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COVENANT CHURCH
UNITED METHODIST

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Monthly Newsletter of Covenant Church

Dear Covenant Church Family,

The Lord was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. -Exodus 13:21

I love this passage. It comes as Moses is preparing to lead the Israelites into uncharted waters: Moses is about to lead them out of Egypt into the Promise Land. It wasn't going to be easy, and they would need a good navigator. In 2022, most of us realize the benefits of good navigation. We now have navigation systems that don't just tell us directions they tell us the best route, which routes might have a traffic incident, weather conditions, etc. Moses had a pretty good navigation system as well. God was going to be the one to lead the way. And on a journey that would take over forty challenging years, God was front and center to take the Israelites over every mountain and through every valley. In the end, the Israelites would get to where they needed to be because God led the way. It is a verse I lean into during these times.

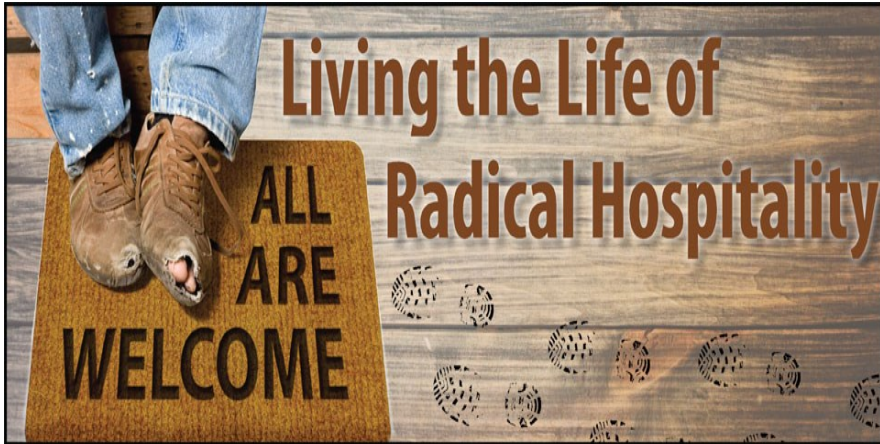
As we begin the new year, there are many different things we must navigate as well. The United Methodist Church is facing the issues of ordination and marriage regarding human sexuality. Covenant is still trying to return to a place of fiscal stability. While challenges, I fully believe that if we as a community come together to discuss these (and other) things, God not only will be present in our moments, God will lead us faithfully through the journey to where we need to be!

In 2023, we will spend the entire year exploring Covenant's foundation of who we are. Each month will focus on one particular thing that will help us to navigate the waters that are in front of us: as a church during the pandemic, as a church in the denomination, and as a church for High Point and for the world. In January, we will focus on what it means to be a church that shows radical hospitality in our lives, in our world, in our church, and in our conversations with each other. I will be hosting a three-week class beginning in January in which we will learn how to have difficult conversations while still affirming those who do not believe like ourselves. In a world where it seems impossible to hear one another when it comes to difficult issues, it is time to reclaim that fundamental necessity in the church. I hope you will join me and be a part of learning how to speak to not only each other, but also how to speak Christian in a divisive world (more info is found in this newsletter).

And at the end of the day, I come back to this verse. The Israelites were going on a difficult journey. However, because they allowed God to lead they were finally able to reach the promise land. My pledge to you is that I will do all I can to lead us in the direction that is best for Covenant on all fronts. And I will partner with you as we figure that out, brick by brick, month by month. If we take this seriously, I know that God will lead the way as we go on this incredible journey. I hope you will join us on this journey...we need you now more than ever!

Happy New Year!

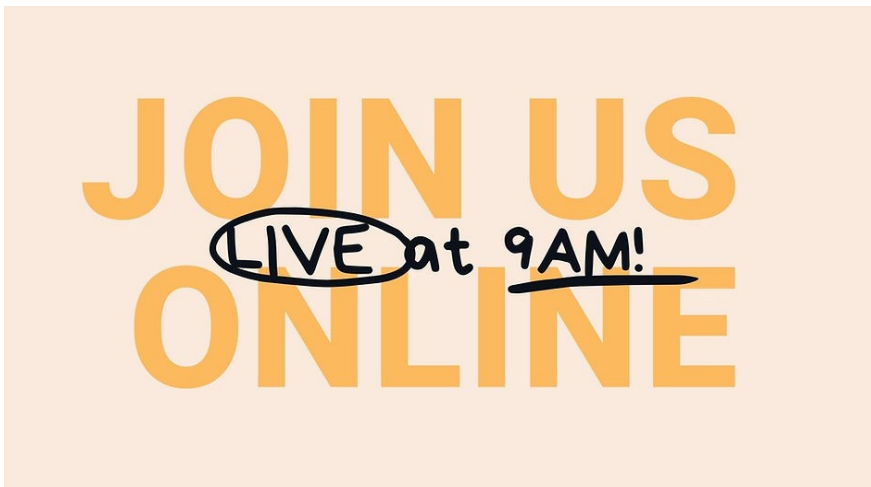
Darren



PRAYER REQUESTS:

