



The TIDINGS

Covenant Congregational Church

November 2025

I modified this month's devotion from the sermon I gave at the community Thanksgiving service last year. If you are able, I strongly encourage you to join in this year's gathering with other houses of worship from around Easton on Sunday, November 23rd at 6:30pm. This year's host is Unity Church (13 Main St) and Rabbi Ken Carr will share his thoughts.

If your Thanksgiving table is anything like mine, there will be a moment during the course of the meal that Uncle Brad or some other well intentioned person, raises their glass, gets everyone's attention and declares: "I think we should go around and have everyone say what they are thankful for."

And if your Thanksgiving table is anything like mine, each person will share in turn what they are thankful for: health, family, good food, peace on earth. But if your Thanksgiving table is anything like mine, the vast majority of these mentions will be broad and general: health, in general; good food, broadly speaking; peace on earth, all told. Don't we all often leave our thankfulness to generalities? That is to say: What is it about our family for which we are thankful? Which dishes of food are we thankful for (and which did we pass by in the buffet)?

Several weeks ago, I came across an online video. In it an individual described, in minute detail, all that was involved in the making of a #2 pencil. Certain people and an elaborate process, would be involved in the making of the red eraser, for example, the rubber sourced from one country shipped to a processing plant in another. Still another would take the processed rubber and shape it into an eraser which would then be shipped again. An entirely different process, with an equally elaborate supply chain, would be involved in making the small metal clasp to hold that eraser to the pencil. Imagine, he said, the individuals who, decades ago, planted the trees that would be harvested to provide the wood for that same pencil. And on and on the description went. Rarely have I thought to give thanks for something as small and ordinary as a #2 pencil, but now I might! We all have many, specific and detailed reasons to be thankful.

I want to encourage us to be thankful for the details this year. I think if we are thankful for the details it might cause us to more deeply understand those places of blessing in our lives. We become more aware of what we are actually thankful for-not sweeping generalities but specifics. If we are thankful for the visit of a specific family member or friend from far away, we may be more likely to reach out in similar ways in the future. If we are thankful for a certain round of chemotherapy that kicked our friend's cancer to the curb, then we can more compassionately come alongside others dealing with similar journeys. If we love grandma's dinner rolls, we might ask for the recipe. Detailed thanks help us to understand how we are blessed. This will make us aware of those places of brokenness still around us-and how we might help to solve those troubles.

We might be thankful for our family, but recognize the brokenness a divorce or death brought in the previous year. We might be thankful for our health and in turn be advocates for those who struggle through the red tape of insurance or finding healthcare at all. We might be thankful for a warm home, and so volunteer with Mainspring House. Detailed thanksgiving allows us to see the places of pain and work to help fix them.

So this Thanksgiving, perhaps you want to spend some time specifically thinking of what you are thankful for-maybe list them in detail; so when Uncle Brad raises his glass and asks for our participation, perhaps try to offer your example in detail. I'm grateful for this warm home, and I'm hopeful more people get on their feet next year; I'm grateful for the safety our first responders give us here in Easton, I know that's not true everywhere; I'm grateful for my child's teacher this year, she really understands him. And if those thanks are hard to come by-as some years they are-know you are not alone. And if you can't come up with anything else, just raise your glass and say: "I'm thankful for #2 pencils." -Pastor Ryan

Missions and Service Ministry

Souperfest and the Can for Change

Please pick up a “Can for Change” soup can in the Narthex to benefit Covenant World Relief and Development. Bring the cans and offerings to church to Souperfest to be held on **Sunday, November 23, 2025**. 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, 11/22 (1:00 - 2:30PM).
- Sunday, 11/23 one person to sell tickets at the door.
- Sunday, 11/23 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 or Lita Kuipers)

2025 New England Seafarers Mission Christmas Shoeboxes/Ditty Bags

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

Suggested Items are as follows:

- ☐ Toiletry items (soap, shampoo, mouthwash, toothpaste/toothbrush, comb, tissue packets, nail clippers, lip balm, hand sanitizer)
- ☐ Winter knit hats, heavy duty gloves, a pair of white or black crew socks
- ☐ Cough drops, vitamin C drops, gum, hard candy
- ☐ Air fresheners
- ☐ Bandanas
- ☐ Paper notepads and pens
- ☐ Sewing/mending kit
- ☐ 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 7, 2025**, after Sunday service.



The shoebox gifts are presented and opened by the seafarers as a group. We recommend using standard loafer shoebox size roughly 12" X 7" X 5". The above suggested items have been reviewed by New England Seafarers Mission but feel free to add additional items. Some examples are sun screen, hand cream, rain poncho, deck of cards, mini flashlight.

