



THE COURIER

LIFE AT CHRIST COVENANT

Sunday, December 2, 2018

Christmas Poinsettias



Help beautify our Worship Center for Christmas by ordering a poinsettia "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" a loved one.

Order your poinsettias today! The order form is at the bottom of this page

Poinsettias will be displayed during December, with pick-up after the Christmas Eve service.

To order, enclose \$10 per plant (payable to Christ Covenant Church) along with your designation in an envelope marked "Poinsettias." You may put it in the offering, bring it to the church office, or mail it to the Operations Department, Attention: Jill Joyner. Also, you can email Jill at jjoyner@christcovenant.org.

Deadline to order is Sunday, December 16.

The order form is at the bottom of this page

December ProjectSHARE

We will not be doing a special collection for ProjectSHARE in December.

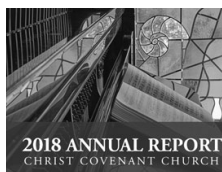


Children's Birthday Party for Jesus

Our annual outreach event for children ages 3 to 5th grade will be Saturday, December 8, from 10am-noon in our Community Life Center. This event will help our families share the true meaning of Christmas in a fun and inviting way. Join us for a special story time, songs, crafts, games, face painting, balloon animals, and cookies to decorate! Everything is free! Bring your friends, family, and neighbors. For details, contact Lindey Dunklee at ldunklee@christcovenant.org.

Special Offering

The Deacons' special offering today will go to Lily Pad Haven, a ministry that provides housing, transitional services, and other outreach efforts to minister to women who are victims of human trafficking.



Annual Report

Copies of the 2018 Annual Report are available in the lobbies, and you can view it on the News webpage.

Sunday Bible School Winter Session

The Sunday Bible School brochures with studies for December through February can be found at the Sanctuary doors.

TGC Women's Training Network

Mark your calendar and register today! Join us for The Gospel Coalition (TGC) Women's Training Network two-day intensive training on February 1-2, 2019, at Christ Covenant Church. The cost (\$65) includes lunch. More information is in the E-Courier online.

Advent at Christ Covenant

Mark these special events on your calendar as we get close to the Advent season!

December 8 | Birthday Party for Jesus at 10am (see sidebar for details)

December 9 | Christmas Choral Service: "Celebrating the Joy and Beauty of Advent" at 6pm in the worship center (childcare for ages four months to two years)

December 24 | Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 6pm (childcare for ages four months to two years)

**Note: There will not be Sunday Bible School on December 23 or 30.*

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Deadline to order is Sunday, December 16.

Giver's name: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

☐ I will pick up my plant after the 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

☐ I will leave my plant to be given to someone to brighten their Christmas season.

Year-End Giving Through Christ Covenant Church

If you are making decisions about donations to ministry initiatives, or to assist people in need because natural disasters or personal challenges and wondering how to give wisely this month, please consider this suggestion.

Giving to and giving through Christ Covenant is always a very good way to respond to the needs in our community and across the globe. We are actively involved in more than 50 different ministries, all year round. We are as concerned with feeding the hungry in July as we are in January. We don't wait for Christmas to befriend the widow or the orphan.

Through the work of the Presbyterian Church in America and our network of sister congregations around the world, we can be part of a quick response at the scene of emergencies like wild fires, floods and storms. We know how to offer both immediate and long-term assistance, sharing the hope of Christ while meeting physical needs.

Every dollar given to Christ Covenant to help others stretches a little further because there are no administrative deductions and volunteers give so much of their time and skills to these ministries.

If you have a question about year-end giving, please call our senior director of administration, Sandy Spitz or the Finance Office. We are happy to assist.



“Caring for Siblings”

HisAbilities is hosting the second in our three-part speaker series, “Navigating Life with Disabilities,” on Saturday, January 5, from 9:30-11:15am in the CLC chapel. Becky Bernier of Joni and Friends Charlotte will be speaking about caring for siblings in families affected by special needs. There will also be a panel discussion with members of our congregation who have a special needs sibling and an opportunity for Q&A. A light breakfast and childcare will be provided. RSVP by December 20 to hisabilitiesrsvp@gmail.com.

Calling all cookie bakers!

We are in need of volunteers to bake cookies for the reception following our Christmas Choral service on Sunday, December 9. Go to signupgenius.com/go/80509458-christmas to sign up.

Employment Opportunities

Christ Covenant Church regularly seeks to employ individuals who want to engage their gifts to help make disciples who worship God, grow in community, love others, and serve the world. Please check christcovenant.org/about-us/employment for current positions and to apply. Current opportunities include: Director of Women’s Ministry, Director of Communications, Ministry Associate for Church Administration.

Large Print Worship Folders

For your convenience, large print worship folders are available at the Information Desk.

MNA Donations for Disaster Relief in Paradise, California

As we learned from Pastor Brian Peterson on Sunday, November 25, one of our sister churches — Ridge Presbyterian Church in Paradise, California — suffered devastating losses from the wild fire in the area. Most of the town was destroyed, including their church and the homes of 100% of their congregation, including both pastors — Josh Lee and Bryan Laws. Our denomination’s Mission To North America Disaster Relief will be collecting donations to help this congregation. You can donate directly by going to their website at pcamna.org/disaster-response. Please be in prayer for this church and for the community.

Find us on social media!

- ChristCovenantChurchPCA
- christcovenantchurch_matthews
- ccc_matthews
- christcovenantchurch
- christcovenantpres

PRAYER FOCUS

Persecuted Church: Pray for young believers in Sri Lanka who are boldly sharing the love of Jesus while enduring growing opposition in this predominately Buddhist and Muslim country.

Our Presbytery: Uptown Church, Charlotte, and Rev. Dr. Tom Hawkes

Calendar of Events

This listing shares special and monthly events and start of weekly programs. See our website for our full calendar and the E-Courier for a complete list of what is coming up this week, along with complete announcements.

This Week (December 2-8)

- Dec 2 • First Sunday of Advent
- Dec 2 • New Sunday Bible school quarter begins
- Dec 4 • Women’s Small Group Christmas party
- Dec 7 • Senior Adult Christmas dinner
- Dec 8 • Birthday Party for Jesus (10am)

Upcoming Events

- Dec 9 • Christmas Choral worship service (6pm)
- Dec 12 • Youth events: EPIC movie night, Link outing to McAdenville (6pm)
- Dec 15 • Youth paintball outing
- Dec 17 • NO Congregational Day of Prayer
- Dec 23 • No SBS
- Dec 24 • Christmas Eve/Lessons & Carols candlelight worship service (6pm)
- Dec 24 & 25 • Office closed for Christmas holiday

Watching our budget

Thank you for your tithes and gifts to all of the ministries of Christ Covenant. Please continue to pray for God’s provision in 2018.

Inflow 1/1/18 – 11/25/18	Actual \$	Budget \$	Difference \$	% (-) or +
Operating Budget	4,696,588	4,583,000	113,588	2.5%
Faith Promise Budget	301,546	256,400	45,146	17.6%

**The operating budget figures above reflect a budget amendment approved by the ELT on 11/13/18 to provide for necessary spending.*