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Monthly Newsletter of Covenant Church

December, 2024

One thing that many people do not like about winter is the fact that it gets dark early. And that is understandable: there is something about darkness that can make us feel alone, vulnerable, and scared. There are actual ailments that revolve from our days having more darkness than light. In the dark, many times we just can't find our way. And that can be one of the most frustrating things we encounter.

However, just like everything else from God, darkness is a gift as well. And there are many reasons why the dark can be a gift, however maybe the greatest gift is that it helps us all to realize how much we need the Light of the world to guide us instead of us trying to guide ourselves. I truly believe God gave us darkness to not only rest the earth, and ourselves, but to also help us to appreciate and understand how amazing God's Light can be! And that is worth an extra hour of darkness, for sure!

I hope you will join me this Advent as we explore not just the contrast between dark and light, but how they both work together to help us see God's True Light better. It should be a fun Advent series. Also, please take the time to carefully peruse our newsletter this month so you can plan for the myriad events that we have coming up for the Advent Season, culminating with the greatest dark/light contrast the world has ever seen: the birth of a Savior who in a dark world would bring God's Light forever.

My prayer this Advent is that no matter how dark your world might feel, with God's love you can see the Light even in the hardest times. Join us this Advent as we who call Covenant our church tell the world that we as a church, as a community, and as a family are COMING OUT OF THE DARK!

Faithfully,

Darren

The church office will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24th and 25th in observance of Christmas. We hope you have a happy and safe holiday with those you love.



Mark your calendar for the Christmas Cantata, "The Winter Rose" which will be performed on Sunday, December 15th at the 8:55am service.





Prayers and Praises

- Prayers for the family of Mary Ritter. Mary passed away Tuesday, November 19.
- Prayers for Stephen and Lydia Durr's niece, Erin Hawkins, who is recovering from surgery.

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- Prayers for Diane Salmon as she gets ready for hip surgery on November 26.
- Prayers for Judi Marshall who had shoulder surgery on Tuesday.
- Prayers for Amanda Goins, the daughter of Mike and Jill Goins, who is facing health concerns.Pray for Paul and Sally Hunter's daughter, Marjorie,
- who has health concerns.
- Praise for Laura and Logan Danford! Logan's adoption was finalized.

Lord in Your Mercy Hear Our Prayers

Adult Small Groups

December Spotlight: FaithLink



Sunday Mornings at 10 AM in Room 2

FaithLink is a group of 50-somethings and empty nesters that gather weekly on Sunday mornings for video studies, book studies, and occasional special guest speakers. The FaithLink class loves to laugh, discuss current events, and share yummy treats each week They ALWAYS have coffee ready to go. FaithLink is faithful to serve us our 5th Sunday Breakfast and loves to jump in and help in any way they can. Folks of all ages are invited to join this group any time for chatting, learning, or growing deeper in your faith.

Led by Shelli and Brandon York





Northwood Community Center is our mission campus located at 2409 Ambassador Ct. in High Point. At Northwood, we offer a monthly community meal, food pantry, and clothing closet as well as special outreach events for the community. We are always accepting donations of clothing or nonexpired food to serve our neighbors! Food can be delivered to the Covenant Gathering area and clothes can be donated in the blue box outside of Northwood. For more info or to get involved, please reach out to Gale Vitamvas (gale.vitamvas@gmail.com).



Covenant Community Garden

Like to garden? Did you know Covenant Church has a community garden in the back of our property and we have some spaces available? You can help get the beds ready for or take a bed for the summer. Plant whatever you like. You keep a percentage and the rest goes to Ward Street and Northwood's food pantries. If you are interested or want more information contact the church office.

Ward Street Community Resources has regular needs of boxed milk, canned goods, plastic and paper bags, and other items. Remember that hunger is not seasonal. Please deposit donations in the large gray bin under the coat rack in the hallway near the gathering entrance, or in one of the marked bins at the drive-through portico on the left side of the church. For more info please contact Judi Marshall at jmmread@aol.com.



Let us know if you're interested in Cover-to-Cover Covenant Book Club! This is open to anyone who loves a good story as much as we do. Our book for December is

Jason Wright's "<u>Christmas Jars".</u>

Please join us on December 5th at 6:30pm in Room 10. We will continue to meet the first Thursday of each month with a different book. Call Michelle Higgins, 336-841-3242, if you plan to attend!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

