



THE COURIER

LIFE AT CHRIST COVENANT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019

WHAT IS

COMMUNITY CONNECT?

Community Connect is an opportunity for members and visitors to gather together with a pastoral community and to connect with elders and others in a fellowship setting. Here are a few helpful highlights about Community Connect:

- Community Connect is not life stage communities and will not be run like our previous life stage communities.
- You are welcome to meet with whichever pastoral community you'd like! The gathering time is just one option to get to know your elder shepherd, community pastor, and to fellowship with others.
- All visitors and non-members are welcome and encouraged to join us!
- If you don't know which community to attend, visit ChristCovenant.org/sundays/, or on Sunday, January 5, stop by the information table in the foyer of the CLC to see where to go.

See you at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 5!

FRIENDLY REMINDER:

Several Sunday School classes begin at 9:00 a.m. when Sunday School resumes. They are the following: all children's Sunday School, middle & high school Sunday School, the Membership Class, and the King's Community.

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 or 704-814-1039.

ITEMS FOR PRAYER THIS WEEK:

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE: CONNECTION PROJECT GROUP | This group is working to improve the visitor experience and to guide non-members and members through the connection process to the glory of God. Please join us in praying for the Connection Project Group:

- For the church body to be making some good, new connections on January 5th;
- For one additional team member, for the the Lord's provision.

PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN EGYPT | Pray for Christians in Egypt where persecution is ingrained in the national culture and impacts believers' lives from job discrimination to kidnappings and forced marriages. Deadly attacks on groups of believers and destruction of their places of worship are common but rarely make the news. Pray believers will grow in faith as they depend on God's love for them. Pray for God to show His power to save.

SUPPORTED WORKERS OF THE WEEK: MICHAEL & LINDIE WADHAMS | They are planting a church and have a ministry to the Lummi Indians in Lynden, Washington. Pray for the time between now and March, which are the dark days of Native Spirituality. Pray that the Lord uses them to connect with others through their ministry programs regardless of all the traditional events. Pray for them as they finalize their partnership with the Andersen Creek Community.

UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP: SUDANESE ARABS IN EGYPT | There are 1.40% known Christians among 4,682,000 Sudanese living primarily in northern and central Sudan and Egypt. They have some Christian resources available to them, but churches are often closed, destroyed, or not allowed to be built. Ask God to strengthen, encourage, protect church planters, and raise up strong local churches among Sudanese Arabs for the glory of His name.

LOCAL PRESBYTERY: Mt. Carmel Presbyterian Church, Ellerbe, NC – Pastor James Watson

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). [Please note that year-end cutoff dates for IRA transfers to the church could be earlier than cutoff dates for "regular" gifts in the form of checks because of the required minimum distribution rules; in such instances it is prudent to give the church time to cash the check by Tuesday, December 31]. 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.

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, and please be mindful of year-end deadlines (see Year-End Giving). For church-related questions, contact the Church Finance Office at 704-847-3505 or Elders Chris Williams or Larry Kirkman.



MINISTRY TO MEN

DINNER & NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Invite a friend and join your brothers in Christ for dinner and the NCAA Championship Game on Monday, January 13! Dinner will be first at 6:30 p.m. followed by the game at 8:00 p.m. Sign up to contribute a main dish, side, drink, or dessert at ChristCovenant.org.

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.

WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY & CLASSES

Didn't register for a women's Bible study in the fall? No problem! January is a great time to jump in! There are weekly options meeting at various days, times, and durations (several with childcare)! Please visit our Women's Ministry Bible Study page (<https://christcovenant.org/ministries/women/womens-bible-studies>) for weekly study and short study details and registration.



During Missions Week, the week of February 17th, the Women's Ministry will be hosting our 3rd Annual Cooking For A Cause! This is a time where groups of women meet in people's homes (various dates and times) to prepare freezer meals and pray for missionaries. Would you be willing to open your home to a small group (5-6 ladies) and prepare 3 freezer meals (ingredients and recipes provided) and pray for local ministries? Please contact Staci Poston (sposton@christcovenant.org) to learn more!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: CAMPUS OUTREACH NEW YEAR'S EVE CONFERENCE

Eight hundred college students from all over the east coast will attend the annual Campus Outreach New Year's Conference in Raleigh from December 28-January 1. Over the course of the conference, students will hear messages from the Bible and build relationships all for the sake of their growth in Christ. Some of these students are Christians who want to grow in their faith, while others are non-Christians who have limited knowledge of the gospel.

Would you join us in prayer as our students spend five days hearing the Word preached to them through various speakers?

- Pray that students attending who are believers in Christ would grow in their faith.
- Pray for many students to put their faith in Christ for the first time.
- Pray for our speakers to proclaim the gospel clearly. Pastors Kevin DeYoung and Zach Fulgniti are two of the speakers. Pray for wisdom and guidance as they prepare to preach the good news to these college students.

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 or at 704-708-6110.

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 29 - JANUARY 4)

- Dec 28 - Jan 1 • Campus Outreach New Year's conference
- Dec 29 • No Sunday school
- Jan 1 • Church offices closed

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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 13 • Men's ministry dinner & NCAA championship game
- Jan 21 • Monthly day of prayer
- Jan 26 • Tom Groelsema's installation
- Jan 27 • Women's open seminar (7pm)
- Jan 31 - Feb 1 • Women's PCA regional conference: Hinged
- Feb 15 • Women's missions morning
- Feb 15-23 • Missions week
- Mar 27-28 • "I Still Do" marriage conference
- Apr 5 • Church wide Spring lunch
- Apr 5-11 • Holy Week

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 – 12/22/19	Actual \$	Budget \$	Difference \$	% (-) or +
Operating Budget	5,294,130	5,549,500	-255,370	-4.6%
Faith Promise Budget	344,133	310,000	34,133	11.0%