The Miller Family with the passing of Rev. Alan Miller, Jan Kramer, Shirley Williams, Linda Register Lawrence Bivens, Brooks McCoy, Daniel Essaray's Family, Nancy Lewis, Jill Goins' mother, Molly and Brian Jones with the passing of Brian's mother, the Trost Family with the passing of and Linda Moore.

Names suggested for the prayer list will remain on the list as long as the person making the request wishes. After 30 days, the name will be removed unless there is an additional request for the name to remain on the list.. Please contact Michelle Higgins in the front office (michelle@covenantchurchhighpoint.com) or Ellen Copley Florian (ellen@covenantchurchhighpoint.com) with any additions, deletions or corrections.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

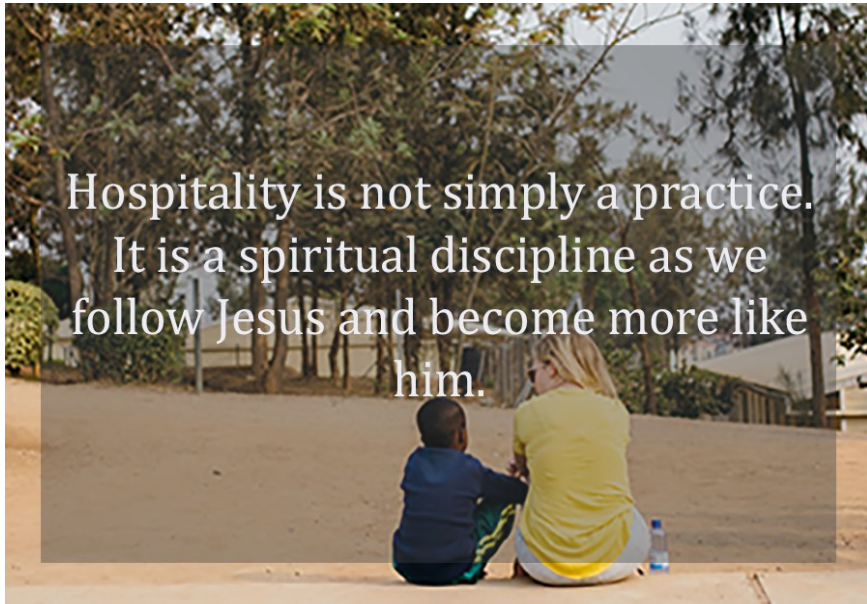
Happy Birthday to:

Please save this list for reference throughout the month of January..

1. Laura Cammer, Dan Patton, Michelle Amador, Chris Abbott
2. Chris Hawn
3. —
4. Carole Hilmer, Chris Talent, Sherri Scott
5. Steve Snyder, Erin Ritchie
6. Kelly Gibson, Colin Busick, Harrison Williams, Caleb Cook
7. —
- 8.
9. Scott Smith, Shaun Church, Lily Metzger, Page Gleeson, Kim Skinner
10. Mike Brown, Dan Sampson, Ashlee Richardson, Preston Simmons, Randy Bishop
11. Wayne Marshall, Doug Aust, Christi Caso, Austin Trexler
12. Vanessa Collier, Tonja Schiltz, Alayna Patel
13. Bruce Thielmann, John Frazier III, Zack Pyle, Grayson Brinkley
14. Kim Miller, Nicole Luther
15. Todd Southards, Amanda Vitamvas
16. Gary Brown, Jonathan Allen, Callie Norris
17. Diana Hall
18. John Murray, Landon Sutton
19. Brandy Moorefield
20. Paula Lipe, Janie Price, Morgan Jackson
21. Stormy Henning
22. Jeff Cook, Lindsay York, Evan Skinner
23. Sandee Sledge, Tish Crumpler, Martha Tatum, Denise Stephens, Austin Pollio, Mandy Burns
24. Ron Stutler
25. Beverly Burton
26. Bob Johnson, Mike Mehling, Jamie Brown, Charlie Goodwin
27. Amy Goodwin, Kerri Moye, Bobby Wood
28. David Hodges
29. Clyde Carden, Daryl Jones, Matt Burgemeister
30. Jerry Priska, Ray Mungo, Kim Douglas
31. Jim McGee, Katie Manley

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!



