



THE COURIER

LIFE AT CHRIST COVENANT

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

Are you a guest visiting with us today, or did you meet a guest this morning? We encourage all our guests to stop by our Guest Kiosks in any of our lobbies. We have a free gift for you and would like to meet you! We also have an online guest card we invite you to fill out at christcovenant.org/online-guest-card or scan the QR code below to fill out the guest card online.



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: RTS PARTNERSHIP

This morning our deacons are asking us to prayerfully consider a gift to the Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS) Partnership. Today's special offering is designated for seminary scholarships to assist new and current students with the cost of their education at Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS).

These scholarships make it possible for gifted believers to become seminary students and develop as future leaders who are trained and mentored by professors who honor God's Word. These funds are vital in removing obstacles for current students, and they are critical for the health and growth of the next generation of Christian leaders.

We need more pastors and professors, writers and speakers, teachers and counselors who believe that the Bible is true and know how to share that truth with anyone. We need young leaders who have been equipped to minister in a world that is hostile to Christianity. We need dedicated students and seminary graduates who are called to careers in Christian service. We need committed believers who will surround seminarians with prayer and loving support.

Your gift today will help RTS fulfill its mission of preparing students to fill all the roles the church will need in the days to come. Your gift will be used by God first to encourage each scholarship recipient, then to touch thousands of people who will be affected by the work of these students over a lifetime of ministry.

To learn more about RTS and opportunities for partnership please visit www.rts.edu.

A VERY SHORT INTRODUCTION TO CHRIST COVENANT AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

This short, Saturday morning class is for those new to the Christian faith and desire to connect at Christ Covenant Church. We will discuss questions like...What is the gospel of Jesus Christ? What do we believe about God and the Bible? Why are prayer and worship important for the Christian? In addition to teaching on these topics, there will be time for fellowship and meeting people from our connections team. Childcare is available.

This class will meet on Saturday, August 21, from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm in the Community Life Center rooms 1 & 2 (CLC). If you are interested in attending, please contact Michelle Gustavson at mgustavson@christcovenant.org to register by August 16. If childcare is needed, please email Michelle to register your child.



WOMEN'S FALL BIBLE STUDIES - REGISTRATION OPENS AUGUST 1

Registration opens on August 1 for all women's Bible studies that begin this Fall. We invite you to visit christcovenant.org/womens-ministry or you can pick up a brochure in the lobbies to see the various Bible study options. We have studies with various levels of time commitment, and studies that meet in the mornings and the evenings. If you have any questions, please contact Teresa Caldwell at tcaldwell@christcovenant.org.

NEW MEMBER CLASS BEGINS AUGUST 29

The New Member 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. Our next New Member Class will be held during Sunday School beginning August 29. The class will meet for 6 weeks from 9:00 am - 10:20 am. If you are interested in attending, please contact Michelle Gustavson at mgustavson@christcovenant.org to register by August 22.

MEN ARE NEEDED AS WORSHIP COORDINATORS

We invite men ages 16 and older who are members of our church to join the worship coordinator ministry to serve as an usher just one Sunday a month. Ushers are a vital part of our Sunday worship. Our usher teams arrive to Sunday worship just a little early to hand out bulletins, greet guests and members as they enter the sanctuary, and assist individuals and families looking for a seat. They also assist in the offering portion of our worship when our offering bags were passed during worship. If you would like more information, have questions, or would like to sign up to serve, ushers are at a table in the main lobby after morning worship. Look for the small sign on the table "Worship Coordinator Information Here." Have questions or want to serve? Contact Douglas Graham at graham_of_montrose@yahoo.com or (704) 361-1911.



REGISTERING YOUR CHILD FOR FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are excited to be planning a Fall Sunday School Kick-off for all ages on August 29 with a return to in-person Sunday School. Since we have not had Sunday School in-person for some time, we are asking all families to register their children for Fall Sunday School. This will greatly help our children's ministry know how to plan and how to staff all children's programs. We also ask that you register each child entering fifth grade and younger online at <https://christcovenant.org/registration-for-fall-2021/>. We are looking forward to having your child back in children's Sunday School!



THANK YOU FROM PASTOR BERNIE LAWRENCE

Dear Christ Covenant Family,

Please forgive our delay in thanking you for such a wonderful retirement farewell on June 27. My family and I were so very encouraged and honored by the service as well as the outpouring of your kind and encouraging words. Life in a fallen world has taught me over the years to temper my expectations of times and occasions I'm anticipating. But I must say, and Pat surely agrees, June 27 greatly exceeded our hopes and expectations! And so, we want to acknowledge our gratitude and love for each of you for the privilege of allowing me to serve as one of your pastors for so long as well as for the fond farewell.

I want to offer particular thanks to Pastor DeYoung who patiently waited for and exceeded the occasion with such pastoral care and concern and to Pastor George who managed to arrange a beautiful liturgy for the service that included so many of my preferences. Thanks also to the wonderful staff, colleagues of Christ Covenant, who helped make my years of service a delight. Finally, I would thank the elders and deacons for the generous gifts as well as many years of loving and faithful service together for Christ's Gospel.

May our Lord grant you His continual favor in your union with Him.

Most gratefully in Christ,

Bernie and Pat Lawrence

70% BY SEPTEMBER PICK UP AN ENVISION BOOKMARK TODAY!

We invite you to pick up an Envision bookmark at one of the tables outside the worship center today or in the pew. We are hoping to have 100% of the congregation participate in the Envision capital campaign and are aiming for 70% participation by September. We are currently at 54% right now and the bookmarks are colored in to 50%. We invite you to pick up a bookmark and each time we increase in participation, you can color in your bookmark.

MEET OUR SUPPORTED WORKERS TIM & BARBIE

All are invited to join the Outreach and Missions department on August 8, after the evening worship service in the Community Life Center rooms 1 & 2 (CLC) to hear from our missionaries Tim and Barbie who have served for many years in a restricted location. We will enjoy refreshments as we hear what God is doing in their country of service. Bring your whole family!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This list shares notable events for this week. See our website at christcovenant.org for other activities. Weekly and monthly prayer guides can be found at christcovenant.org/prayer.

THIS WEEK (AUGUST 1 - 7, 2021)

- Aug 1 • Registration Opens for Women's Bible Studies
- Aug 1 • In-person and livestream morning worship at 10:45 am
- Aug 1 • In-person and livestream evening worship at 6:00 pm
- Aug 2 • 18/22 Summer meet up at 7:00 pm
- Aug 3 • Middle school summer Bible study at 7:00 pm
- Aug 4 • High school summer nights at 7:00 pm
- Aug 5 • Senior adults Thursday school at 4:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 29 • Fall Sunday School Kick-Off

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 2021.

<i>Inflow 1/1/21 – 7/25/21</i>	<i>Actual \$</i>	<i>Budget \$</i>	<i>Difference \$</i>	<i>% (-) or +</i>
Operating Budget	3,437,639	3,277,000	160,639	4.9%
Faith Promise Budget	264,131	182,054	82,077	45.1%