

Covenant Presbyterian Church

February Newsletter

2024

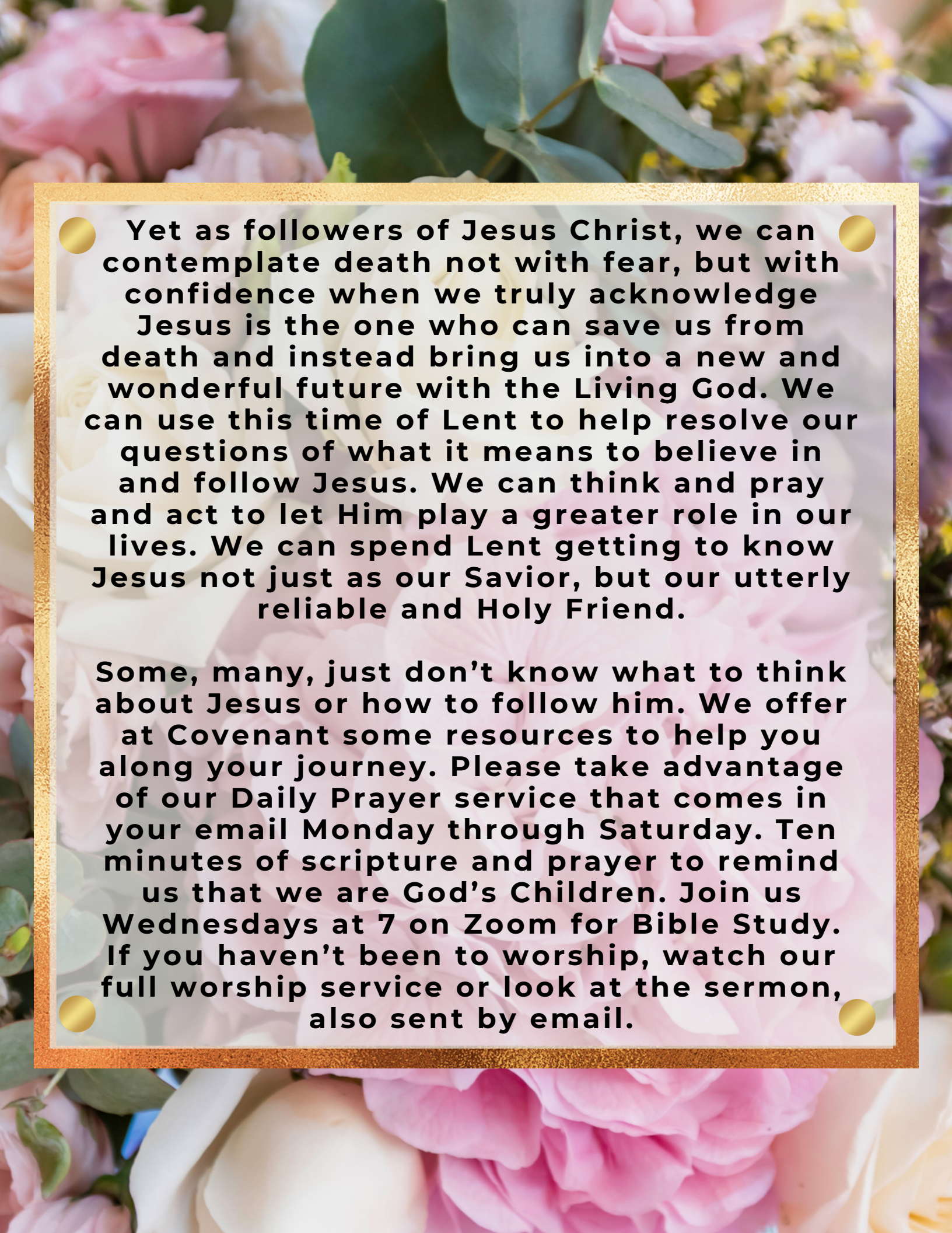
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covenantpreschurch.org

