

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U. S. Postage Paid  
High Point, NC  
Permit 62

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**COVENANT CHURCH**  
UNITED METHODIST

1526 Skeet Club Road  
High Point, NC 27265-9530  
336- 841-3242

Web Site: [www.covenantchurhighpoint.com](http://www.covenantchurhighpoint.com)



## Monthly Newsletter of Covenant Church

December 2023

It is the most special season of the year: Advent. A time where we celebrate the art of waiting. Now, I don't know about you but waiting doesn't seem like something you would want to celebrate. I get frustrated when I am put on hold for two minutes! However, the whole realm of Christianity has been about waiting. The Israelites had to wait years to get to the Promised Land. Even in modernity, we have been waiting for Christ to return for almost 2,000 years. Waiting might not be fun, however it helps us to focus on the one thing that should be our focus: trusting in God to open the doors for us when the time is right.

Advent is all about waiting as well. And this Advent is going to be worth the wait at Covenant! I specifically want to invite each of you to what we will be doing throughout Advent on Wednesday nights. We will be having a meal beginning at 5:30 followed by my fall Bible Study. This study will be different, though. It will be a three-part series talking about the past, present, and future of the United Methodist Church. I think this is the perfect time to talk about the roots of who we were, who we are now, and what the future will look like for us, not just at Covenant but for the United Methodist Church as well. The fourth Wednesday will have a dinner, but the conversation that night will be focused on our 11 AM service and what we can do to rebrand and shape the worship experience at that time. All of these are free (the meal is pay what you want) and I think you will get something meaningful out of each of these as we celebrate the Advent season!

I am excited for this Advent season, and I am excited to see how God shapes our worship as we wait in this waiting room called life. Since we are waiting...we might as well wait together! I look forward to seeing each of you not just on Sunday, but Wednesdays as well. And if you haven't been back in a while, join us for any or all these events. As the immortal Ray Charles sang in the all-time classic song, "Theme from Three's Company": "Come and knock on our door. We've been waiting for you"!

Happy Advent,

D

# ADULT SMALL GROUPS



Shine

A small group led by Hilah Cook focusing on engaging women to beam with steady radiance as they grow through topics looking at the intersection of womanhood and walking in the Christian faith. This group welcomes women of all stages of life, focusing on women in their 30's, 40's, and 50's. Shine meets Sundays at 10am, Education Building (Upstairs) Room 208. Leader: Hilah Cook

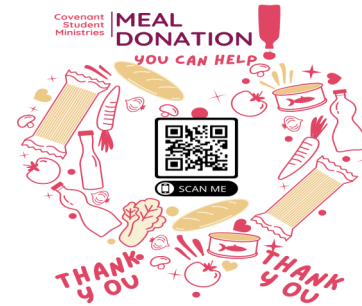


Discover Covenant

Open to anyone wanting to learn more about Covenant Church history, beliefs, values, and future plans. Perfect for new members starting out and everyone searching for deeper spiritual connections. Leader: various



The youth will be holding a **youth lock in** December 1st-2nd. We will decorate the youth room, watch Christmas movies, make cookies, decorate gingerbread houses, and even have some hot cocoa. We will also spend some time talking about the meaning of Christmas and what makes it so special to us. Youth are free to bring a friend. On Saturday Dec. 2nd, the youth group will be caroling to houses that are part of our Covey Carols fundraiser.



**Calling all Covenant Youth and Youth Alumni for a Youth Alumni Christmas Party!**  
**December 17th in the youth room, from 6pm to 7:30pm. Dinner will be provided. Let Mr. Matt know if you can attend.**

# OUR MISSIONS

**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 non-expired 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](mailto:jmmread@aol.com).



