get a sense of orientation.

What a great Sunday we had this past October when we "checked our mirrors" and remembered God's faithfulness to our forebearers in faith. As someone told me, "We look pretty good for 140!" Let us use that "mirror check" to help our driving in the future, as we look out the window to the road ahead. God is still leading us; let us follow him by driving forward in faith.

-Pastor Ryan

from **generation**
to
generation
Celebrating 140 years of God's faithfulness!

Walking with God

November Music Notes



For questions or information,
contact:

Susan Santry
Chair of Worship & Music
Ministries
Ginny Elson
Director of Music Ministries

We continue to be blessed by the dedicated participation of so many in our Music Ministry. It is with joy that we are able to provide music for Sunday worship. There is always an open spot for any interested...just let Ginny know!

Rehearsal Schedule

Choir

Sundays, November 5, 12, 19, 26, 9 am

Thursday, November 30, 7:30 pm

Handbell Choir

Wednesdays, November 1, 8, 15, 29, 7pm

Men's Choir Sectional

Wednesdays, November 1, 8, 15, 29, 1 pm

Children & Youth Events



-Saturday, October 28th: Trunk or Treat, 2-4 p.m.

-Sunday, October 29th: Faith and Fun Youth Group
(Gr. 6-12), 6:30-7:30 p.m.

-Sunday, November 5th: Trailblazers Event (Gr. 1-5),
after church. More details TBA

-Saturday, November 18th: Confirmation Retreat, 9
a.m.-2 p.m. at church

-Gift Packing at My Brother's Keeper, dates and times
TBA

-Sunday, December 3rd: Visit from Pilgrim Pines
Staff, details coming soon.

Each Sunday: Sunday School during worship:
Confirmation class 5-6:30 p.m.

Missions and Service

Many thanks to all who helped prepare, deliver and serve a meal at MainSpring House in late September. Special thanks to our Youth who lovingly baked cookies for the dessert. Your kindness was a blessing for guests and staff.



Souperfest 2023

Souperfest will be held on Sunday, November 19, 2023 to benefit Covenant World Relief and Development. We will be looking for donations of your favorite soups, breads and desserts. A signup sheet for food donations will be placed in the Narthex. For those planning on attending, tickets are \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 per family. There will also be a freewill offering after worship at the same time the CWRD soup cans are turned in.

We need volunteers as follows:

- Setup in the Activity Room the day prior on Saturday, 11/18 (noon - 3:00 PM).
- Sunday, 11/19 one person to sell tickets at the door.
- Sunday, 11/19 Cleanup crew needed after the event.

If interested in any of these areas please reach out to Lita Kuipers (Lk83cw@verizon.net).



2023 New England Seafarers Mission Christmas Shoeboxes

We are continuing to accept Christmas shoebox this year for the men and women seafarers who visit our ports from around the world. Please fill a shoebox with the following suggested items:

- Travel-size toiletry items (soap, shampoo, mouthwash, toothpaste/toothbrush, comb, disposable razors, tissue packets, nail clippers, hand sanitizer)
- Winter knit hats, heavy gloves, warm socks.
- Cough drops, vitamin C drops, gum, hard candy
- Air fresheners.
- Bandanas
- Paper notepads
- Sewing/mending kit <http://neseafarers.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/sewkit.pdf>
- Finally insert a Christmas card and wrap the box in festive paper.
- Please drop off your shoeboxes at the church during business hours. We will collect unwrapped, gently worn, laundered men's winter jackets (Size small, medium).



Also, a free will donation box will be available at the conclusion of Sunday Service on the deadline delivery date of December 10, 2023. Don't have a shoebox? There will be a limited supply of empty shoeboxes found in the Narthex. See Lita Kuipers or Marcia Johnson for more information.

Soup Cans for Covenant World Relief

Covenant World Relief and Development Sunday is coming up on November 19. Now is the time we start saving our coins and offerings in CWRD Soup Cans. See the display in the Narthex for more information and to pick up a can, label or giving envelope!

Delve Deeper

A collection of resources curated by Andi Long and Pastor Devyn

Here are resources that can help you Delve Deeper with the theme of peace as we join together in prayer for peace in our world.

Read

[Intercessory Prayer](#) by Dutch Sheets. This book shows how vital our prayers are and how God has always planned to work in partnership with us through prayer. Read the book and spend time interceding for peace in the middle east and for the needs closer to home.

Reflect

Reflect on Scripture passages about peace. Read them slowly. Repeat them throughout the day. Memorize them. A few suggestions: "Peace to you. Don't be afraid" (Judges 6:23). "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way" (2 Thessalonians 3:16). "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you" (Isaiah 26:3). "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you" (John 14:27). "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" (Colossians 3:15). "And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). This short devotion, [For He is Your Peace](#) by Tameshia Williams, can help you reflect on God's peace.

Pray

Here's a [Prayer for Peace in Israel and Gaza](#) from World Relief.

Mark Your Calendars

- Sunday, November 19th:** 7:30 p.m. Easton's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Temple Chayai Shalom (239 Depot St).
- Sunday, December 17th:** 10:30 a.m. Children & Youth Christmas Pageant.
- Sunday, December 24th:** Christmas Eve Worship:
 - 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship
 - 4:00 p.m. Candlelight & Carols Service
 - 10:30 p.m. Contemplative Candlelight Service

ALPHABET BINGO W/ TINY TOTS

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Wednesday November 15
1 PM

Bring a fall treat to share.

Clothing Drive

Looking for clothes, textiles, towels, sheets, belts, shoes, etc.

Donations can be left in the bin to left of the front door.

