



THE COURIER

LIFE AT CHRIST COVENANT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Devin and Abigail Cerrato
on the birth of their son,
Beckett Gray Cerrato.

Scott Wu and Jessie Wang
on the birth of their daughter,
Evelyn Harper Wu.

SYMPATHY TO:

Estelle Abernathy on the loss of her
sister, Harriet Russell.

Pamela Mullin on the loss of her
mother, Hazel Gentle Gurley.

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 either the main or north lobby. We have a free gift for you and would like to meet you! We have an online guest card we invite you to fill out at christcovenant.org/online-guest-card. There are also guest cards located in the pews in the sanctuary you can fill out and place in the offering. If you do not have a Bible, we invite you to take a Bible from one of the pews to take home with you today. We are so glad you are here to worship with us today!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

During Sunday School this morning, all our children from two years-old to fifth grade are learning about creation from *The Biggest Story Bible Storybook* curriculum, from the lesson "And So It Begins," on Genesis 1-2. The focus verse for the week is Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." If you sit near a family with young children, please take a moment to ask the children to share what they learned in Sunday School with you!

DEACONS' SPECIAL OFFERING: GENERAL MERCY FUND

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. James 3:17

Our special/monthly communion offering today is directly related to the role the deacons have in our church and amongst our congregation. The general mercy fund provides resources for our deacons to use as a part of their ministry to assist our own church family when needs arise and to act on our behalf in response to disasters, assistance to ministry partners in our community, support of outreach projects and investments in new opportunities for ministry as they arise.

While the specific expenditures of the mercy fund within our church family is always confidential, deacons are known for their prayerful and practical stewardship of God's resources. Decisions are based on biblical principles and coupled with wisdom gained over many years of quiet ministry. Addressing the immediate needs of a family in distress may include providing meals or taking care of a utility bill. It might mean helping with the mortgage or replacing an appliance that is beyond repair. It may be assisting with an unexpected medical expense.

The assistance options the deacons may fund in any given year are as varied as the needs. But they are alike in the most way; each one is provided as an expression of God's love for his children and our love for others.

Our gifts today will be spent carefully as needs arise. This fund provides the deacons with the flexibility they need to act quickly on our behalf to meet a critical need. Through your support and your prayers, we are able to show mercy to others in gratitude for God's mercy to us.

If you are aware of a need that should be brought to our deacons' attention, or you want to learn more about how you might assist in our mercy ministries, please contact your shepherding deacon, your shepherding elder or pastor, or the church office at 704-847-3505.

Please place all special/monthly communion offering gifts in an envelope (found in pews) and label it 'Special Communion Offering' and include the name of the ministry before placing your gift in one of the tithe boxes located inside the sanctuary at our main doors in the north, south and toward the main lobby. You can also give online at christcovenant.org/members/giving. Thank you for your gift!

FALL PHOTOS & FUN FESTIVAL UPDATE SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

We hope you are inviting your friends and neighbors in the community to our outreach event, Fall Photos & Fun Festival, on Saturday, September 23, from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm. We also hope you are making plans to come and to join us for this fun-filled day!

We are asking all Christ Covenant members to refrain from signing up for the photography time slots so that these photography spaces are available for our guests, visitors, and those we are reaching out to in the community who are not part of Christ Covenant Church. We hope you will invite someone that you are praying for and hopefully this outreach is an opportunity for you to care for your guests and to build good will for an opportunity to share the gospel.

Invitation cards for you to use can be found on all the tables going into the sanctuary. We also have yard signs for you to pick up and put in your yard! These can be found at the south lobby book nook. Have questions, contact Michelle at mgustavson@christcovenant.org.



FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST SAT., SEPT. 9

All men ages 16 and older are invited to join us on Saturday, September 9, from 7:00 am – 8:30 am, at Stack's Kitchen, for the Ministry to Men Fellowship Breakfast! Come for food and fellowship with your brothers in Christ. The only cost is your breakfast. Sign up today at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4aaba828a2fdc07-september>.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY FALL KICKOFF TUESDAY, SEPT. 12

All are invited to Christ Covenant Women's Ministry's annual Fall Kickoff, which is Tuesday, September 12, from 6:45 pm - 8:30 pm, in the Community Life Center (CLC). The theme this year is Game Day Kickoff, so come dressed in your favorite team jersey! We will enjoy delicious game day food and fellowship. We will hear from Angela Pacey about Christ Covenant's ministry to Afghan refugee families in our community. We will also hear about Women's Ministry for the year ahead!

