

THE TIDINGS

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Covenant Congregational Church 22

Celebrating over 135 years of ministry

As we begin to focus on “Rooted and Reaching” as a theme for the congregation, my thoughts turn to the most prominent Tree in the entire Bible: The Tree of Life. Though it appears in only three books, the Tree of Life is one of the more important symbols in the entire Bible. You might know of two places where it appears: Genesis and Revelation. In Genesis, the Tree of Life is planted alongside the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden. There it is placed in the center of the garden and is the source of life everlasting, where good and flourishing are found. In Revelation, we encounter the tree again. It appears in a few places in the book, but most prominently in the last chapter of the whole Bible. Here it is not in a garden, but in the heavenly city, the new Jerusalem. John writes of it: “Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the Tree of Life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.” (Revelation 22:1-2) The Tree of Life is a sign that God is present in all fullness, as he was in the Garden of Eden and will be in the Heavenly Jerusalem at the end of time. The Tree brings deep and lasting healing, life and hope.

The third book where The Tree of Life is mentioned (surprise!) is the book Proverbs:

The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit. (15:4)

Our proverb tells us there are two types of speech. A type of tongue which soothes, calms and heals; and a perverse tongue which crushes, maims and, perhaps, destroys. The image here is of two trees: a Tree of Life which flourishes, provides shelter and safety, while the second is like a small and brittle twig which is crushed under the weight of harsh words. You can almost imagine the two scenes: someone resting in the refreshing shade of the wide branches of the Tree of Life, while an unaware fool, rushing through a field, tramples a dry and brittle sapling beneath his feet. This is how words can work: they can heal and help or crush and damage. We all know the pain that harmful, foolish words can cause. Yet, I wonder if we realize the healing that thoughtful, trustworthy and wise words can bring? Words which lift up, instead of tear down, words used when we forgive others, words used in praise and prayer. May we embrace wise and soothing speech in these coming months and may those words be like a Tree of Life.



God Is On A Roll: VBS IS COMING!!!

Food Truck Party VBS is a fun event, with a unique food truck court and a special food truck called “on a Roll,” where Chefs learn important lessons about God’s ability to provide. Chefs are guided each day by the food truck’s Top Chef and DJ Cupcake to learn about the Daily Special- a familiar prayer that teaches us to turn to God to meet our needs. The Top Chef, DJ Cupcake, and the Chefs set out to learn how we can depend on God to take care of us. Please join the party on August 15th-August 19th from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Register online on the church website www.ecovchurch.org. Open to children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade. Children 6th grade and older are welcome to sign up to volunteer! We still need volunteers and supplies! Contact Karen Short or Liz Eaton if you want to volunteer.

VBS WISH LIST

- (1) container of salt
- (2) containers of black pepper
- (10) 12x12 pieces of wool
- (2) bags of all purpose flour
- (2) bottles of olive oil
- (1) box of baking powder
- (3) bags of dum dum lollipops
- (1) bottle of vinegar
- (1) bag of popcorn
- (50) Styrofoam cups
- (100) 8" clear plastic plates
- (100) metallic foil colored sheet
- (50) 8 1/2" X 11" white card stock

Fun Times on Children’s Sunday



The average age of a homeless person in Massachusetts is **8**

Last year Massachusetts public schools identified **24,000** students impacted by homelessness.

HELP PROVIDE SCHOOL ESSENTIALS TO LOCAL STUDENTS

NEEDED

- **Quality backpacks for boys & girls K-12 (size 17" or larger to fit needed supplies and a lunchbox!)**
- Large Pencil Boxes
- Zippered Pencil Pouches
- Hand Sanitizer
- Large Erasers
- Glue Sticks
- Blunt Children’s Scissors (must be blunt)
- Large Pencil Sharpeners (with cover)
- Pens (blue or black)
- Washable Markers Broad Tip (8 pack) (must be washable)
- Colored Pencils (12 pack)
- Red Pens
- Highlighters
- Flexible Plastic Rulers
- Index Cards (100 pack)
- Calculators (square root & scientific)
- Shiny Pocket Folders
- Composition Notebooks
- Single Subject Notebooks (wide ruled)
- 3-Holed, Lined Paper (wide ruled)
- 1" Binders
- Binder Dividers

New books for all grade levels (K-12).
Classics or appropriate subject matter.

The mission of School on Wheels of MA is to promote the academic, social and emotional growth of students impacted by homelessness.

SCHOOL on WHEELS
MASSACHUSETTS

Educate Kids
Empower Families
End Homelessness

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE
for kids impacted by homelessness



NEW BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

Questions?

Bfox@sowma.org
(508) 587-9091

THANK YOU!!

