



THE TIDINGS

Covenant Congregational Church

November 2022

Celebrating over 135 years of ministry

This fall, we have been blessed as a congregation in many wonderful and surprising ways. It seems evident that there is a spirit of love growing among us and that God is doing wonderful things. Highlights have included a youth group time on Sunday night, a revamped Friendship Club, the Covenant Kids children's choir and more.

One of the more unique, yet important times, for our church community this fall was a seminar entitled "*Higher Elevations: Momentum and Ministry*" held on a Saturday in early October. Pastor [Doug Bixby](#) from the Covenant Church in Attleboro led our congregation to look at roadblocks which can unintentionally inhibit the work of God's spirit in our midst. Most of these roadblocks occur behind the scenes, but they do unintentional damage to the witness and work of the congregation. It was a thought-provoking time and very well attended. A video of the session is available online: <https://youtu.be/XbvpI36nz98>. We encourage everyone to watch it.

Rev. Bixby outlined eight roadblocks which can damage a church's work and eight ways to overcome the roadblocks and build momentum. Here is a brief summary of each:

1. Roadblock: Dualistic thinking. Everything becomes "either/or"; people lean into either being very permissive where everything goes or very rigid with extreme rules and regulations.

Momentum Builder: Flexibility and structure together. Too much of either rigidity or chaos is destructive and keeps you from mission. Both are needed.

2. Roadblock: Change. "No one likes change except a wet baby." D. Darrel Griffin.

Momentum Builder: Change and stability together. Just like roadblock #1, there must be enough of both: enough change so there is adaptation but not too much change so it becomes overwhelming; enough stability so there is consistency but not too much stability so it freezes the church.

3. Roadblock: Triangulation and conflict. Failure to go to the person directly with one's issue, instead pulling a third party into the disagreement.

Momentum Builder: Go directly to the party with whom you have the issue and settle it directly; avoid speaking on behalf of others.

4. Roadblock: Complaining and Blaming.

Momentum Builder: Minimize the tendency to complain and blame; speak well of others and ministries.

5. Roadblock: Communication Issues. Everyone in the church does not know what is happening, communication becomes "siloes".

Momentum Builder: Improve communication by moving to the "higher levels." Look to problem solve and work together across the entire church.

6. Roadblock: Perfectionism. Feeling that every ministry at the church must be perfect.

Momentum Builder: Embrace honesty about what quality ministries and programs look like and embrace responsibility that everyone has for a successful church.

7. Roadblock: Unrealistic Expectations.

Momentum Builder: Develop realistic expectations. Review ministries and their successes and shortcomings; not ministers.

8. Roadblock: Lack of Congregational Support. Not everyone in the congregation feels a part of the decision-making process.

Momentum Builder: Clear up chaotic decision-making processes and make decisions in straightforward ways, using large groups and congregational meetings when possible.

As a congregation, we are already looking at implementing many of these suggestions. We encourage everyone to look at these roadblocks and momentum builders and consider how they can help move the congregation towards health and mission. We pray that these items which work "behind the scenes" can help move us forward to follow Christ: being rooted in Him and reaching out to our world in love.

May Christ bless us on our journey towards "Higher Elevations" this coming year.

-Pastor Devyn & Pastor Ryan



“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously....”

-2 Corinthians 9:6

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your past year's faithful sharing of your collective time, talent, and treasure. God's grace and your steadfast commitment has fueled our delivery from a long period of Covid bringing us to this beautiful Fall season surrounded with evidence of God's promise to his people. It's been a wonderful blessing over this past year to see growing numbers participating in worship services, multiple ministries up and running and all aspects of healthy church life returning led by both familiar and new faces. Praise God! Over the next few weeks, we will reflect upon our blessings and the challenges of both meeting and advancing God's work within the community we serve through not only our financial gifts but through our gifts of our time and talent. We are a community, and it takes the participation and sharing of what God gives each of us to move that community forward. Giving on the whole has met goals established one year ago but those goals did not anticipate rapid and extreme inflation. It impacts each of us and as a church community we experience the same increases as we do in our home life. Please prayerfully consider what your contributions will be over the next year and consider increasing that contribution. Let's celebrate the richness of our church life together while committing our spiritual gifts and treasure in both sustaining and advancing God's mission. Stewardship at its core is simply our response to God's challenge to each of us answering the question "what will you share of both your spiritual and financial gifts?". We can respond by letting church leaders know how we wish to share our spiritual gifts of time and talent this coming year as well as prayerfully completing the enclosed pledge card. Each year the church uses pledges to plan its budget for the coming year. Pledges are good faith estimates of the giving of members and friends of the Covenant. *Please plan on returning that pledge card at our worship service on Stewardship Sunday November 13th.*

Summarizing:

- Through God's grace and your faithfulness, financial goals established one year ago were met yet, rapid inflation requires increasing those goals for the coming year.
- By pledging of both our financial and spiritual gifts we give church leaders the tools needed to plan for the coming year.
- Let's spend time in prayer considering our current giving in response to new church financial challenges before returning our completed pledge card on Sunday November 13th.

