



# The TIDINGS

November 2024

## Covenant Congregational Church

*Celebrating 140 years of ministry*

A few years ago, I heard the story of Donut City in Seal Beach, California. Donut City is owned and operated by a couple, John and Stella Chan and is a fixture in the neighborhood with many loyal customers. One fall, Stella had a brain aneurysm which required several months of rest and recovery. It seemed, that it would be a long and difficult season, as John tried to keep the store running on his own, while also trying to tend fully to his wife at home. It was what happened next, however, which surprised everyone.

Dawn Caviola, a patron of the donut shop, had an idea. If everyone went to the store and bought their donuts first thing in the morning, John could make the money he needed, close the shop early when the donuts sold out and go home and care for his wife. Dawn spread this idea online, and it soon became viral. Lines ran out the door in the wee hours of the morning; John typically sold out his stock by 9AM and spent the rest of the day caring for his wife.

This is one of the kindest examples of giving I have heard of in quite a while. People take time out of their busy day, wake up early, inconvenience themselves by standing in a long line, and perhaps even buy donuts they otherwise wouldn't (though who wouldn't want more donuts!?) all to give John precious time with his ailing wife. Most of those who are doing this are long time customers of Donut City. They are giving with sacrifice and out of love because they have come to think of John and Stella as friends. This is a wonderful example of giving; the giving that comes out of love for others.

Though Thanksgiving isn't specifically a Christian holiday, it does remind us of important aspects of our faith. It reminds us that God has given us so many blessings, and in light of all of those blessings, we are to be thankful. But the title of the holiday also has a second half: (thanks) GIVING. While we might typically focus on *thanking* this month, we might gain something by also consider what it means to *give*.

Once Jesus and his disciples were sitting in the Temple near the box where offerings were given. Many wealthy people dumped in large sums, but then a widow comes and drops in a few small coins. Jesus said to his followers: "This widow has given more than all the rich people because she has given out of her need."

A widow is an interesting person to hold up as a positive example of giving. She has no money, no property, no power. Her few pennies hardly matter to the running of this massive temple complex. Yet, she is the example Jesus gives to us. He doesn't say anything negative about the gifts of the rich-he just says the widow gave more. Because she has given everything she has-her heart is in the right place. She is so thankful to God for even the small amount he has given to her she responds with her generous gift.

"Greater love", John reminds us, "*has no one than this that he gave up his life for his friends.*" (John 15:13) The greatest gift ever given was Jesus Christ, who came to this earth as one of us, giving up his power and privilege to live alongside us. And Jesus would give up even his very life, dying on the cross in the hopes that God's love would extend to us. This is the gift of love which goes beyond all others. This is the gift which saves us from our sins, this is the gift which gives us new life-now and for all eternity, this is the gift which transforms our hearts and will transform this world. This is the gift that springs out of Jesus' love for us.

Now THAT is something to be THANKFUL for!

-Pastor Ryan

# *Missions and Service Ministry*

## *Covenant World Relief and Development*

Covenant World Relief and Development will be Sunday November 24, 2024. Soup cans, lids and labels, along with donation envelopes, are located in the Narthex. Please donate to provide relief for those in need.

### *Souperfest 2024*

Souperfest will be held on Sunday, November 24, 2024 to benefit Covenant World Relief and Development. We will be looking for donations of your favorite soups, breads and desserts. A signup sheet for soup donations is in the Narthex. 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, 11/23 (noon - 3:00 PM).
- Sunday, 11/24 one person to sell tickets at the door.
- Sunday, 11/24 Cleanup crew needed at the conclusion of the event.

If you wish to assist in any of these areas, please contact our Missions and Service Team (Sandy Willette, Sally Poirier, Sara Papetti, Renee Desper or Lita Kuipers)

### *2024 New England Seafarers Mission Christmas Shoeboxes*

We are accepting Christmas shoeboxes for the seafarers who visit our ports from around the world. For more information about this mission website is <http://neseafarers.org>

Please fill a shoebox with the following suggested items:

- Toiletry items (soap, shampoo, mouthwash, toothpaste/ toothbrush, comb, disposable razors, tissue packets, nail clippers, hand sanitizer)
- Winter knit hats, heavy duty gloves, white crew socks
- Cough drops, vitamin C drops, gum, hard candy
- Air fresheners
- Bandanas
- Paper notepads and pens
- Sewing/mending kit
- Lip balm



Finally insert a Christmas card and wrap the box in festive paper.