SCHOOL on WHEELS
MASSACHUSETTS
Educate Kids
Empower Families
End Homelessness

100 Laurel Street
Suite 121
East Bridgewater, MA 02333
508. 587. 9091
WWW.SOWMA.ORG

School on Wheels Supply Drive

School on Wheels is hosting a backpack and school supply drive on July 30 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. There will be a collection box in the narthex prior to the event, during the month of July.



Join us for a fun outing to the Brockton Rox. July 22 @ 7 PM. We will order tickets in advance. The game concludes with fireworks. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Laura Slomba. Laura.Slomba23@gmail.com

Join us for game night! CYSFM will host a game night for any kid at heart. August 3rd, 6-8 PM.

Enrollment for the Confirmation class for this coming year is currently underway. If you are considering Confirmation for your child, please reach out to the office or Pastor Ryan. The Confirmation program is for children 8th grade and older and runs for one year from September to May.

True or False?

“You go to church on Sundays to hear a sermon”. Think about this for a minute.

Yes, it's true that when I go to church on Sundays, I do expect to be hearing a sermon. But the experience for me is much much more than that. To understand, let me take you back to my younger days as a “30 something” mother of 2 small children, Louis and Andrew ages 3 and 5 at the time. Having taken up running as a fitness regimen, I began to experience a good deal of pain in my left leg.

Over time, it became absolutely unbearable. When this didn't improve with the usual regimen of rest and ice, I eventually gave up and sought medical help, an orthopedist at my health plan who examined and finally X-rayed my leg.

It was shocking. I was stunned.

He tried to gently explain to this young mother of two, that the pain wasn't the “joggers knee” that we had been treating it as for the past 3 months. It was a significant “mass” that now encompassed much of my lower femur. He didn't know just via the X-Ray what kind of tumor, nor whether it had spread, whether it was removable, he couldn't give me much more than it was “there”, and I needed to worked up immediately. He wanted me in the hospital by evening. Remembering back to that exact moment, I know that I stopped hearing him. My head was numb. Standing there staring at the black hole on the X-ray where bone should be, it was as though my ears wouldn't function.”

“Hospital? Immediately? Is that what you said? Say it again, from the beginning “

You're kidding. My children were at a play date, my family is spread all over the United States. How was that even possible?

More importantly, where was this going?

At the time, I thought of Ted Kennedy's son, and remembering his ordeal with bone cancer was it possible I could lose my leg?

Worse, was it possible my children could be left motherless? You try not to, but the fears are screaming though your head and no matter how hard you attempt to stay positive, positivity was impossible.

But then...a light.

To be continued on the next page...

True or False, part 2

A second opinion with leading surgeons in the field of Orthopedic Bone Cancer at MGH became a lengthy surgery with the tumor being “whittled out”, a donor bone grafted in and slowly, my health outlook, as it was explained to me, was going to be “excellent”. But the recovery time was going to be “Olympic”.

Several weeks in a full leg cast to my hip, followed by 4-6 months in a complete leg brace all the while weaning from crutches to a cane and then finally, months later, walking alone.

Remember - I said my children were 3 and 5 at the time. How in the world was I going to do a this with 2 little boys? I'll tell you how.

My church, specifically the women's circle at my church organized meals, drove my children to nursery school, they picked up dirty laundry and brought it back clean and folded. These wonderful Christian women walked me through the early days of my uncontrollable fears, cried with me, sat with me, held me, consoled me, and finally helped me through the outrageous task of physical recovery. So you see, it was Christianity in a larger sense that carried me.

“Carry each other's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ”

Galatians 6:2

So in my world, we are much much more than Sunday mornings. It isn't just that “I go to church”. That's like saying “I'm going to the movies”.

I come to gather with a body of people that believe in the same Christian doctrine that I do. And while we are not always on the same page, we are each of us part of the church, and by extension, part of each other's lives.

You can see that for me it's personal, because sometimes those lives can find trouble and bear a heavy burden. And the church is the army that carries us.

Melissa Gallinaro
Care Ministry

“The Care Ministry” is excited to welcome two new members, Diane Sproul and Debbie Chase! Diane will be fielding the Collation mailings and arrangements and Debbie will be learning the “Sign up Genius” that Melissa uses to arrange for meals and driving needs after a illness etc. Thank you both!

We are all available to assist with whatever comes our way - please contact us if we can help. More emergent needs can be routed through the Church Office and relayed to us or if need me, The Stephen's Ministry.

Your Care “Team”: Melissa Gallinaro, Ray Wallace, Karen Bassett, Diane Sproul, Debbie Chase

Thank You!

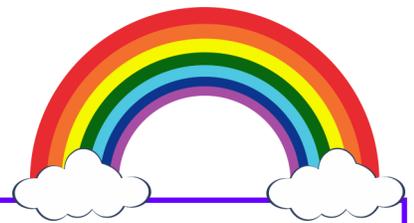
Thank you, church family, for all you have done for our family this past year. You have provided for us in so many ways and we are grateful.

