



THE TIDINGS

April 2023

Covenant Congregational Church

Celebrating a 140 years of ministry

Each week in my church office, I sit down and create a “to do” list for the coming week. A successful week is one where I get my goals accomplished. This is why I like the Jesus I see on Palm Sunday: he sets goals and completes them. At other moments in his life and ministry, it seems Jesus wanders and wonders: caught up in the midst and tide of the people around him. One might say he spends too much time being distracted by children, key moments that could be used spreading his message he spends in prayer, he pops from village to village seemingly with no rhyme or reason, and he eats too often with shady characters. On Palm Sunday, though, it seems Jesus sees a goal and completes it. Jesus decides to head to Jerusalem for the Passover festival (check), he and the disciples travel from their homes in the north, in Galilee, south towards the city over the course of several days (check), he makes his base outside the city at the home of friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus (check), he sends his disciples on to secure a donkey to ride as he enters the city (check), and Jesus enters the city to roaring and adoring crowds (check). It is a plan, he has a goal, and he completes it. We like people who set goals and complete them.

What happens when our goals unravel? What happens when our checklists are not enough? The Bible says that “death comes like a thief in the night.” Unexpected, unexplained, it breaks into our lives and steals our hope and derails our plans. But it is not only death who comes and steals. Unemployment, dementia, divorce....they all come and steal and destroy.

Death did not come on Jesus like a thief; he knew what was coming for him, even on Palm Sunday. From the disciples’ perspective Holy Week, though, the week from Palm Sunday to Good Friday, certainly feels like all these grand plans have fallen apart. They would have liked Jesus to stick to their goals and complete them: to bring about the overthrow of the Roman Empire or usher in the coming of the Kingdom of Israel in power. But had the disciples listened to Jesus, they would have heard his actual plans: to go to Jerusalem and to die for the nation and the world and to rise again from the dead three days later. And so their grand plans for Jesus fall apart over Holy Week: the great crowds which lined the streets on Sunday thinned, the disciples fled, and Jesus was convicted of blasphemy and treason, and hung on a cross.

On Resurrection Day, we celebrate the fact that our hope comes not from the goals we set and the tasks we complete but from Christ’s victory over death. Life does not depend on what we do or complete. True and eternal life comes from trusting in a relationship, it comes from our Father, it comes through the Son, and God’s ability to make all things right in the world.

-Pastor Ryan

SUNDAY APRIL 2, 2023
KIDS ARRIVE @ 10AM

PALM SUNDAY PARADE!



**SUNRISE
SERVICE**

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 9TH
6:00 AM

NRT SHEEP PASTURE
(On the old foundation)
307 Main St. N. Easton

sponsored by your Easton area churches:
Easton Baptist, Holy Trinity Lutheran,
Covenant Congregational, Holy Cross Catholic

Easter

COVENANT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
9AM & 10:30AM

March Music Notes



For questions or information,
contact:

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

Music Groups Rehearsal/Service Schedule

Choir Rehearsal

Sundays, April 2, 23, 30 at 9:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 9 at 8:30 a.m.

Men's Sectional Rehearsal

Tuesdays, April 4, 18, 25 at 1:00 p.m.

Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, April 1 at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, April 2 at 9:30 a.m.
Saturday, April 8 at 4:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 9 at 8:45 a.m.
Wednesdays, April 19, 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Covenant Kids Rehearsal

Monday, April 3 at 4:15 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Choir Service

Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 9 at 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Handbell Choir Service

Easter Sunday, April 9 at 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.



Holy Week Schedule

Be sure to plan for the remembrance and celebration of this holy season in the church.

Palm Sunday, April 2 10:30 a.m. – Worship for All Ages

Maundy Thursday, April 6 7:00 p.m. – Worship Service with Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 7 12:00 p.m. – Prayer in the Chapel

Saturday, April 8 10:00 a.m. – Egg Hunt for Children

Easter Sunday, April 9

6:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service at Sheep Pasture with Easton Churches

9:00 a.m. – Worship Service

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

Maundy Thursday Worship April 6th at 7:00 p.m.