## Familiar Faces

A new small group especially for anyone seeking to connect deeper and to grow in their faith. We imagine this group is ideally for folks attending Covenant regularly but have not yet made a small group connection. This group is open to people of all ages but best suited for empty nesters and folks age 50—65. If you are interested in participating or co-leading this group, contact Ellen Florian. Leader: Ellen Florian



Leader: Beth & Brian Norris

Leader: Jason Trost



Leader: Kent Kabler



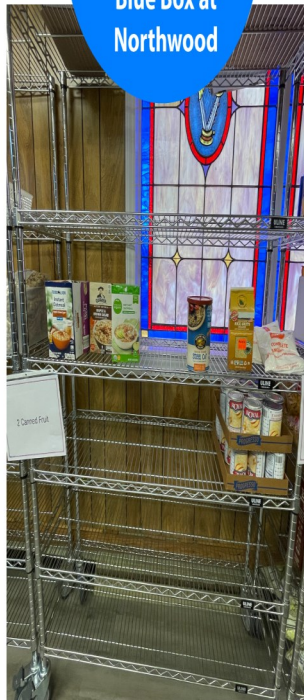
Leader: Bill Schneider

# Share The Harvest

Our food pantry shelves at Northwood are getting bare. We need your help.

## Items needed are:

- Breakfast Cereal
- Canned Meat
- Canned Fruit
- Cooking Oil
- Flour
- Sugar
- Canned Veggies
- Shelf Milk
- Soups
- Pasta
- Rice
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Cake Mix & frosting



Items can be brought to Covenant Church or dropped into Blue Box at Northwood

Parents let Laura know your child's game schedule, if they are in a play, concert, something special. I won't be able to come to all but would love to come support your child!

Email me at [Laura@covenantchurchhighpoint.com](mailto:Laura@covenantchurchhighpoint.com) or call/text at 843-359-3886.

## ADVENT GIVING 2023 BACKPACK MINISTRY

Check out the Christmas Tree in the Gathering Area for ways to give!

The Backpack Ministry packs bags of food each week for elementary children. There are many children in our community who receive free breakfast and lunch at school but who do not have access to food on the weekends. Each bag contains 2 breakfast items, 2 lunch items, 2 dinner items, 1 fruit, 1 vegetable, 2 snacks, a juice and a milk.

**Covenant Church 2023 YTD Oct**

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
|  | \$              |
| <b>Church Standalone Net Income (Loss)</b> | <b>(87,149)</b> |

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| <b>Offerings</b> | <b>552,114</b> |
|------------------|----------------|

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>Expenses</b> | <b>(639,263)</b> |
|-----------------|------------------|

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
|   | \$              |
| <b>Weekday Ministries Net Income (Loss)</b> | <b>(12,758)</b> |

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Revenue</b> | <b>365,999</b> |
|----------------|----------------|

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>Expenses</b> | <b>(378,757)</b> |
|-----------------|------------------|

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
|  | \$             |
| <b>Northwood Community Net Income (Loss) *</b> | <b>(4,615)</b> |

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| <b>Offerings</b> | <b>5,662</b> |
|------------------|--------------|

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Expenses</b> | <b>(10,276)</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------|

|                                       |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
|                                       | \$               |
| <b>Total Church Net Income (Loss)</b> | <b>(104,522)</b> |

|                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Total Offerings / Revenue</b> | <b>923,774</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------|

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>(1,028,296)</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|

\* Northwood renovations are funded by separate grants, not part of the Income / (Loss)

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**  
**Happy Birthday to:**

1. Jerry Kracht, Susan Larimore, Jenna Massengale
2. Tony Kozuch, Rebecca Teeter
3. Betty Jarosz, 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, Ryan Clinch
10. Steve Smith, Zach Patel, Isabella Jordan, Cooper Lipstreu, Miller Lipstreu
11. Maryann Blower,
12. JoAnn Sutton, Jamie Collins
13. Nancy Williams, Maddie Vaughn
14. Kathy Snage, Eloise Brown
15. Georgia Reaves, David Labiak, Kristen Aust, Henry Giant
16. Kimber Witmeyer
17. Jennifer Greenly, Travis Gibson
18. Gerome Danson, Jamie Payne, Allison White, Kathryn Trost, Harrison Tedder, Kaylie Manley
19. Pat Boswell, Audrey McKnight
20. Susie Murray, Michele Kildow, Elaine Swift, Julie Smith, Patrick Williford, Madison Harriman, Ryleigh Gibson
21. Emily Porter, Owen Knight
22. Mike Collins, Phillip Mitchell
23. Mark Mitchell
24. Daniel York
25. —
26. Steven Vaughn, Jason Thielmann
27. Kerry Reaves, Chloe Mitchell
- 28.
29. Anne Hobson, Jim Gibson, Tina Lipstreu, Chris Jackson, Paul Bullock, Julianna Dohner, Blake Murphy, Justin Pyles
30. Butch Lipe, Andy Webb
31. Debbie Frisbee, Alexandra Speight, Matt Hawn



