



THE TIDINGS

May 2021

Covenant Congregational Church

Celebrating over 135 years of ministry

"Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin."

Zechariah 4:10a

As I write this the beauty of spring is just beginning. Tulips and daffodils, the first to emerge each spring, reach for the sun. The trees are beginning to bud. The grass is lush and green. As this is our first spring in Easton, each plant and flower that emerges in our yard is a surprise and a joy. It seems that every day we notice a new plant and we ask each other: I wonder what that will be?

Yet the beginning of spring, if taken at face value, can be a little underwhelming. Tiny green things poking up from the ground are not all that impressive. They are small. They are vulnerable to frost and hungry deer. They aren't much to look at.

But we all know that these little shoots signify something greater, something far beyond themselves-- they signify spring! And so when we see green things appearing on the bushes and in the ground we see not just what they ARE but what they WILL be. The unassuming buds are just the beginning. They represent the coming beauty and the warmer weather.

I want to challenge this church to 'not despise small beginnings.' But rather to rejoice with the Lord that the work of his gospel has begun in this new season.

Rejoicing in the work that has begun means that we must take the time to notice the small buds and the glimmers of new life in our congregation. But it also means that we must rejoice in the *PROCESS* of new life and health. Being frustrated that a bud is still a bud doesn't make it bloom any faster. As we emerge from covid in the coming months (with new pastors) we must rejoice in the process that is before us--a process of transformation. For many, things will move too slow and for others too fast but we can be united around this challenge *to not despise small beginnings because the LORD rejoices to see the work.*

These glimmers of new life that we see should be celebrated because of what they are now but also because of what they point to and what they represent: the gospel of Jesus working through us to further his kingdom.

He who began a good work in *Covenant Congregational Church** will be faithful to complete it. Philippians 1:6

*emphasis mine.





VBS Is Back!

Mark your calendars for August 16th through August 20th! We are looking for volunteers to help for the week of VBS. We need your help to give the children an adventure of a lifetime! We will follow all Covid-19 protocols in place at that time.

If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please contact Karen Short (508-238-1332) or Liz Eaton (508-942-3958).



Adult Sunday School: Fruit of the Spirit

What does it mean to have a fruitful life? How can I grow in the Spirit? What is the difference between kindness and goodness?! Join an exploration of the fruit of the Spirit on Sundays at 9:00 a.m., led by Pastor Ryan, via ZOOM. This study began April 25th and runs until the summer.



Click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81198593040?pwd=czJlL0t5dks2cng4bGswN3BMRDZpZz09>

Meeting ID: 811 9859 3040 and Passcode: 852561

For questions regarding zoom, contact the church office (office@ecovchurch.org).

Special Confirmation Worship Service on May 23rd

The Confirmation Class of 2020/2021 will be celebrating Confirmation Sunday on May 23 at 10:30am. Eight amazing students will be confirmed as they share their faith testimonies, and lead portions of the worship service.

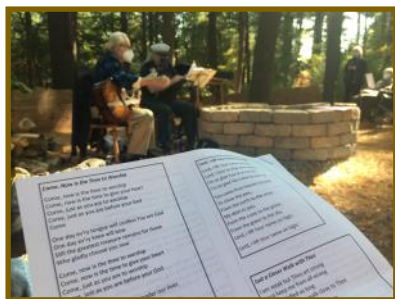
Please make your reservations early for Confirmation Sunday. The service will be live streamed as well.

Confirmation is a yearlong faith journey of studying the Bible and learning about Jesus' incredible life, His sacrifices, and His deep love and promises to us. This year's class of 8 students (7 boys and 1 girl) met on Sunday evenings from September through May, and participated in two retreats to study and experience God's Word.

Despite the pandemic, the students and parents rose above the challenges and showed their deep dedication and commitment to Confirmation. Pastor Ryan, Peter Fredericksen and Cheryl Opper were the leaders and found it a true privilege and honor to be part of this year's Confirmands' journey. The leaders were impressed with the engagement, discussions and thoughtfulness of the students. In addition to studying the Old Testament and New Testament each student completed 10 worship forms where they explored different parts of the worship service and shared their thoughts, questions and insights.