A solemn service of song, scripture and prayer as we remember the final moments of Holy Week. Communion will be celebrated as we recall Jesus' final supper with his disciples, along with a remembrance of Tenebrae where the moments of Jesus' suffering and crucifixion are read and candles are slowly extinguished. All are welcome to this meaningful and sacred time of worship.



YARD SALE & CRAFTS

Church wide yard sale and crafts to be held on Saturday, May 6th from 8 am to 2 pm. (I say Yard Sale AND Crafts because at this writing we have 8 Vendors renting tables to sell their crafted items - hopefully there will be more!)

The sign up is attached below, it outlines the tasks as we see it now.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E45AEAC22A1FB6-yard>

Yard Sale Update:

PLANS FOR THE MAY 6th YARD SALE ARE COMING ALONG!

As we look ahead, there is still much to do.

- Items being collected in the classroom downstairs need sorting and pricing. The designated room has a “YARD SALE ITEMS” sign over it - so you can’t miss the room! There is a small sub-committee working in this area but it will be a big task. More help needed.
- We will need much help with set up the Friday night before. We MAY need more tables. If anyone has tables we can use - please contact Melissa or Diane.
- Day of - will need workers to man the tables, provide some security (we don’t want people wandering upstairs to the Narthex etc). Someone to keep an eye on the REST ROOMS.
- We will need at least 2-3 parking attendants perhaps working in shifts to “spell” each other. We want the parking lot to be safe!
- Cashier
- And more that we haven’t thought about!

There is some confusion on where to put the Yard Sale “stuff”.

- Downstairs in the class room area - one of the classes is CLEARLY MARKED “YARD SALE” with a sign over the door. Put it in there.
- Drop offs can take place Saturday from 10 am - 12 am & before or after Sunday services. If you can’t meet these times please call Melissa Gallinaro or Diane Cidado and we will arrange a time.
- IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE TRANSPORTING YOUR “GREAT STUFF”, PLEASE CALL EITHER MELISSA OR DIANE AND WE WILL ARRANGE A PICK UP. The Buckley’s have also graciously offered to help transport from your house if you can’t lug it yourself

Please note, we have updated the “WE DON’T WANT LIST. IT IS NOW OK TO DONATE GLASSWARE, CHINA AND SILVER. SO, THE UPDATED LIST IS AS FOLLOWS.

- Items we are NOT accepting:
Old TV’s, Out of date electronics, PC monitors, Large furniture (sofas, recliners and so on), Speakers, Encyclopedias, Textbooks, Large exercise equipment, Old tatty shoes, Small appliances such as coffee makers, blenders etc. are fine but they MUST be in working order.
- We are renting outside parking spaces to outside vendors - we have 24 spaces to rent and we already have 5 renters! Please SPREAD THE WORD!

In case there is still confusion

- INSIDE - in the Gym will be a giant YARD SALE OF DONATED ITEMS FROM CHURCH MEMBERS. THIS IS most likely where we will earn the most \$\$\$. So, your donations are KEY!
- OUTSIDE - in the rear parking lot we are renting to VENDORS who can pretty much sell anything they want.

Of course, if church members want to rent a table and keep the proceeds of what they sell instead of donating - feel free to do so. ANY QUESTIONS? CALL US!

Melissa Gallinaro (508-241-2708) & Diane Cidado (508-559-3248)



Sun 4/2 Youth Game Night
5:30-7:30pm

Sat 4/8 Easter Egg Hunt
10:00am

Sun 4/16 Faith & Fun
5:30-7:30pm

The first Sunday of the month is Sunday school which is held before worship @ 9:30am.

The remaining Sundays, we offer Bible lessons during worship for grades PreK-7. This is called Jr/Tween worship.



Youth Group Activities

The youth group activities are for the 6th-12th graders.

Friends Welcome! The Faith & Fun night will be held at the church with gym games and a devotional. Board games and more for our youth on game night.

Please watch your email for detailed updates prior to the events. Questions and RSVP to Pastor Ryan or Laura Slomba. (laura.slomba23@gmail.com).