*Please save this list for reference throughout the month of December*

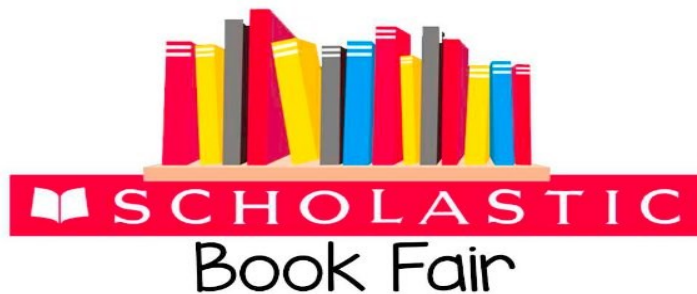
**ATTENTION COVENANT MEMBERS:**

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



Please join us for our Christmas Eve  
Worship. All are welcome!  
Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

9:00am Traditional Worship, Lesson in Carols  
11:00am Contemporary, Instant Nativity with Kids  
5:00pm Candlelight Service  
7:00pm Candlelight Service



**Monday, December 4th - Sunday, December 10th  
(Room #10)**

Weekday hours—8:45am until 6 pm

Wednesday December 6 during The Table and The Advent Discussion

Saturday, December 9 during the Parents Morning Out

Sunday, December 10 before, during, and after morning worship  
events and the 4 pm Cantata

Proceeds go to Updating and Maintaining our Covenant Playground

Past ♦ Present ♦ Future  
**WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT**  
NOV 29, DEC 6, DEC 13

**Pay What You Can Dinner**  
5:30pm-6:30pm in the  
Fellowship Hall.

**At 6:30PM (2 options)**

**3 Week Series Led by Pastor Darren:**  
We will take a look at the past, present and future  
of the United Methodist Church and Covenant  
Church. Room 10 (Youth and Adults)

**Advent Activity**  
Fellowship Hall (All Ages)

RSVP to Michelle in the church office by Monday before by calling  
336-841-3242 or via email [Michelle@covenantchurchhighpoint.com](mailto:Michelle@covenantchurchhighpoint.com)

**CHRISTMAS  
MUSIC  
SHOWCASE**

JOIN US FOR A BEAUTIFUL  
EVENING OF MUSIC!

**DECEMBER 10 AT 4:00PM**

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

COVENANT SANCTUARY  
1526 SKEET CLUB RD. HIGH POINT

Please join us for a

# PARENTS MORNING OUT

9 DECEMBER  
9AM-1PM

Cost is \$10 per child. \$25 max per family.

Sign up by scanning the QR code or going to:  
<https://vbspro.events/p/events/parentmorningoutdec>

# OWLS DECEMBER 21ST @6PM

Meet at 6:00pm in the Covenant Church Parking Lot.  
We will take the buses to go see the lights at High Point Univeristy and surrounding areas. All Welcome!

