



# THE COURIER

## LIFE AT CHRIST COVENANT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019

### TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO ORDER POINSETTIAS

Help beautify our worship center for Christmas by ordering a poinsettia either "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" a loved one. To order, enclose \$10 per plant (payable to Christ Covenant Church) along with your designation by completing the form below and placing it in an envelope marked "Poinsettias." You may put your order in the offering, bring it to the church office, or mail it to the Operations Department to the attention of Jill Joyner. Have questions? Email Jill at [jjoyner@christcovenant.org](mailto:jjoyner@christcovenant.org). Deadline to order is today, Sunday, December 15.

### ELDER & DEACON NOMINATIONS

Beginning January 5, 2020 and for the entire month of January, the Session of our church will receive and consider nominations for the offices of elder and deacon. To be considered, the nominee must be male, a member of our church for at least two years by his election (June 2020), and nominated by two congregation members who are from different families. Nomination forms are available at our Information Desk in the main lobby. Completed forms may be given to a current officer or sent to Pastor Bernie Lawrence at Christ Covenant by January 31. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bernie Lawrence at [blawrence@christcovenant.org](mailto:blawrence@christcovenant.org) or at 704-708-6110.

### SHEPHERDING MAILING

If you have not received a letter in the mail with your elder information yet, please contact Staci Poston at [RSC@christcovenant.org](mailto:RSC@christcovenant.org) or at 704-814-1016.



### Poinsettias Order Form

Deadline to order is Sunday, December 15.

Giver's name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

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

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN NAZARETH** | Pray for Christians living in Nazareth whose population has declined sharply while the Muslim population has increased. Tensions have increased along with violence, leaving Christians in a difficult position. Pray for a spiritual awakening in this historic city.

### A TAX BENEFIT FOR SENIORS

If you are 70 ½ or older, you may be eligible for a significant tax savings when making gifts to the church. Here's how that works. Required Minimum Distributions (RMD's) from an IRA account are typically subject to income taxes; however, payments made directly from an IRA to the church (trustee to trustee transfer) will not be subject to income taxes for many qualifying Seniors. So if you are interested in making a financial gift to the church, this may be an opportunity for you to give and save taxes at the same time. This is a great idea for 2019 December giving as well as good planning for next year. Be sure to check with your tax advisor to see if this is right for you. For church-related questions, contact the Church Finance Office at 704-847-3505 or Elders Chris Williams or Larry Kirkman.

### LOOKING FOR A GIFT FOR YOUR SPOUSE

Christ Covenant is hosting the marriage conference "I Still Do" on March 27-28, 2020 with Dave Harvey. Whether you find yourself pleased or displeased with the state of your marriage, this conference will offer you encouragement, hope, and practical tools for weathering life's storms together. The early bird pricing is \$65 per individual or \$120 per couple. Early bird registration goes through January 18. Please visit <https://ibcd.org/i-still-do/> to learn more or to register!

## YEAR-END GIVING

Gifts to the church in December are a significant part of our annual income and help support more than 50 ministries. Generally, gifts to the church in the form of checks or cash that are mailed (and postmarked) by December 31 or delivered in person to the church office by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31, should be deductible for tax purposes. You may also take advantage of our secure online giving (under the Members tab on our website). God blesses Christ Covenant through your gifts, and they are greatly appreciated. Call the Church Finance Office at 704-847-3505 with any questions or for more information, including details on handling stock/fund or IRA transfers.

## MEMBERSHIP CLASS

The Membership Class is for adults and students 9th grade and above who wish to join Christ Covenant Church. Our Pastors teach this class, which reviews Christ Covenant's philosophy of ministry, the reformed faith, the Presbyterian form of government, the vows of church membership, and other topics pertinent to church membership. This class is required for those seeking to join Christ Covenant Church and will begin January 5. For questions or to register, contact Mary Jo Culver at [mculver@christcovenant.org](mailto:mculver@christcovenant.org) or 704-814-1039.