Hospitality is not simply a practice.
It is a spiritual discipline as we
follow Jesus and become more like
him.



We Need To Talk: How to Have Hard Conversations in A Contentious Culture

Mondays, January 23-February 6 at 10:30am and Wednesdays, January 25-February 8 at 6:30pm

Daily we are faced with opportunities to have hard conversations. At the same time, we are living in a contentious season where these conversations are increasingly difficult to have without conflict or divisiveness. The intent of this three-week study is to explore these conversations, learn some theologically grounded techniques for having them, and lower the tension around us even as we discuss hard things. The class will be a mix of lecture, discussion, group practice, and individual work in the weeks between sessions. Rev. Darren Alexander will facilitate this class. Call the office to register by January 16, 2023.

OUR MISSIONS

- ◆ **Northwood Community Center:** We are so excited for our upcoming events at Northwood. Every first Monday we have a free community meal. For more info or to get involved, please reach out to Gale Vitamvas (gale.vitamvas@yahoo.com).
- ◆ **Ward Street Community Resources** wants to help families meet the needs of their children, who will not receive a free lunch or breakfast every day at school during the summer. Please donate boxes of cereal of all sizes and quart boxes of milk, which can be found on the shelves of the grocery store where the canned milk is, (Usually in with the dried milk and baking products.) The milk does not need to be refrigerated until you are ready to use. You can also find it at Dollar Tree. Plastic bags and paper bags with handles are needed as well, to carry out food and clothing. 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.

SACK OF HOPE



DELIVERING BOXES OF HOPE TO FAMILIES IN NEED
For more information on how you can offer HOPE:
WWW.COVENANTCHURCHHIGHPOINT.COM/SACKOFHOPE

Christmas Music Spectacular

A huge thank you to Stephen Durr and Robin Gentile for organizing our musical guests: Downtown Sound, Let's Sing, Covenant Church Chancel Choir, and Covenant Children's Choir. Thank you to Amy Wilcox and her team for a beautiful reception!

It was truly a CHRISTMAS MUSIC SPECTACULAR!!



Homecoming 2022



6:30pm-7:30pm
**Wednesday Kids
Club**

Join us on Wednesday evenings for fun games,
missions and music with Ms. Robin.
Ages 3 Years-5th Grade
Room 111 and 113
January Dates: 11th, 18th, and 25th



Stephen and Lydia Durr are the newest members of our Covenant Church. Welcome to the family! Be sure to introduce yourself when you see them on Sunday.

**IN THE NEW YEAR
2023**

Back to Basics

**LAYING OUR FOUNDATIONS FOR
THE YEAR AHEAD... BRICK BY BRICK.**

Radical Hospitality
Congregational Care
Deeper Bible Study
Finding Joy in the Lord
...and more

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1
WORSHIP AT 10 AM**

Join the Choir!



CONTACT CHOIR DIRECTOR STEPHEN DURR
OR JOIN THE GROUP FOR REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN ROOM 9 AT 7:30 PM



YOU ARE INVITED TO A FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!

FIRST MONDAYS OF EACH MONTH!

AT NORTHWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER 2409 AMBASSADOR CT. HIGH POINT, NC

EVERYTHING IS FREE!!
COMMUNITY MEAL, CLOTHING CLOSET, FOOD PANTRY

OPEN FIRST MONDAYS FROM 5 - 7 PM

Facebook/Instagram: @northwoodcommunitycenter
www.northwoodcommunitycenter.org

CHILDREN'S
SUNDAY AM
SMALL GROUPS
@ 10AM

PRESCHOOL- ROOM 102
K-2ND GRADE-ROOM 103
3RD-5TH-ROOM 104



BEING PRESENT IS YOUR PRESENT

Covenant Church Stewardship

Hello to my fellow Covenant family members!

Robin Gentile here - representing the Stewardship Committee. You probably think I'm going to ask you for money, but I'm not (well maybe later...). Stewardship is a much larger responsibility than dealing with finances. Since March of 2020 it has been more difficult than ever to connect as a Christian family here at Covenant, as at all churches the world over. Jesus' direction to go out and "be the church" was meant to keep us connected to each other as we give our prayers, presence, time, and talents to let our light shine for God. It is my belief that when we are connected to each other and serving God, we will be excited to give all we can to support the wonderful works God is doing through Covenant Church. Advent is a wonderful time to focus on giving back to God, as He gave us His greatest gift, salvation through His son.