## 5TH SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

*Breakfast served at 10:00 am.*

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

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

Covenant Kids Ministry

**Preschool**  
**336-841-8847**

---

**After School & Summer Camp**  
**336-881-4030**

**NOW ENROLLING**

## First Mondays at Northwood Community Center

5:00PM-7:00PM  
FREE COMMUNITY MEAL  
CLOTHING CLOSET  
FOOD PANTRY

Northwood Community Center 2409 Ambassador Court, High Point, NC 27285

# December 2023

**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

|   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
|   |   |  |  |  | <b>1</b><br>6:00pm Youth Lock-In   | <b>2</b><br>Youth Lock-In<br>Covey Caroling<br>9:00am Angel Tree gifts picked at Northwood<br>1:00pm Key Class Christmas Party (Key Class)     |
| <b>3</b><br>9:00 am Traditional Worship<br>10:00 am Small Group Hour (All Ages)<br>11:00 am Contemporary Worship<br>12:00 pm Set up Book Fair (Rm 10)<br>4:00-8:00 pm Youth Group (Parsonage)   | <b>4</b><br>8:30 am Men's Bible Study (Rm 10)<br>3pm Music Therapy (Rm 10)<br>5:00 - 7:00 pm <b>Northwood Community Meal</b><br>6:30 pm Cub Scouts (FH)<br>7:00-8:15pm Boy Scouts (Sanctuary and FH)<br><br>Scholastic Book Fair (Rm10) | <b>5</b><br>6:30 pm <b>CLC</b> (Rm 10)<br>6:30 pm Downtown Sound (Rm 8)<br>6:15pm Weekday Planning Christmas Meal (FH)<br><br>Scholastic Book Fair (Rm 10) | <b>6</b><br>9:15-11:30 am Girlfriend's Bible Study (Rm 10)<br><b>5:30pm - 6:30pm Pay What You Can Meal (FH)</b><br><b>6:30pm - 7:30pm Pastor Darren's Past, Present, Future Series</b><br>7:30-8:30 pm Chancel Choir (Rm. 9)<br>Scholastic Book Fair (Rm 10) | <b>7</b><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><b>Scholastic Book Fair (Rm 10)</b>  | <b>8</b><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>Scholastic Book Fair (Rm 10) | <b>9</b><br><b>9:00am - 1:00pm Parent's Morning Out at Covenant Church</b><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>Scholastic Book Fair (Rm 10) |
| <b>10</b><br>9:00 am Traditional Worship<br>10:00 am Small Group Hour (All Ages)<br>11:00 am Contemporary Worship<br><b>4:00 pm Christmas Cantata with reception following</b><br>6:00-8:00pm Youth Group<br><br>Scholastic Book Fair (Rm 10)   | <b>11</b><br>8:30 am Men's Bible Study (Rm 10)<br>3 pm Music Therapy (Rm 10)<br>6:30 pm Cub Scouts<br>7:00-8:15 pm Boy Scouts (Library)   | <b>12</b><br>5:00 pm Weekday Planning Meeting (Rm 10)<br>6:30 pm Downtown Sound (Rm 8)   | <b>13</b><br>9:15-11:30 am Girlfriend's Bible Study (Rm 10)<br><b>5:30pm - 6:30pm Pay What You Can Meal (FH)</b><br><b>6:30pm - 7:30pm Pastor Darren's Past, Present, Future Series</b><br>7:30-8:30 pm Chancel Choir (Rm 9)                                 | <b>14</b><br>5:30pm - 7:30pm HOA Meeting (Sanctuary)<br><b>6:00pm OWLS viewing the Christmas lights at HPU. Meet in Covenant Church Parking Lot to take the buses.</b> | <b>15</b>  | <b>16</b><br>11:00am - 3:00pm McGee Christmas Party (FH)<br>5:30pm New Connections Christmas Party   |
| <b>17</b><br>9:00 am Traditional Worship<br>10:00 am Small Group Hour (All Ages)<br>11:00 am Contemporary Worship<br><b>6:00pm - 7:30pm Youth Alumni Christmas Party (Youth Room)</b>   | <b>18</b><br>8:30 am Men's Bible Study (Rm 10)<br>12:30pm Staff Christmas Party (Rm 10)<br>3 pm Music Therapy (Rm 10)<br>6:30 pm Cub Scouts (FH)<br>7:00-8:15pm Boy Scouts  | <b>19</b><br>6:30 pm Downtown Sound (Rm 8)   | <b>20</b><br>9:15-11:30 am Girlfriend's Bible Study (Rm 10)<br><b>5:30pm - 6:30pm Pay What You Can Meal (FH)</b><br><b>6:30pm - 7:30pm Pastor Darren's Past, Present, Future Series</b><br>7:30-8:30 pm Chancel Choir (Rm. 9)                                | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b>  |
| <b>24/31</b><br>9:00 am Traditional Worship Lessons in Carols<br>11:00 am Contemporary Worship Spontaneous Nativity<br>5:00pm Candlelight Service<br>7:00pm Candlelight Service<br><br><hr/><br>9:00 am Traditional Worship<br>10:00 am Church Family Breakfast— <b>ALL WELCOME!</b><br>11:00 am Contemporary Worship | <b>25</b><br><b>Merry Christmas!</b> Church office closed   | <b>26</b><br>Church office closed  | <b>27</b><br>9:15-11:30 am Girlfriend's Bible Study (Rm 10)<br>7:30-8:30 pm Chancel Choir (Rm. 9)  | <b>28</b>  | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b>  |