Respectfully, Your Stewardship Ministry

Nominating Committee Update

The Nominating Committee is looking to prayerfully fill volunteer leadership roles at the church to serve in 2023. Opportunities to submit names for consideration for open roles will be coming in November. Significant roles include church chairperson and fellowship chair. You may speak with a member of the nominating committee with questions or thoughts: Jerry Marsen, Laura Jane West, Janet Linehan and Pastor Ryan.



Last call for Clothing Drive

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

Donations **MUST** be in by Sunday, November 13th

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

November Music Notes



For questions or information,
contact:

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

Christmas Youth Handbell Choir and Trumpet Quartet

It is with pleasure that we bring back our Christmas Youth Handbell group and add a Trumpet Quartet this year. Again, as she did before Covid struck, Alice has offered to organize these groups. They will be made up of some of our musical youth and include some of their friends. All are proficient music readers. They will rehearse during the month of November and provide programs for various retirement and nursing facilities, as well as for us in worship, in December. I have told Alma and Ed Burns, who donated the bells, and they are thrilled to see them used in this way!

-Ginny

Music Groups Rehearsal Schedule

Choir

Sundays, November 6, 13, 20, 27 at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, November 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Men's Sectional

Tuesdays, November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 1:00 p.m.

Handbell Choir

Saturdays, November 5, 12, 19, 26 at 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Youth Handbell Choir and Trumpet Quartet

Saturdays, November 5, 12, 19, 26 at 12:00 p.m.

Youth Ministry

Faith and Fun:

Sunday November 6th, 5:30-7:30pm. Enjoy open gym time, a group wide game plus a Bible lesson. Grades 6-12 welcome. Friends are welcome too. Contact Pastor Ryan or Laura Slomba with questions. (laura.slomba23@gmail.com)

Bibles for the Children:

We recently gave out junior Bibles and picture Bibles to our youth that regularly engage in Sunday school, junior church, or tween worship. We are excited to bring this tradition back to our youth as they continue in their spiritual formation. The children are reading from the Bible and following a new 3-year curriculum that will highlight foundational Bible stories. We are thankful for the commitment of the Children and Youth Spiritual Formation Ministry for their dedication to supporting our youth in the classroom and in our many other family-based and youth-based activities. We are also grateful to the Congregation for their generous donations that helped fund our purchases. If you have not made your donation but would like to please see the box in the Narthex marked Children's Bibles.

Deck the Church

Sunday, November 27th

6:00-7:30 p.m.



Come decorate the church for Christmas! Afterwards, we will enjoy cookies, hot cocoa and Christmas caroling. All ages are welcome!! If children mis-behave they will be baked into cookies!! :)

Missions and Service:

Covenant World Relief and Development Sunday

Covenant World Relief and Development Sunday is coming up on **November 20**. 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 pick up a can, label or giving envelope!!

SOUPERFEST 2022

Souperfest will be held on **Sunday, November 20** to benefit Covenant World Relief and Development. We will be looking for donations of your favorite soups, breads and desserts. A sign-up 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, 11/19 (noon - 3:00 PM).
The date happens to coincide with the CCC Fall cleanup day.
- Sunday, 11/20 one person to sell tickets at the door.
- Sunday, 11/20 Cleanup crew needed after the event.

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



2022 New England Seafarers Mission - Christmas Shoeboxes

This year we have a lofty goal to exceed last year's 75 shoeboxes for the men and women seafarers.

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, gloves, warm socks
- Cough drops, vitamin C drops, gum, hard candy
- Air fresheners.
- A small size paperback Devotional or New Testament
- 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 4, 2022**.



Don't have a shoebox? There will be a limited supply of empty shoeboxes found in the Narthex.

Electronic and Appliance Recycle Day

Also included:

Bicycle Recycle Day

Saturday, November 5th

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

at the church parking lot

Cash or Check, Rain or Shine



Bring these items to the parking lot:

- Small electronics
- Appliances
- Lawn mowers, Snow blowers
- TV's and Monitors/Flat panel monitors
- Dehumidifiers, Refrigerators
- Grill, Empty propane tank, Equipment, weight sets
- NO CHARGE on these items: Keyboards, Car Batteries, Golf Equipment, Cables, wire and cell phones.
- Bring your unwanted old or new bicycle and drop it off, it will be reused again. Mountain, Road, BMX, Cruiser, (Old to current)/New, Kids, etc. Our aim is to keep bikes from being thrown out when they can be reused.
- (We can pick up bicycles if you cannot get them there)



Covenant Kids



Tupperware BINGO



Higher Elevations Seminar



Friendship Club

Presentation of Bibles



Junior Church



Happy November Birthdays!