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.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee is beginning its prayerful work of filling the various committees and teams at the church. If you are sensing the call to join a team or know of a person who might be interested, please contact a committee member (Pastor Devyn, Marlena Silva, Steve Willette, Dianne Sproul or Janet Linehan.)

Worship & Music

Work with pastors and Music Director to plan & coordinate worship

Choir, musicians, worship tech, scripture readers, ushers all fall under this ministry.

Whole Life Stewardship

Encourages the congregation to be good stewards of our time, talents, and treasure.

Coordinates yearly pledge drive.

Fellowship

Oversee & recruit volunteers for weekly fellowship hour

Plan other events to help the congregation connect with one another

Missions & Service

Coordinates service opportunities for the congregation—connecting us with the needs of the community.

Makes regular contact with our global missionaries and local partners.

Youth & Children

Oversee the spiritual formation of children & youth.

This committee oversees Sunday school, youth group, Vacation Bible School, Wiggle Worship & special events.

Care

Organize meals & rides for those in need

Coordinate collations- funeral receptions- for members

Prayer shawls, Stephen Ministry, visitation

Evangelism & Outreach

Oversees outreach events that connect CCC with the community.

Sends mailings 3x a year to new Easton residents.

Adult Formation

Oversees adult formation opportunities

This includes Adult Sunday School, Bible studies and special events.

Properties

Oversee upkeep of the building & parsonage

Organize work days

Receive bids for repairs

fellowship

fellowship@ecovchurch.org



Friendship Club

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, NOON

The Friendship Club's next meeting is Thursday, Nov. 20 at noon, in the fireside room. There will be a pot luck and guests are encouraged to bring along a dish to share – not a requirement though as the goal is being with each other as friends. Some like to bring their own place setting.

We are grateful for Doug and Lou Ann Falls' fascinating presentation on their pilgrimage to Portugal and Spain at the October meeting. We postponed the Happy Memories until the November meeting. Attendees are invited to bring an item – a photo, an article or any small memento – that represents a happy memory in their lives. Sharing is optional, but the hope is that these memories will bring smiles and spark conversation.

The Friendship Club is open to all, no age restrictions, though many members are retired. Whether you are new to the area or a long time resident, you'll find a warm welcome and plenty of laughter. Come and enjoy good company, delicious food and a cheerful afternoon. We look forward to seeing you there! (Sue Plante can help if you need a ride.)

We are planning a December meeting for Tuesday, Dec. 9th at noon. We'd like to do a Christmas Tea but request people sign up as we need a count.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Carol Schigg (508) 238-6333, Judy Davis (508) 238-6110 or Sue Plante (508) 944-8781.

Coffee Hour Hosts

November: Missions

December: Properties & Adult Spiritual Formation



Children's Ministry

Wiggle Worship

Toddlers to Pre-K

Volunteer and Parent-Led during service

Sunday School

Grades K-12

Weeks 2-5 during worship

Confirmation

Sunday, Nov. 2: No Class

Sunday, Nov. 9 5:00pm-6:30

Sunday, Nov. 16 5:00pm-6:30

Retreat Saturday Nov. 22nd 9:00-1:00

Sunday, Nov. 23 9:00am in chapel

Sunday Nov 30: No class

Savers Clothing Drive Fundraiser

Collecting donations of clothing, shoes, and accessories. Bagged items can be dropped off in the bin by the front door.

This fundraiser supports the Children's Ministry.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

JR/SR HIGH

GRADES 7-12

November 2, no meeting

6:30-7:30

November 9

November 16



November 23, no meeting

November 30, special Advent meeting, details and time to come

TRAILBLAZERS

GRADES 4-6

5:30-6:30

November 2

November 9

November 16



November 23, no meeting

November 30, special Advent meeting, details and time to come

CONNECT YOUTH GROUP

GRADES 9-12

Join with other area Covenant churches to play awesome games, eat snacks, worship in song, and dig into the Bible in relevant ways.

Where: Beacon Covenant Church, Attleboro

When: 6:00pm - 7:30, November 2 & December 7

To help us coordinate travel to/from Attleboro, please let us know if you will attend or if you can help chaperone/drive.

We will leave Easton at 5:30pm
Please contact Laura Slomba with RSVP and any questions. Thank you!