If you would like to support the church's ministry to Afghans, please consider bringing a pack of diapers (size 2 and up), a pack of wipes, Walmart gift card, or Harris Teeter gift card. These will be used to help refugees get settled in their new homes!

A NEW RESOURCE FROM CLEARLY REFORMED

The online ministry of our Pastor Kevin, Clearly Reformed, is giving away monthly resources aimed at further developing your walk with the Lord. Please find a free booklet of the most recent article, "Politics, the Church, and Getting Our Story Straight," located in the book nook in the main lobby and visit clearlyreformed.org for thousands of other resources.

TRAIL LIFE OPEN HOUSE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Come and join us for our Trail Life Open House on Thursday, September 7, at 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm in the Community Life Center (CLC). We will have games and demonstrations led by our Trailmen showing skills they have learned through Trail Life. This is for boys kindergarten to high school. Have questions, contact Trail Life at membership@traillifenc413.com.

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS OPEN HOUSE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

American Heritage Girls Troop 0800 is holding an Open House on Thursday, September 14, in the Community Life Center rooms 1 and 2 (CLC), from 6:45 pm - 8:15 pm. American Heritage Girls is a Christian based scout program, available to all girls between the ages of 5 and 18. At the Open House, girls are invited to enjoy a night of games, snacks, and crafts. Interested in coming? Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4ea8aa2ba2fdc52-ahgopen>. Our troop is also looking for adults willing to volunteer to invest in our girls and share the love of Christ. Contact us at christcovenantahg@outlook.com if you wish to talk more about this opportunity.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HISABILITIES FALL RESPITE NIGHT

Christ Covenant's HisAbilities ministry needs volunteers for our upcoming Fall Respite Night, Saturday, October 14, from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm, in the lower level of the Community Life Center (CLC). This is an opportunity to come alongside Christ Covenant families impacted by disability by providing a few hours of respite for parents while their children are cared for and engaged by a team of volunteers providing a safe environment with a variety of fun activities! Volunteers must be a member of Christ Covenant, but no experience with disabilities is needed to serve and our volunteers find the evening to be a rich blessing and a great time to make encouraging connections with this special part of our church body!

Respite Night serves parents with children impacted by disabilities or who are living with disability themselves. Training resources will be provided to our volunteers, and we work to make sure our volunteers are serving in a capacity in which they are comfortable. If you would like to serve or learn more about this opportunity, please email Amy Van Dusen at avandusen@christcovenant.org. The deadline for volunteer registration is Friday, September 22.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This list shares special events and various weekly programs. See our website for our full calendar of what is coming up this week, along with additional announcements.

Sept. 3 • First day of adult Sunday School classes and New Member class
Sept. 3 • K-2, Children's, and Youth Choirs begin
Sept. 4 • Church offices closed for Labor Day
Sept. 6 • Orchestra begins
Sept. 7 • Trail Life Open House
Sept. 9 • Ministry to Men Fellowship Breakfast
Sept. 11 • Senior Adults Joy Singers begin
Sept. 12 • Women's Ministry Fall Kickoff
Sept. 12 • GriefShare support group begins
Sept. 14 • American Heritage Girls Open House
Sept. 19 • O Night - Christ Covenant Outreach Night
Sept. 19 • Caregivers support group begins
Sept. 22 • Senior Adult Fall Kickoff Lunch
Sept. 23 • Fall Photos and Fun Festival

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 2023.

Inflow 1/1/23 – 8/27/23	Actual \$	Budget \$	Difference \$	% (-) or +
Operating Budget	4,298,847	4,134,100	164,747	4.0%
Faith Promise Budget	336,535	221,684	114,851	51.81%