Bev & Bill Carlson

Dear church family,

We are overwhelmingly thankful for you and your generous support of us following our house fire. You have been the hands and feet of Jesus and shown us such love and care during this difficult time. To say thank you doesn't seem adequate enough, but we are thankful for all of you. Thank you for reaching out and for coming alongside us to love and support us. We are truly grateful.

With sincere and humble gratitude,
Bill, Juliana, Ava and John Anderson





Cheyenne Buck	1	Paula Bobbitt	15	Gail Hayes	23
Karl-Erik Nelson	2	Janice Kaplan	15	Payton Gill	24
Rich Cudmore	3	Colin O'Halloran	15	Robert McIlhatten	25
Glenna Riley	4	Rachael Jones	16	Jean Williams	25
Russell Williams	6	Gerard Marsan	18	Edward Willis	25
Jessica Geary	8	Robin Knowlton	19	Kelsey Raduazzo	27
Susanna Johnson	9	Neil Linehan	20	William Evans	28
Janice Marson	12	James Short	20	Sara Papetti	28
Margaret Whitney	12	Kevin Geary	22	Courtney Lake	30
Virginia Elson	13			Doris Hayward	31

Haleigh Knowlton	1	Kirstie Wheeler	4	Alyssa Altieri	10	Judith Towne	15	Linda Clary	21	Beverly Carlson	28
Joshua Wainwright	1	Antonio Gomes	6	Robert Carroll	10	Sam Schumacher	16	James Carlson	23	Stephanie Hight	28
Hazel Hayes	2	Beverly Hanson	6	Jarad Rowse	12	Rich Schumacher	16	Joan MacLeod	23	Dave Wallace	29
Edward Burns	3	Joy Larson	8	Cody Bobbitt	15	Larry Abreu	19	Kym Silva	25	Erin McNeil	30
Sara Norrman	3	Karen Short	8	John-Erik Nelson	15	Savannah Mulholland	19	Rich Larson	27	Evan Whitelaw	30
		Todd Cudmore	9	Cheryl Opper	15	Brandon Short	19				

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
- 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
- The Andersons as they grieve their losses from their recent home fire.
- 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 stage 4 throat cancer
- Doris Hayward recovering from mini strokes (TIA's)
- Please pray for strength and improvement for Cid Cidado.
- Bonnie Hyde, as she grieves the loss of her sister
- Geraldine and Ray Wallace as they recover from their respective surgeries
- Andrea Siciliano's treatment for a blood infection
- Caleb Hurst —specifically pray that he'd learn to walk and talk. He's learning to mimic sounds!
- Friends of Steve and Sandy Willette, Cassy and Kathy, who both have metastasized cancer.
- Karen McSherry's brother, Mark, and his family as his condition has deteriorated to the point where he is now in a nursing home. Also pray for Karen's mother who is now living with Karen and needs 24 hour care.



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.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Recycling Day
3 9:30a Worship 7:30p Basketball	4	5 7:00p Worship & Music	6	7 7:30p Prayer (chapel)	8	9
10 9:30a Worship 7:30p Basketball	11 5:30p Yoga (narthex) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library)	12 7:00p Council Meeting	13	14	15	16 9-12p Easton Food Pantry Drive
17 9:30a Worship 7:30p Basketball	18 5:30p Yoga (narthex) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library)	19 7:00p Children & Youth Committee	20	21 7:30p Prayer (chapel)	22	23
24 9:30a Worship 7:30p Basketball	25 5:30p Yoga (narthex) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library)	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:30a Worship 7:30p Basketball						



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 7:30p Prayer Meeting (chapel)	5	6
7 9:30a Worship 7:30p Basketball	8 5:30p Yoga (narthex) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library)	9 6:30-9:30p SCO Rehearsal 7:00p Worship & Music	10	11	12	13
14 9:30a Worship 7:30p Basketball	15 5:30p Yoga (narthex) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library)	16 6:30-9:30p SCO Rehearsal 7:00p Council Meeting	17	18 7:30p Prayer Meeting (chapel)	19	20 9-12p Easton Food Pantry Drive
21 9:30a Worship 7:30p Basketball	22 5:30p Yoga (narthex) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library)	23 12p: Friendship Club Picnic 7:00p Children & Youth Committee	24	25 <i>*September Tidings Deadline*</i>	26	27
28 9:30a Worship 7:30p Basketball	29 5:30p Yoga (narthex) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library)	30	31			



204 center Street North
Easton, MA 02356

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CCC AT A GLANCE

Sunday Mornings

9:30 a.m. 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

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