Contact Info:

Erin Gomes

erinkg79@gmail.com 508-272-5342

Laura Slomba

laura.slomba23@gmail.com 415-722-6793



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,

As we reflect on the blessings our church family has received and look forward to the exciting opportunities ahead, we are reminded of the vital role each member plays in sustaining our mission and ministries. Your faith, generosity, and commitment have made a profound difference in the lives of others, and we are deeply grateful for your support.

We have been excited this fall, as we have seen the abundance of God's blessing on our church community. All 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

Please prayerfully consider what you can contribute to the coming year. Whether you choose to make a one-time gift or a recurring donation, your generosity will help us plan and respond to the needs of our congregation and neighbors. Enclosed you will find a pledge card and instructions for submitting your commitment. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your pledge, please feel free to contact the church office at [508-238-6423] or [office@ecovchurch.org].

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and support. Together, we can make a lasting impact for Christ in our community and beyond.

With gratitude and blessings,
Whole Life Stewardship Ministry

****Please return your pledge card in worship on Sunday, November 16th or in the box in the narthex****

We are so grateful for your continued faithfulness. Your generosity fuels our core mission. As we approach the end of the fiscal year, we need to be transparent with you regarding a challenge facing our church family. Overall, giving to our general operating budget this year has remained stable, however our expenses have increased, as we have all experienced with our home budgets. As most of you know, we passed a sizable deficit budget for 2025 and although the giving has been strong, the increase in expenses has offset our giving and we haven't been able to close the deficit as we had hoped. We know the economic times have been difficult for many, and do not say this to cause alarm, instead we prayerfully ask, you consider increasing your regular giving, if you are able. Just as the early church shared what they had, we are a body that relies on the commitment of each member. For those of you who are already stretched, we ask for your continued prayers.

We are inviting you to join us in a special end-of year appeal to close the current gap of **\$15,000**. We are grounded in the outcomes of our ministry, and we need your help to ensure we can keep our ministry intact and continue to serve our community.

Please consider a one-time gift to our operating budget by December 31, 2025. For those of you who can, increasing your regular giving as you are able will also have a lasting impact.



November Birthdays

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

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, Elmore Dyer, 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 our fall Missions activities: Seafarer's boxes, Souperfest, and coat drive.
- For the Whole Life Stewardship committee as they encourage the church in generosity this coming pledge season.
- For the Sabin/Abreu family as they mourn the loss of Brenda Sabin, as well as the Miller family as they grieve Janet Miller's passing.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Celebration

- For God's provision for both finances and volunteers at CCC!
- For Alice Fu and Susan Santry who have stepped in to lead the choir in this interim season.
- For a great start to Confirmation and Trailblazers this fall.
- For the Wiggle Room renovations. Grateful for Vicky Papetti's design and for the Memorial Funds that are making it possible.
- For our new Administrative Assistant, Erin Gomes!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
2 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:15a Adult Sunday School (youth lounge) 10:30a Worship + Communion (sanctuary) 5:30p Trailblazers Youth Group(gym) 6:00p Connect Youth Group (offsite) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)	3 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Community Men's Bible Study (offsite) 7:00p Stephen Minister Training (youth lounge)	4 Election Day 6:30p Missions & Service Ministry Meeting (zoom)	5 7:00p Worship & Music Meeting (zoom)	6 7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel)	7	8 10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside)
9 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:15a Adult Sunday School (youth lounge) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 11:30a Quarterly Meeting (sanctuary) 5:00p Confirmation (fireside) 5:30p Trailblazers Youth Group 6:30p Jr/Sr High Youth Group 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)	10 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Community Men's Bible Study (offsite)	11 Veterans Day 7:00p Council Meeting (fireside)	12	13 7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel)	14	15 10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside)
16 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:15a Adult Sunday School (youth lounge) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 5:00p Confirmation (fireside) 5:30p Trailblazers Youth Group 6:30p Jr/Sr High Youth Group 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)	17 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Community Men's Bible Study (offsite) 7:00p Stephen Minister Training (youth lounge)	18	19	20 Tidings Deadline 12:00p Friendship Club (fireside) 7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel)	21 6:30p Fellowship Game Night (fireside)	22 9:00a 1:00p Confirmation Retreat (fireside, gym, and youth lounge) 10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside) 1:00 Souperfest Set-up (gym)
23 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:00a Confirmation (chapel) 9:15a Adult Sunday School (youth lounge) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 11:45a Souperfest (gym) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)	24 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Community Men's Bible Study (offsite)	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day <i>Office Closed</i>	28 <i>Office Closed</i>	29 10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside)
30 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:15a Adult Sunday School (youth lounge) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)						



204 Center Street
North Easton, MA 02356

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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

Erin Gomes
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