Call Joyce Nelson (508) 941-4510 if you would like your donations picked up. Thank you!



FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Let's Walk
Together!

Mondays 9:30am
meet at church

All ages & abilities
are welcome!

CCC Adult PAINT NIGHT

November 10, Friday 7pm
held in downstairs gym

\$20 pp, registration closes Oct 29

<https://tinyurl.com/bdbhedup>

Sign-up online or with Erin Gomes

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO
HELPED WITH THE 140TH
ANNIVERSARY!!!

IT WAS A WONDERFUL DAY
OF CELEBRATING GOD'S
FAITHFULNESS AND ALL OF
THE GENERATIONS OF OUR
CHURCH FAMILY.

Deck the
Church

NOVEMBER
26

DECORATING
KIDS ORNAMENT MAKING
CHRISTMAS CAROLS

GAME
NIGHT

B
RING
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INNER

FRIDAY, DEC 1

5:30 - 8:30

FIRESIDE
ROOM

Greg McIlhatten	1	Megan Raduazzo	13
Bob Bean	2	Aimee Slomba	14
Adam Buckley	4	Sarah Stevens	14
Lisa Byrnes	4	Colin Tyler	14
Noah Ryan	4	Margaret Horne	16
Adam Buckley	4	Chester Krupkowski	16
Stephanie Gill	6	Mitchell Callender	18
Karen McSherry	6	Alynne MacLean	18
Connor Buckley	7	Michela Benvie	20
Judith Tyler	7	James Harmon	20
Betsy Koepfel	8	Bob Hall	21
Mike Bassett	9	Brent Clary	22
Lyn Carroll	11	Ray Wallace	27
Matthew Carroll	11	Melissa Gallinaro	28
David Plante	13	Anthony Papetti	28

Happy Birthday



Care Ministry

Prayers of Petition

- 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).
- Those dealing with addiction, isolation, financial trouble, and loss.
- The health of marriages in the church and for those who long to be married
- Carole DesLauriers as she transitions from her home to assisted living
- Sudanese missionary, James Tang, whose daughter Nyawour died this past year and whose wife is suffering from a chronic illness.
- Caleb Hurst —specifically pray that he learns to walk & talk. He's learning to mimic sounds and he can now pull himself up!
- Friends of Steve and Sandy Willette, Cassy and Kathy, who both have metastasized cancer.
- Continued prayers for those with health challenges: Bob Davis, Don McLeod, Geraldine Wallace, Karen Bassett, Rebecca Carroll, Carole DesLauriers, Lynda Valenzuela and Matt Silva.
- Prayers for those grieving the loss of loved ones: the family of Bella Dubois, the family of Ed Burns, the family of Priscilla Treacy, the family of George Hanson, the family of Joyce Bean, the family of Bev Carlson, the family of Ariana Sutton, the family of Barb Takach, the family of Nancy Hall.
- Prayers for Karen Bassett's upcoming back surgery.
- Prayers for Matt Silva as he recovers from chemo treatments.
- For Pastor Devyn's cousin Carly Absher battling stage 4 appendix cancer.
- For Pilgrim Pines as they continue to recover after massive flooding this summer.
- For those impacted by the devastating fires in Hawaii.
- For the war in Israel and Gaza. May God bring peace!

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 in person and worshipping from home possible.
- Thanks, and Praise that Dianne Sproul's brother Steve is cancer free!
- For Linda Wainwright's recovery progress after back surgery.
- For a fabulous 140th Anniversary celebration. God has truly been good to us!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:00p Men's Sectional (sanctuary) 7:00p Handbell Rehearsal (fireside)	2 7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel)	3	4 10:30a Women's Bible Study (fireside)
5 Daylight Savings 8:30a ALPHA (gym) 9:15a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 12:00p Trailblazer Event 5:00p Confirmation (fireside) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)	6 9:30a Fellowship Walk (parking lot) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library) 7:00p Missions & Service Meeting	7 Election Day 7:00p Worship & Music Meeting (fireside)	8 1:00p Men's Sectional (sanctuary) 7:00p Handbell Rehearsal (fireside)	9 7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel)	10 6:00p Adult Paint Night (gym)	11 Veterans Day 10:30a Women's Bible Study (fireside)
12 8:30a ALPHA (gym) 9:15a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 11:45a Fellowship Ministry Meeting (library) 5:00p Confirmation (fireside) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)	13 9:30a Fellowship Walk (parking lot) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library)	14 7:00p Council Meeting (fireside)	15 1:00p Men's Sectional (sanctuary) 7:00p Handbell Rehearsal (fireside)	16 7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel) <i>*Tidings Deadline*</i>	17	18 9:00a Confirmation Retreat (youth lounge & gym) 10:30a Women's Bible Study (fireside)
19 Souperfest 8:30a ALPHA (gym) 9:15a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 12:00p Souperfest (gym) 5:00p Confirmation (fireside) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym) 7:30p Easton Thanksgiving Service (Temple Chayal Shalom)	20 9:30a Fellowship Walk (parking lot) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library)	21	22 1:00p Men's Sectional (sanctuary) 7:00p Handbell Rehearsal (fireside)	23 *Office Closed* 	24 *Office Closed*	25 10:30a Women's Bible Study (fireside)
26 8:30a ALPHA (gym) 9:15a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 5:00p Confirmation (fireside) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)	27 9:30a Fellowship Walk (parking lot) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library)	28	29 1:00p Men's Sectional (sanctuary) 7:00p Handbell Rehearsal (fireside)	30 7:30p Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel)		



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North Easton, MA 02356

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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

Ginny Elson

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