Drop off shoeboxes at the church during business hours or after church services. The deadline to deliver shoeboxes is December 8, 2024, after Sunday service.

We are accepting unwrapped donations of 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 8, 2024.

Don't have a shoebox? There will be a table in the Narthex with a limited supply of empty shoeboxes. See Lita Kuipers or Marcia Johnson for more information.



EASTON  
INTERFAITH  
*Thanksgiving*  
SERVICE

24 NOVEMBER, 2023  
6:30 PM

Join the houses of worship from around Easton  
for a time of thanksgiving. Reception to follow.

Hosted by:  
Holy Cross Church  
225 Purchase St.  
South Easton







# NOVEMBER



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH EVENTS

### Wiggle Worship; toddlers to PreK

- **Wiggle Worship Class** during worship, 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month (11/3 & 11/10)

### Pathfinders gr. K-2 & Trailblazers gr. 3-5

- **Bible Blessing**-Bibles to new Sunday School students during worship on 11/3
- **Sunday School** during worship each Sunday

### Middle School grades 6-7 (8 optional)


- **Sunday School** during worship each Sunday
- Sunday, November 3rd, 6:00-7:00pm, **gym games & pizza** (follows all church worship nite 5-6pm)
- Sunday, November 17th, 3:00-5:00pm (aprx time, exact tba), **Bowling** at Westgate Lanes

### Sr High gr 8+ or post confirmation.

- Sunday, November 10th, 5:00-6:00pm "Immerse" Read through the **Bible Study** with Pastor Ryan
- Sunday, November 24th, 3:00-5:00pm (aprx time, exact tba), **Bowling** at Westgate Lanes




JOIN THE <sup>K-6th grade</sup>  
**CHOIR!**  
 COVENANT KIDS  
 NOV.24 PERFORMANCE



Practices  
 Sundays 11:30-12PM  
 November 10 and 17

**Annual Christmas Pageant**



Kids of all ages welcome.  
 Practices Dec. 1, 8 & 15

Sunday Dec. 22  
 10:30 AM  
 Covenant Congregational Church  
 204 Center St

For more information  
[yuna@ecovchurch.org](mailto:yuna@ecovchurch.org)  
[www.ecovchurch.org](http://www.ecovchurch.org)



*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* *2 Corinthians 9:7*

Dear Church Family,

We have been excited this autumn as we have seen the abundance of God's blessing on our church community. Even a brief glimpse of what God is doing in our midst causes us to be so grateful: the hiring of a new director of worship, Yuna Lee; three baptisms of newborns; the relaunch of the Stephen's Care ministry; ongoing Sunday classes for all ages and much more. We have been seeking to live out our why statement: *building a welcoming community where all generations can know God, participate freely and grow in faith together.*

All of this Spiritual fruit is the product of God's grace and your selfless giving of not only your financial gifts, but of your time and talent. This propels us forward in honoring God and serving others in love. This does not just happen but is the product of His hand guiding the careful planning of our pastors, leadership team and staff. The activity you see and participate in is funded through *an annual budget developed using the best estimate of your giving on an annual basis* and then that budget is reviewed and approved by you at the Church's Annual Meeting. Your submission of a written financial pledge is a critical act of financial stewardship signifying your faithfulness and commitment in His service. Enclosed with this letter is a pledge card and chart others have found helpful showing how one can practice disciplined regular giving honoring our Father and supporting the mission of your church.

Let us take time in prayer seeking God's message for our walk in Him and join fellow congregants in submitting your written pledge on Stewardship Sunday, November 17, 2024 during the morning worship service.