- 1 Susan Larimore, Jenna Massengale
- 2. Tony Kozuch
- 3. Jamey Massengale, Tina Murphy, Emily Garren
- 4. Jorge Amador, Dave York
- 5. Deena Millen
- 6. Robin Moseley
- 7. Todd Shoemaker
- 8. Bob Garren
- 9. Kelly Southards, Amanda Goins
- 10. Steve Smith, Zach Patel, Isabella Jordan, Cooper Lipstreu, Miller Lipstreu
- 11. Maryann Blower,
- 12. JoAnn Sutton
- 13. Nancy Williams, Maddie Vaughn
- 14. Kathy Snage, Eloise Brown
- 15. Georgia Reaves
- 16. Kimber Witmeyer
- 17. Jennifer Greenly, Travis Gibson
- 18. Jamie Payne, Allison White, Kathryn Trost, Harrison Tedder, Kaylie Manley
- 19. Audrey McKnight
- 20. Susie Murray, Elaine Swift, Julie Smith, Patrick Williford, Madison Har riman, Ryleigh Gibson
- 21. Owen Knight, Cheryl Bolick
- 22. Mike Collins, Phillip Mitchell
- 23. Mark Mitchell
- 24. Daniel York
- 25. —
- 26. Steven Vaughn
- 27. Chloe Mitchell, Ashlyn Skramsted
- 28.
- 29. Jim Gibson, Tina Lipstreu, Chris Jackson, Lani Boughton, Paul Bullock, Julianna Dohner, Blake Murphy, Justin Pyles
- 30. Butch Lipe
- 31. Debbie Frisbee, Alexandra Speight, Matt Hawn

ATTENTION COVENANT MEMBERS:

If you do not see your name on the monthly Birthday List, please contact the church office (michelle@covenantchurchhighpoint.com or 336-841-3242, x10) with your full name and birth day/month/year and we will add you to the monthly birthday list for the newsletter. Thanks!

Please save this list for reference throughout the month of December





Join us for one of our Christmas Eve services:

10:00am Children's Instant Nativity 5:00pm and 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service





DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:55 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Small Group Hour (All Ages) 11:00 am Contemporary Worship	2 8:30 am Men's Bible Study (Rm 10) 3 pm Music Therapy (Rm 10) 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm North- wood Community Center 6:00 - 8:00 pm Scouts	3 6:00 - 8:45 pm Downtown Sound (Rm 8)	4 9:15 am - 11:30 am Girl- friend's Bible Study (Rm 10) 3:30 - 5:30 pm Kids Club 6:30 pm Kid's Club Christmas Play followed by a meal 7:15 pm Choir Practice (Choir Room)	5 12:00 - 1:00 pm Preschool Dance Performance (FH) 5:00 - 8:00 pm Trillium HOA meeting (Sanctuary) 6:30 pm Cover to Cover (Rm 10)	6	7 9:00 am Youth Christ- mas Caroling 3:00 - 4:00 pm Girl Scouts (Rm 10) 3:00 pm Gate City Horizon's Band Con- cert (Sanctuary)
8 8:55 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Small Group Hour (All Ages) 11:00 am Contemporary Worship	9 8:30 am Men's Bible Study (Rm 10) 3 pm Music Therapy (Rm 10) 6:00 - 8:00 pm Scouts	10 5:00 - 8:00 pm Weekday Christmas Party (FH)	11 9:15 am - 11:30 am Girl- friend's Bible Study (Rm 10) 3:30 - 5:30 pm Kids Club 6:30 pm Wednesday Com- munion Service (FH) 7:15 pm Choir Practice (Choir Room)	12 6:00 - 7:30 pm Scouts (Rm 6 and FH)	13	14
15 8:55 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Small Group Hour (All Ages) 11:00 am Contemporary Worship	16 8:30 am Men's Bible Study (Rm 10) 3 pm Music Therapy (Rm 10) 6:00 - 8:00 pm Scouts	17 6:00 - 8:45 pm Downtown Sound (Rm 8)	18 9:15 am - 11:30 am Girl- friend's Bible Study (Rm 10) 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm Kids Club 6:30 pm Wednesday Com- munion Service (FH) 7:15 pm Choir Practice (Choir Room)	19 6:00 - 7:30 pm Girl Scouts (Rm 6 & Key Class)	20 6:00 pm Youth Lock In	21 Youth Lock In 10:00 am Recital with Stephen Saviola 3:00 - 4:00 pm Girl Scouts (Rm 10)
22 8:55 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Small Group Hour (All Ages) 11:00 am Contemporary Worship	23 8:30 am Men's Bible Study (Rm 10) 3 pm Music Therapy (Rm 10) 6:00 - 8:00 pm Scouts	24 Church office is closed in observance of Christ- mas 10:00 am Live Nativity 5:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	25 Church office is closed in observance of Christmas	26	27	28
29 8:55 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Small Group Hour (All Ages) 11:00 am Contemporary Worship	30 8:30 am Men's Bible Study (Rm 10) 3 pm Music Therapy (Rm 10) 6:00 - 8:00 pm Scouts	31				