## CCYM LUMBERJACK GAMES

Middle & high school students - don't miss "The Lumberjack Games" at the CLC youth center & outside the CLC the evening of Wednesday, January 8. (This will take the place of the regular Epic and Link). Be sure to wear your flannel and to dress warmly. Cost \$8 per person, \$15 per family. You don't want to miss the music, hot dogs, s'mores, hang-out time, all kinds of lumberjack games, contests, etc. Be sure to invite your friends! If you have any questions, contact Jan at [jadams@christcovenant.org](mailto:jadams@christcovenant.org).

## HELP IS NEEDED FOR THE ANDREW PETERSON CONCERT

We are seeking labor to load in and load out equipment for the Andrew Peterson concert on Wednesday, December 18. There are two shifts where we need 12 persons to work: morning 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and after from 9:30 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. If you are able to help, please contact Steve VanDusen at [stevievan@gmail.com](mailto:stevievan@gmail.com) or 704-953-0246.

## MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: HISABILITIES MINISTRY

The apostle Paul wrote, "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable" (1 Cor. 12:21-22). Unfortunately, according to Engaging Disability, a ministry of the PCA, it is estimated that just one out of ten families impacted by disability continue to be actively involved in church. Social, physical, emotional, and intellectual barriers to participation can be very high. This is true not only for those who have been involved with the church, but also for those without past association.

Christ Covenant Church, however, desires to be a church where all individuals and families have the opportunity to learn about and grow in a relationship with Christ, experience Christian community, bless others in friendship, and put their God-given gifts to use serving Christ and others. As a ministry, HisAbilities is committed to supporting that vision by encouraging and equipping our congregation to be that kind of church - assessing barriers and encouraging greater accessibility for those impacted by disabilities to learn, worship, serve and belong.

Last year, HisAbilities began a speaker series focused on providing resources to help equip our members and friends navigating life with disabilities. This has become a valuable ministry not only for supporting those impacted by disability within our church, but also serving as a resource for those at other churches and those not connected to a church at all. As we seek to better engage and enfold those impacted by disability, we hope this ministry will continue to provide opportunities to share with those outside the church not only helpful resources, but the hope and love of Christ as well.

To learn more about this year's speaker series with the theme "For the Long Haul," pick up a flyer available this week in the lobbies and take one to share with a friend. To learn more about HisAbilities, contact Pastor Dave Baxter at 704-814-1023 or [dbaxter@christcovenant.org](mailto:dbaxter@christcovenant.org).



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*This list shares special one-time and monthly events and the start of weekly programs. See our website for our full calendar and the E-Courier (found on the News webpage) for a complete list of what is coming up this week, along with additional announcements.*

### THIS WEEK (DECEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 21)

- Dec 15 • Timothy Project (5 p.m.)
- Dec 15 • Women's ministry prayer group (4:45 p.m.)
- Dec 16 • Men's open seminar (7 p.m.)
- Dec 18 • Andrew Peterson concert: sold out, ticketed event (7 p.m.)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 22 • No Sunday school
- Dec 24 • Christmas Eve service
- Dec 24 & 25 • Church offices closed
- Dec 28 - Jan 1 • Campus Outreach New Year's conference
- Dec 29 • No Sunday school
- Jan 1 • Church offices closed
- Jan 5 • New Membership class begins
- Jan 5 • New Sunday school trimester begins
- Jan 8 • CCYM Lumberjack games
- Jan 11 • His Abilities Speaker Series
- Jan 13 • Women's open seminar
- Jan 26 • Tom Groelsema's installation
- Feb 15-23 • Missions week
- Mar 27-28 • "I Still Do" marriage conference

## 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 throughout 2019.

Inflow 1/1/19 – 12/8/19	Actual \$	Budget \$	Difference \$	% (-) or +
Operating Budget	4,990,622	5,139,500	-148,878	-2.9%
Faith Promise Budget	329,974	297,748	32,226	10.8%