Respectfully, Stewardship Ministry

**STEWARDSHIP PACKETS WERE MAILED IN OCTOBER; PAPER COPIES ARE AVAILABLE AT CHURCH**



# Happy Birthday

Greg McIlhatten	1	Lyn Carroll	11
Bob Bean	2	Matthew Carroll	11
Adam Buckley	4	David Plante	13
Lisa Byrnes	4	Aimee Slomba	14
Adam Buckley	4	Margaret Horne	16
Stephanie Gill	6	Alynne MacLean	18
Karen McSherry	6	Bob Hall	21
Connor Buckley	7	Ray Wallace	27
Judith Tyler	7	Melissa Gallinaro	28
Mike Bassett	9	Anthony Papetti	28

Dear friends,

I thank God for all the love and support I received during my brother, Lenny's recent health issues and subsequent passing. Your cards, calls, messages and especially your kind words and prayers have comforted and sustained me during this difficult time. You are truly my loving family.

Blessings and love,  
Judy Buck

## Words of Appreciation

Dear Choir:

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers for Michael's funeral, and for all of your prayers, thoughtful messages, and for showing so much care for our family.

We are truly grateful.

Love,

Susan, Matt, Alison, David and Gabriel

We wish to express  
our deep appreciation and sincere thanks  
for your kind expression of sympathy

The Family of  
Michael F. Santry

## 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, Linda Wainwright, Dave Sproul and Kym Silva.
- Prayers for those grieving the loss of loved ones: particularly the family of David Branco the family of Bob Davis, the family of Wally Siciliano, the family of Ed Dauphinais, the family of Mike Santry, the family of Paul Schigg, the family of John "Jack" Cummings, the family of John Tyler and the family of Elaine Dray.
- 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. May God bring peace!
- Prayers for Jeff Goldberg who has entered hospice as well as Pastor Devyn's grandfather Jim Sheehy.
- 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.
- Prayers for Julie Pick and Lynda Valenzuela as they move.
- Pray for the upcoming ministries: SouperFest, Seafarers Boxes, Christmas Pageant
- 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).
- For the newly baptized: Charlotte Dorfler, Bella Drago, Savannah Mulholland, Clara Long, Copper Wilson, Lillian Driscoll, Jaxson & Austin Aylward and Brynn Burch.

### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Celebration

- For many new faces in worship and fellowship activities.
- For an amazing Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Pines
- For a successful and Trunk or Treat
- For God's provision for both finances and volunteers at CCC!
- For the birth of Allie Zelinski's healthy beautiful baby girl Maelie Jo on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 7lbs 15oz.

# November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>3</b> 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:15a Adult Sunday School (youth lounge) 10:30a Worship &amp; Communion (sanctuary) 5:00p Worship Night (Sanctuary) 6:00p Middle School YG (gym) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)</p>	<p><b>4</b> 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library) 7:00p Stephen Minister Caregivers Training (classroom) 7:00p Missions &amp; Service Ministry Meeting</p>	<p><b>5 Election Day</b> 7:00p Worship &amp; Music Meeting (zoom)</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> 7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel)</p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> 9:00a Recycle Day (parking lot) 10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside)</p>
<p><b>10</b> 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 11:30a Covenant Kids Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 5:00p High School YG (youth lounge) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)</p>	<p><b>11 Veterans Day</b> 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library) 7:00p Stephen Minister Caregivers Training (classroom)</p>	<p><b>12</b> 7:00p Council Meeting (fireside)</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> 7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel)</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> 10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside)</p>
<p><b>17</b> 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 11:30a Covenant Kids Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 2:00p Second Nurture (gym &amp; youth lounge) 3:00p Middle School YG Bowling (Westgate) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)</p>	<p><b>18</b> 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library) 7:00p Stephen Minister Caregivers Training (classroom)</p>	<p><b>19</b> 7:00p Children &amp; Youth Ministry Meeting (fireside)</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> 7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel)  <b>*Tidings Deadline*</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b> 10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside) 12:00p Souperfest Set-up (gym)</p>
<p><b>24</b> 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 12:00p Souperfest (gym) 3:00p Highschool YG Bowling (Westgate) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)</p>	<p><b>25</b> 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library) 7:00p Stephen Minister Caregivers Training (classroom)</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28 Thanksgiving Day</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> 10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside)</p>



204 Center Street  
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*

Yuna Lee

*Director of Music Ministries*

Marlena Silva

*Office Administrator*

Nick Zelinski

*Church Custodian & IT Wizard*

[www.ecovchurch.org](http://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