For our 2023 Pledge Drive, we are asking first and foremost for your commitment of PRESENCE in 2023. In addition to that commitment, we will be sending out traditional pledge cards where we humbly ask you to make a financial commitment to your church for the 2023 calendar year. We ask that you commit to your yearly total through the sacred ritual of tithing. This commitment will fund and provide us with our staff, our building necessities, our outreach events, programming, missions, and most importantly - the ability to continue operating and making disciples for Christ right here in our neighborhoods.

As your Stewardship Team Chair, I am committed to seeing us grow spiritually and be good stewards of Christ's gifts to us. Please remember that you are a gift from God and we are extremely blessed to be connected with one another in this community. Thank you for all you do.

Love, Robin Gentile and The Stewardship Team at Covenant Church

SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

Breakfast served at 10:00 am.

SUNDAY, JAN. 29

**YOU ARE INVITED TO
WORSHIP WITH US
AT 9 AND 11 AM**



A huge thank you to the Altar Guild for creating a sacred and beautiful space in our Sanctuary for weekly worship in 2022 (and continuing in 2023!) Pictured above is some of our fabulous members but not all of our wonderful helpers that make this ministry possible. From left to right: Linda Wood, Shirley Williams, Sharon Fouts, and Gail Satterfield.

YOUTH GROUP SUNDAYS

ALL AGES MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL
6 - 7:30 PM SUNDAY NIGHT
10 AM SUNDAY MORNING

CONTACT ANDREW FOR MORE INFO
ANDREW@COVENANTCHURCHHIGHPOINT.COM



covenant's Kids consignment sale

March 16 - 18 / Shop the Sale / Volunteer at the Sale
www.covenantconsign.com



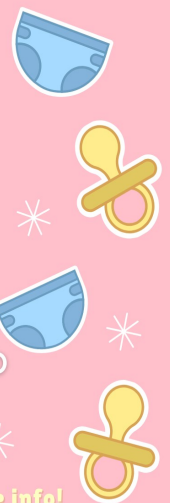
NORTHWOOD IS HAVING A...

DIAPER DRIVE

NOW COLLECTING DIAPERS OF ALL SIZES
DROP OFF IN THE CHURCH GATHERING AREA
OR IN THE "DIAPER BOX" UNDER THE PORTICO

Collecting Now through Feb. 14, 2023

Want to participate in the distribution? Contact us for more info!



January 2023

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>1 Epiphany Sunday</p> <p>10:00am Worship Service only</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Bible Study (Rm 10) 5:00-7:00 pm Community Meal, Clothing Closet, and Food Pantry at Northwood</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30 Choir Practice Room 8</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00am-3:00pm Northwood Leadership Planning Northwood Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>8 Baptism of the Lord</p> <p>9:00 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Small Group Hour (All Ages) 11:00 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>9:00 pm Women's Online Bible Study 6 (Zoom)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Bible Study (Rm 10) 6:00 pm AA (Rm 10) 7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Team (Sanctuary) 6:30 pm Downtown Sound (Rm 8)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30am Girlfriend's Bible Study Room 10 6:30 Wednesday Kids Club 7:30 Choir Practice Room 8</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30am-11:00am Kitchen Reserved</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00am-12:00pm Large Group Visioning Meeting (Sanctuary)</p>
<p>15 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>Sack of Hope Due 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Small Group Hour (All Ages) 11:00 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>9:00 pm Women's Online Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Bible Study (Rm 10) 6:00 pm AA (Rm 208) 7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30pm Downtown Sound Room 8 6:30pm Praise Team (Sanctuary)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00am-6:00 9:30am Girlfriend's Bible Study Room 10</p> <p>Ethics Training 9am-6pm Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen</p> <p>6:30 Wednesday Kids Club 7:30 Choir Practice Room 8</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Ethics Training 9am-6pm Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>9:00 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am Small Group Hour (All Ages) 11:00 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>9:00 pm Women's Online Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Bible Study (Rm 10) 10:30-11:30 We Need To Talk Sanctuary 6:00 pm AA (Rm 10) 7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1:30pm to 6:00pm Blood Drive Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm Praise Team (Sanctuary) 6:30 pm Downtown Sound (Rm 8)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30am Girlfriend's Bible Study Room 10 6:30-7:30 We Need To Talk 6:30 Wednesday Kids Club 7:30 Choir Practice Room 8</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 4th Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>9:00 am Traditional Worship 10:00 am 5th Sunday Breakfast 11:00 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>9:00 pm Women's Online Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Bible Study (Rm 10) 10:30-11:30 We Need To Talk Sanctuary 6:00 pm AA (Rm 10) 7:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>31</p>				