Message from Pastor Bob

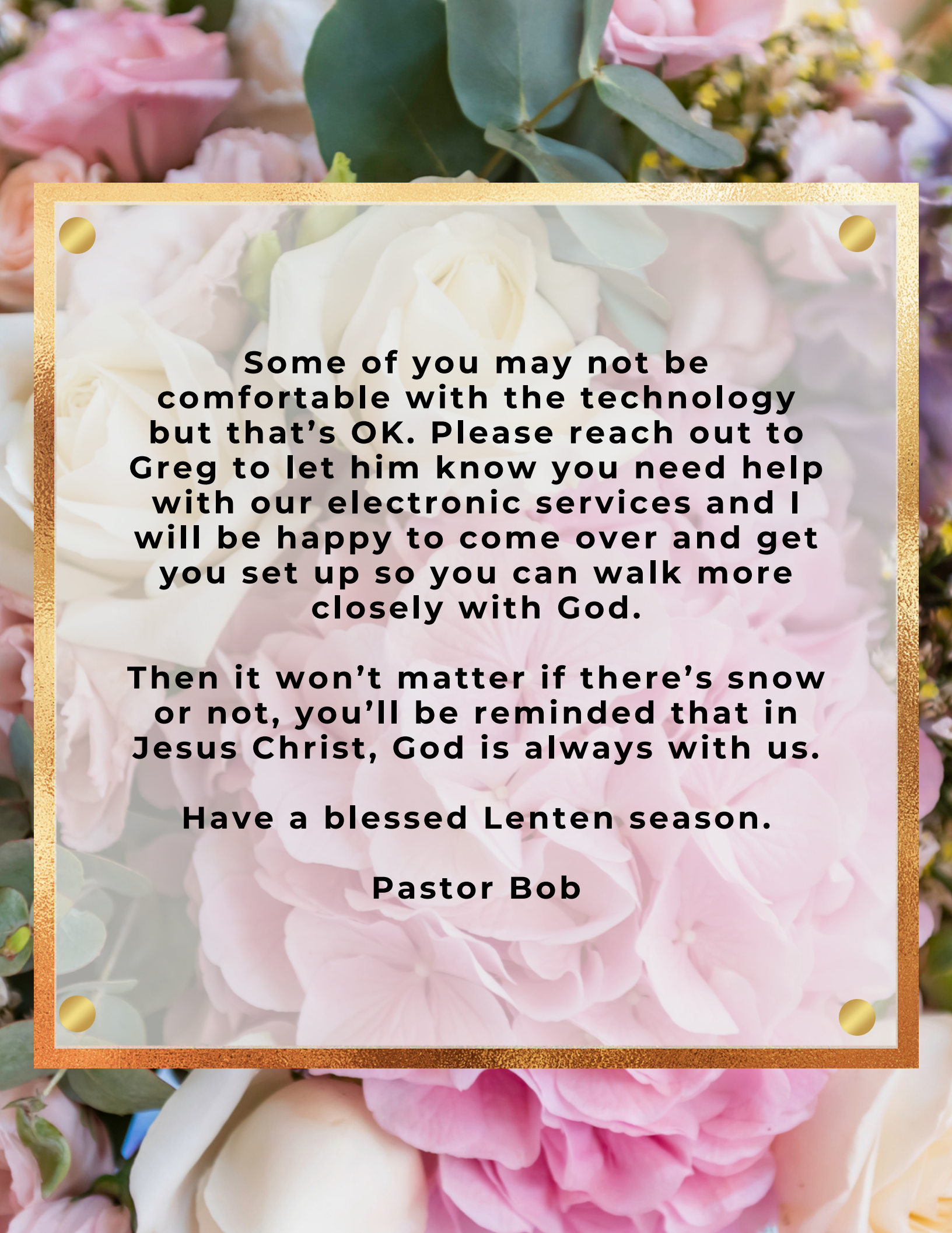
Our first snow in nearly two years! For some, that's good news. For others, they would just as soon not have it snow at all. A divisive issue, perhaps. Another divisive issue comes up for us this month. That issue is whom do we say Jesus is. Certainly we all say he is our Lord and Savior. But what do those words really mean? Well, the church's way of answering that question is through the season we call Lent.

Lent starts on February 14 and I hope you will join us at Bethany Lutheran Church in Palmyra at 7pm for the service we call Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday begins Lent by reminding us that we are all created by God from dust and that to dust we will all return. Not exactly a pleasant thing to contemplate.



Yet as followers of Jesus Christ, we can contemplate death not with fear, but with confidence when we truly acknowledge Jesus is the one who can save us from death and instead bring us into a new and wonderful future with the Living God. We can use this time of Lent to help resolve our questions of what it means to believe in and follow Jesus. We can think and pray and act to let Him play a greater role in our lives. We can spend Lent getting to know Jesus not just as our Savior, but our utterly reliable and Holy Friend.

Some, many, just don't know what to think about Jesus or how to follow him. We offer at Covenant some resources to help you along your journey. Please take advantage of our Daily Prayer service that comes in your email Monday through Saturday. Ten minutes of scripture and prayer to remind us that we are God's Children. Join us Wednesdays at 7 on Zoom for Bible Study. If you haven't been to worship, watch our full worship service or look at the sermon, also sent by email.