Children's Events

- Easter Egg Hunt on Sat. 4/8 at 10:00am Rain or Shine! All are welcome!
- Summer camp registration is now open at Pilgrim Pines.

Pilgrim Pines

Camp Squanto and Family Camp Dates

Camp Squanto:

LIT Junior: Grade 11

Wed, June 28—Sat, July 15

Pathfinders: Grades 2-3

Wed, June 28—Sat, July 1

Trailblazers I: Grades 4-6

Sun, July 2—Sat, July 8

Trailblazers Mini I: Grades 4-6

Sun, July 2—Wed, July 5

Trailblazers Mini II: Grades 4-6

Sun, July 9—Wed, July 12

Trailblazers II: Grades 4-6

Sun, July 9—Sat, July 15

Junior High I: Grades 7-9

Sun, July 16—Sat, July 16

LIT Senior: Grade 12

Wed, July 19—Sat, August 5

Junior High II: Grades 7-9

Sun, July 23—Sat, July 29

Navigators: Grade 8-10

Sun, July 30—Sat, August 5

Senior High: Grades 10-12

Sun, August 6—Sat, August 12

Family Camp:

Week 1: July 1—7

Week 2: July 8—14

Week 3: July 15—21

Week 4: July 22—28

Week 5: July 29—August 4

Week 6: August 5—11

Week 7: August 12—18



Words of Thanks and Appreciation

Dear Church Family,

I want to express my gratitude for the outpouring of your love, prayers, support and cards, in the passing of my mom, Priscilla. You are an amazing church family, I treasure each one of you.

In God's abundant love,
Dianne Sproul

Friendship Club

Wednesday, April 19th at 1:00 p.m.
in the Fireside Room

We are in need of people for refreshments and refreshment setup. Refreshments can consist of cookies/squares, fruit and water. Please contact Nancy Hall (rmh359@comcast.net)

Delve Deeper

A collection of resources curated by Andi Long and Pastor Devyn

Here are resources that can help you Delve Deeper into Holy Week

Read

[The Final Days of Jesus](#). A day-by-day guide to Passion Week combining Scripture, historical context, commentary, charts and maps to help you meditate on and more deeply understand Jesus's arrest, trial, crucifixion, and empty tomb.

Pray

Download the app [Lectio365](#) for daily guided prayers and devotions during Holy Week. You'll pray through each verse in the final section of Mark's Gospel as you lead up to Easter. Continue using the app after Easter for morning and evening devotions and guided prayers. The app allows you to read or listen.

Listen

Listen with little ones to [The Jesus Storybook Bible Podcast](#) as author Sally Lloyd-Jones reads from the Easter stories — this is the same storybook Bible the younger children in our church receive.

Missions & Service

Save the Dates!!

- Sunday, April 16th- Men's Adult & Teen Challenge will be joining our worship service, sharing their recovery journey and praise music.
- Sunday, May 14th- Gary & Pauline Carlson will be leading our worship service, as they are near their retirement and commission from missionary service this year. In addition, the Carlson's will need lodging beginning, Wed., May 10th through, Mon., May 15th. We are seeking 2-3 host families who may be able to provide space for their sojourn. Please contact Sally Poirier @ sally.poirier@gmail.com or Sandy Willette @ ssharpe1961@yahoo.com, if you are willing to help.
- Saturday, May 20th- the 7th Annual Run to End Addiction 5k, supporting Adult & Teen Challenge, is being held @ Bridgewater State University campus. participant registration is open now through May 19th. Please find the link below to sign up, or come to rally support for the runners! Select 'join a team' select Covenant Cross-trainers. Choose In Person 5K or Virtual 5K to go at your own pace. For those who select Virtual you can start at anytime as soon as you are registered and complete the run/ walk by May 20. Thank you. <https://racewire.com/register.php?id=13432>



The Missions & Service Ministry would like to Thank-Andi Long, Pastor Devyn, adult and youth volunteers, Shaw's supermarket, and all the generous donators, for making the Easton Food Pantry drive such a success! We filled a truck with food and collected \$750, for a much needed cause!

