



THE COURIER

LIFE AT CHRIST COVENANT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

SYMPATHY TO:

Corie Crouch on the loss of her mother, Gloria Bennett.

Logan McIntosh on the loss of his grandfather, Rondo McIntosh.

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. You can also scan the QR code below to fill out the online guest card. 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!



CHRISTMAS CONCERT SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 3



All are invited to join us for our special Christmas Concert this Sunday evening, December 3, at 6:00 pm. We will enjoy a time of singing carols together and other musical selections prepared by our choir and orchestra. Children's programs are available for ages 4 months through 35 months. If you have questions about children's programs, please contact Amy Wallace at awallace@christcovenant.org.

This is a great time to bring family and friends for a special night of music as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

We have special invitations available for you in all the lobbies of the worship center that you can take and use to invite your family, neighbors and friends!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

We hope you are making plans to join us at our drop-in Children's Christmas Celebration on December 9, from 9:30 am-11:30 am, in the Community Life Center (CLC). Join us for a special Christmas story time at either 10:00 am or 11:00 am and lots of games and crafts you can do anytime from 9:30 am-11:30 am. This is a free event for families with fifth graders and younger. Invite and bring your friends and neighbors as we celebrate Christmas together!

HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH A POINSETTIA

Each Christmas at Christ Covenant we provide an opportunity for you to buy a poinsettia that is displayed in our sanctuary for the Advent season. You can purchase one for you/your family, give one in honor of someone, or give one in memory of someone. We will print the names of those who receive a poinsettia in honor and in memory in the courier on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, 2023.

Each poinsettia is \$10. If you purchase one, you can either pick it up and enjoy it at home after the Candlelight Christmas Eve evening worship service, or you can leave it to bless someone else. Poinsettias can be purchased online at <https://ccym.wufoo.com/forms/qk8fgs714upkfd/> or by using the form below and placing it in one of the tithe boxes located inside the sanctuary at our main doors in the north, south and toward the main lobby.

POINSETTIAS ORDER FORM

Each poinsettia is \$10.00. Deadline to order is Tuesday, December 19.

Giver's name: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

☐ I will pick up my poinsettia after the 6:00 pm Christmas Eve evening worship service.

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

Paid by: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ online

SURVIVING
THE HOLIDAYS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

Healing from divorce is not easy. Most people will say separation and divorce are the most painful and stressful experiences they’ve ever had. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have lots of questions about issues you’ve never encountered before. Our DivorceCare Ministry is offering a “Surviving the Holidays” session Monday, December 4, from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm in worship center room 211. At this session, people in separation and divorce will find tools, teaching, and support to help them deal with their pain and give them hope for the future. You can register at www.divorcecare.org/findagroup or contact Gaylene Scheide at gscheide@christcovenant.org.

REGISTRATION OPEN
FOR NEW MEMBER
CLASS

Our next New Member Class begins Sunday, January 7, 2024, and you can register today for the class! The New Member Class is an opportunity to learn more about the ministries, people, staff, doctrine, and vision of Christ Covenant. The class is open to anyone but is especially for those who are new to Christ Covenant or are considering membership at the church. This class is required for those 9th grade and older who would like to become members of Christ Covenant Church. Those participating will have the opportunity to develop relationships with other class participants and current members.

We ask that everyone interested in attending the New Member Class to register at <https://christcovenant.org/newmembersclass/>. If you have any questions, please email Michelle Gustavson at mgustavson@christcovenant.org.

EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES AT
CHRIST COVENANT

Current employment opportunities at Christ Covenant include:

Facilities Maintenance (full-time) & Temporary Facilities Maintenance (Now-February 2024)

Details: christcovenant.org/aboutus/employment

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT:
DEACONS’ SPECIAL OFFERING - HARVEST USA

Harvest USA, headquartered just outside of Philadelphia in Dresher, PA, brings the truth and mercy of Jesus Christ to individuals and families affected by sexual struggles and by providing resources that address biblical sexuality to individuals and churches.

Harvest USA began in 1983 as an outreach ministry in center city Philadelphia to care for those affected by the AIDS crisis and was founded as a ministry to those particularly struggling with same-sex attraction. Harvest USA also included in its outreach those who struggle with sexual issues of all types. That outreach has been greatly expanded through partnerships with local churches like Christ Covenant who are equipped to bring the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ to transform the lives of those affected by sexual sin.

The mission of Harvest USA is two-fold. First, to be a resource to the local church, this organization equips individual congregations and the Church at large to better care for and disciple those affected by sexual brokenness. They provide resources including blogs, videos, seminars, presentations, and books to support and strengthen the Church. Their seminars and presentations are Christ-centered and practical, providing the best resources to better support and equip the Church. Second, Harvest USA is committed to providing one-on-one discipleship and support groups for men, women, and parents in both its Philadelphia and Pittsburgh offices.

To learn more about this ministry or download their free book, *Shattered Dreams, New Hope: First Aid for Parents Whose Son or Daughter Has Embraced an LGBTQ+ Identity*, visit <https://harvestusa.org>.

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. Thank you for your gift!

ADVENT BOOKS AT THE BOOK NOOK

Are you looking for an Advent book for you or for your family? We encourage you to stop by the book nook in the main lobby to see the great selection of Advent books available. We currently have *Love Came Down at Christmas* and *Dawn of Redeeming Grace* available. Both are favorites that were written by Sinclair Ferguson. We hope you’ll stop by the book nook and check out the great selection available!

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.

- Dec. 3 • No Sunday School through December 31
- Dec. 3 • Christmas Concert during Evening Worship
- Dec. 4 • Surviving the Holidays
- Dec. 7 • Women’s Ministry Christmas Brunch
- Dec. 9 • Children’s Christmas Celebration
- Dec. 24 • Morning Worship
- Dec. 24 • Christmas Eve Candlelight Service during Evening Worship
- Dec. 25-26 • Church offices closed
- Dec. 31 • Morning Worship
- Dec. 31 • No Evening Worship
- Jan. 1 • Church offices closed
- Jan. 7 • Sunday School resumes

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 – 11/26/23	Actual \$	Budget \$	Difference \$	% (-) or +
Operating Budget	5,814,678	5,797,800	16,878	.3%
Faith Promise Budget	424,972	314,322	110,650	35.20%