Some of you may not be comfortable with the technology but that's OK. Please reach out to Greg to let him know you need help with our electronic services and I will be happy to come over and get you set up so you can walk more closely with God.

Then it won't matter if there's snow or not, you'll be reminded that in Jesus Christ, God is always with us.

Have a blessed Lenten season.

Pastor Bob

Message from Session

As we anticipate the arrival of the Lenten season, it is appropriate for Ash Wednesday to fall on Valentine's Day, February 14th. There are many scripture readings explaining to us that God is Love and the ultimate display of his love was sending his son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins.

1 John 4: 8-12

8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Lent is a time to open our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper so that when Good Friday and Easter come, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing graces God has to offer and share that love with each other.

**Bonnie Cain
Elder**

Schedules

Greeter/Usher

2/4: Robin and Dave Sutton

2/11: Boy Scouts

2/18: Cheryl and Anthony Cinque

2/25: Barbara Seither and Carol Ortlip

Refreshments

2/4: Christy Jeffries

2/11: Boy Scouts

2/18: Diane Steel

2/25: Donna Scioli

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2/5: Nicole DiBona

2/7: Emily Minieri

2/13: Kevin Todd

2/22: David Raymond

2/23: Steve Peak

2/23: Jonathan Martin

2/28: Carol Ortlip

Music

Covenant's chancel choir will be performing throughout the month of February. All are welcome to sing! Rehearsals take place after worship services at 11 AM in the choir room.



2/4: "Behold the Lamb" by Getty and Townend

2/11: "Agnus Dei" by Smith

2/18: "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" arr. Joel Raney

2/25: "Old Rugged Cross" by Joel Raney

We welcome guest musicians Elisa Muzzillo on flute and Kevin Hill on drums.

Covenant's bell choir rehearses on Mondays at 7 PM. All are welcome to ring!



Bell choir will be performing music reflecting the season of Lent on February 25:

“On Eagle’s Wings”

“Contemplation on Passion Chorale”

“The Road to Jerusalem”

Daily Prayer

Covenant is now offering Daily Prayer videos narrated by our new Pastor, Bob! This is a wonderful way to begin each day in prayer. If you are not receiving them, please notify Bob, or Greg and you will be placed on the email list.



Christian Caring Center

Non-perishable food items may be brought the 1st Sunday of the month and placed in the narthex. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Flower Chart

The flower chart is posted on the bulletin board for 2024. Sign your name on a specific date in order to dedicate flowers to a loved one.



Lunch After Worship

Covenant will be hosting lunch after worship services on Sunday February 25. The signup sheet is located on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please place your name on the signup sheet so we have a head count. Thank you!

BIBLE STUDY WITH BOB!

To get the new year started, Pastor Bob invites you to join an online Bible Study to be presented over Zoom on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Sign in from home! Dress however you like!

The Zoom app is available on computer, phones and iPads and can easily downloaded from the App Store (Apple) or the Google Play App. You will get an email on Tuesday and Wednesday with a study guide and log in code.

Unlike other Bible Studies you might have been part of, in this one we will be studying the great themes of the Bible which are found in almost every book.

Bible Study

Bible study is located in the Lounge on Mondays at 11 AM. We hope to see you there!



Your Participation is Needed!

Members are invited to participate in our services. Please contact Bonnie Cain or Greg DiBona if you are interested in reading scripture or leading our worship services. We are also in need of more volunteers to operate the camera and soundboard. Please contact the church office if you are interested.



SUNDAY SOUP SALE

Sunday, February 11th after Service.

All proceeds from the Sale will benefit the Missions that we support locally and abroad enabling us to do more for those in need.

There will be 4 different homemade soups plus Chili. Quarts will be \$10.00 and pints \$5.00

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to make a homemade soup for a future sale please contact

**Mary Lou Newborg
609-417-5639**



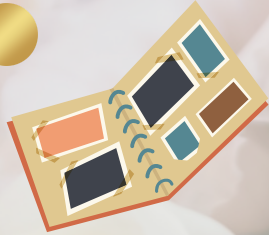


PHOTO ALBUM

One of our members, Grace Hafner, has compiled a beautiful photo album of many wonderful memories over the years at Covenant. Take some time during refreshments to view this special book. If you do not have time after the service, the album will be available in the main office during office hours.



THANK YOU NOTE FROM TREVA

**Dear Covenant Family,
Words cannot express how thankful I am to belong to such a caring, thoughtful church family. Thank you so much for all your love, support and prayers during my recent illness. Thank you for the many cards I received. It's been a struggle but your love has helped me get through the tough times. Thanks also to Pastor Bob for his visits and the poinsettia he brought me to decorate my room.**

God Bless All!

**Love,
Treva**