Gregory McIlhatten	1	Betsy Koeppel	8	Margaret Horne	16
Robert Bean	2	Mike Bassett	9	Chester Krupkowski	16
Adam Buckley	4	Lynn Carroll	11	Nancy Cudmore	17
Lisa Byrnes	4	Matthew Carroll	11	Mitchell Callender	18
Noah Ryan	4	David Plante	13	Alynn MacLean	18
Stephanie Gill	6	Megan Raduazzo	13	Michela Benvie	20
Karen McSherry	6	Aimee Slomba	14	James Harmon	20
Connor Buckley	7	Sarah Stevens	14	Robert Hall	21
Judith Tyler	7	Colin Tyler	14	Brent Clary	22
				Raymond Wallace	27

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, especially with the trials of Covid
- The health of marriages in the church and for those who long to be married
- Lexi Malasi's close friend Teagan Ryan was diagnosed with leukemia in late May
- Naomi Gonzalez, friend to Ginny Elson's family, recently diagnosed with myeloma
- Sudanese missionary, James Tang, whose daughter Nyawour died recently
- Dianne Sproul's brother, recently diagnosed with and treated for stage 4 throat cancer
- Geraldine and Ray Wallace as they recover from their respective surgeries
- 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.
- Prayers for Linda Wainwright as she recovers from back surgery, complications from blood clots and awaits a date for a second surgery.
- Prayers for those grieving the loss of loved ones: the Carlson and Burton families after the loss of David Carlson and the Silva family as they grieve the loss of Maria Silva.
- Praises for a well-attended Higher Elevations seminar. May God continue to strengthen our church and prepare us for the season ahead.
- For our college students, especially those who just began their freshman year: Becca Abreu, Natalie Fredericksen, Sam Schumacher and Emilee Medeiros.

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.

2022 November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6 Daylight Savings 8:30a Breakfast (gym) 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:30a Sunday School for All Ages (chapel & classrooms) 10:30a Worship & Communion (sanctuary) 5:30p Youth Event (gym) 7:30p Basketball (gym)</p>	<p>7 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (chapel) 7:00p Missions & Service Meeting (TBD)</p>	<p>1 1:00p Men's Sectional (sanctuary) 7:00p Worship & Music Meeting (fireside)</p>	<p>2 7:00p Stewardship Meeting (fireside)</p>	<p>3 10:30a Women's Bible Study (fireside) 7:30p Prayer Meeting (chapel)</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 2:00p Electronic Recycle Day (parking lot) 11:00a Handbell Rehearsal (sanctuary) 12:00a Youth Handbell & Trumpet Rehearsal (sanctuary)</p>
<p>13 Stewardship Sunday 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:30a Adult Sunday School (chapel) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 7:30p Basketball (gym)</p>	<p>14 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (chapel)</p>	<p>8 Election Day 1:00p Men's Sectional Rehearsal (sanctuary)</p>	<p>9 7:00p Council Meeting (fireside)</p>	<p>10 10:30a Women's Bible Study (fireside) 7:30p Prayer Meeting (chapel)</p>	<p>11 Veterans Day</p>	<p>12 11:00a Handbell Rehearsal (sanctuary) 12:00a Youth Handbell & Trumpet Rehearsal (sanctuary)</p>
<p>20 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:30a Adult Sunday School (chapel) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 11:30a Souperfest (gym) 7:30p Basketball (gym)</p>	<p>21 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (chapel)</p>	<p>15 1:00p Men's Sectional Rehearsal (sanctuary)</p>	<p>16 1:00p Friendship Club (fireside)</p>	<p>17 10:30a Women's Bible Study (fireside) 7:30p Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 7:30p Prayer Meeting (chapel) *December Tidings Due*</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Clean Up Day (rain or shine) 11:00a Handbell Rehearsal (sanctuary) 12:00a Youth Handbell & Trumpet Rehearsal (sanctuary) 6:00p Souperfest Set-Up (gym)</p>
<p>27 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:30a Adult Sunday School (chapel) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 6:00p Deck the Church (upstairs)</p>	<p>28 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (chapel)</p>	<p>22 1:00p Men's Sectional Rehearsal (sanctuary)</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 *Office Closed* </p>	<p>25 *Office Closed*</p>	<p>26 11:00a Handbell Rehearsal (sanctuary) 12:00a Youth Handbell & Trumpet Rehearsal (sanctuary)</p>
	<p>30</p>	<p>29 1:00p Men's Sectional Rehearsal (sanctuary)</p>				



204 Center Street
North Easton, MA 02356

Non Profit

U.S. Postage Paid

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

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