Happy April Birthdays!

Lu-Ann Besse	2	Heather Raduazzo	7	Judith Buck	17	Sam Stevens	23
Alyssa Callender	2	Luke Malasi	9	Pastor Devyn	17	Ann Cummings	24
Owen Hayes	2	Jonathan Raduazzo	9	Kaitlyn Abreu	18	Linda Wainwright	24
Joyce Ribelin	3	Nancy Hall	10	Rick Papetti	19	Chris Larson	25
James McSherry	4	Emily Short	11	Joyce Nelson	20	Henry Narsasian	25
Valerie Miller	4	Lynda Valenzuela	12	Elisabeth Driscoll	22	Laura Stevens	25
Zac Zelinski	4	Wilford Miller	13	Julia Dymment	22	Owen Cummings	26
Brian Cidado	6	Jason Clary	14	Nolan McGarry	22	Elmore Dyer	28
Jennifer Malasi	7	Laura West	16	Julie Pick	22	Adam McSherry	29
				Robert Wheeler	22	Courtney Harmon	30

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
- Lexi Malasi as she recovers from ankle surgery.
- Doris Hayward as she recovers from a fall
- Naomi Gonzalez, friend to Ginny Elson's family, recently diagnosed with myeloma
- Sudanese missionary, James Tang, whose daughter Nyawour died this past year and whose wife is suffering from a chronic illness.
- For the young people baptized in the past 18 months: Clara Dorfler, Logan Drago, Olivia Mamacos, Emma Gill. Nicholas Beon, Dakota Munroe, Aimee Slomba, Blake Burch, Luke Narsasian, John Mercer Jr. and Cole Cabral.
- 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.
- 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.
- Prayers for Mike Lawler, a friend of Lynda Valenzuela, who recently had a heart transplant.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Celebration

- For a wonderful annual meeting!
- 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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside) 11:00a Handbell Rehearsal (sanctuary)
2 Palm Sunday 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:30a Handbell Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:30a Sunday School for all Ages (chapel & classrooms) 10:30a Worship & Communion (sanctuary) 2:00p Closer Walk with Thee (Sheep Pasture) 5:30a Faith & Fun Youth Game Night (gym) 7:30p Men's Basketball (gym)	3 4:15p Covenant Kids Rehearsal (sanctuary) 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library) 7:00p Missions & Service Meeting	4 1:00p Men's Sectional (sanctuary) 7:00p Worship & Music Meeting (fireside)	5	6 Maundy Thursday 6:30p Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 7:00p Maundy Thursday Service (sanctuary)	7 Good Friday 12:00p Prayer Service (chapel)	8 10:00a Women's Bible Study (fireside) 10:00a Easter Egg Hunt 4:00p Handbell Rehearsal (sanctuary)
9 Easter Sunday 6:00a Sunrise Easter Service (Sheep Pasture) 8:30a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 8:45a Handbell Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:00a Easter Service (sanctuary) 10:00a Covenant Kids Rehearsal (sanctuary) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary)	10 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library)	11 1:00p Men's Sectional (sanctuary) 7:00p Council Meeting (fireside)	12	13 7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel)	14	15
16 9:30a Adult Sunday School (chapel) 10:30a Worship with Teen Challenge (sanctuary) 5:30 Faith & Fun (gym) 7:30p Men's Basketball	17 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library)	18 Tax Day 7:00p Children & Youth Meeting (fireside)	19 1:00p Friendship Club (fireside) 7:00p Handbell Rehearsal (sanctuary)	20 7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel) *Tidings Deadline*	21	22
23 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:30a Adult Sunday School (chapel) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 7:30p Men's Basketball	24 7:00p Knitting (fireside) 7:00p Men's Bible Study (library)	25 1:00p Men's Sectional (sanctuary)	26 7:00p Handbell Rehearsal (sanctuary)	27 7:30p Prayer Hour (chapel)	28	29
30 9:00a Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary) 9:30a Adult Sunday School (chapel) 10:30a Worship (sanctuary) 7:30p Men's Basketball						



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 /Network

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