On May 2, the students will participate in their "Acts of Kindness" class project where they will do yard clean-ups for some of our neighbors in need. We often talk in class about the importance of paying it forward for others. "Whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Please pray for our students and show your support and love for our 2020/2021 Confirmands: John Anderson, Christian and Derek Fredericksen, Tatum Fritchman, Tyler Ingalls, Brody Lake, Aiden McLaughlin, Alex Vasiliou



Outdoor Hymn Sing: May 2

We are looking forward to singing hymns and spiritual songs together Sunday afternoon, May 2nd, 1:30 p.m. at the Outdoor Chapel. All Covid protocols will be followed to create a welcoming and joyful setting for all. If weather doesn't permit, we will use May 16 as our back up plan. Email the church office for more information!

Mother's Day is May 9

DON'T FORGET TO
REMEMBER

To the women who long to be mothers or who feel pain around motherhood, we love you and we see you. May you know this day and always how valuable you are. Thank you to all the women who are mothers or who have been like a mother to so many in this community. May you know this day and always how valuable you are.

Coffee Hour Returns

WOOOHOOO!!!! Mark your calendars for May 16th!

The Fellowship Ministry will be hosting Coffee Hour in the circle.

Looking forward to being together once again. All Covid 19 safety protocols will be followed to ensure a joyful time of fellowship together.



Teen Challenge Run and Toiletry Donations

5th Annual Virtual 5K Run/Walk to End Addiction is June 26, 2021 at 7:00 AM.

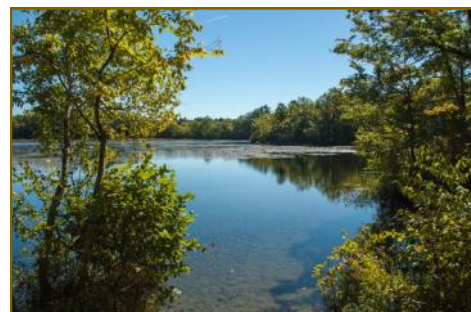
It's that time of year again. Please join the "Covenant Cross Trainers" team as a runner/walker by clicking on the following: <https://racewire.com/register.php?id=12010> Look for the section "Team Registration Style" and pick the button to join a team. Covenant Cross Trainers is already set up.

This year's event is different because you can start any time before June 26. You have your choice of how you want to complete your 5K Run/Walk. Here are some ideas: Do it on your own or as a family/neighborhood event, Zoom meeting walk/run, walk in place, stretch the 5K over several days. We are in process of organizing a local CCC group walk and will provide more details soon.

Toiletry Donations

We are still collecting regular and sample size toiletry donations for Teen Challenge. A collection box is located in the Narthex. List of suggested items are: Shaving cream; disposable 2 or 3 blade razors; deodorant (white); hand lotion in tubes; soap/body wash; shampoo; toothpaste; toothbrushes; mouthwash (non-alcohol); floss picks/dental floss; combs; Qtips; nail clippers. Non-toiletry items: Bible covers; study Bibles; notebooks; packaged T-shirts/briefs (all sizes).

For more information contact Cathy Zelinski, our Run/walk team captain (email CALZelinski@aol.com, mobile (508-272-1586) or Lita Kuipers (email Lk83cw@verizon.net).



Bike Collection

A used bike collection will happen in conjunction with Bikes Not Bombs (BNB) on **Saturday, May 22nd**, from 9 AM – 1 PM in the parking lot of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 143 Lincoln St, N Easton. Bikes and all parts are acceptable. To learn more about what is collected and where in the Global South (El Salvador, Guatemala, Rwanda, Nevis Island, etc.) most of the bikes will be shipped to, please see the BNB website: <https://bikesnotbombs.org/>



If you are able to contribute \$20, or whatever amount you'd like, BNB also accepts donations to help with transportation to these far away destinations. A container with 600 bikes and all kinds of parts that was just shipped earlier this month to Rwanda cost over \$8000.

Any monetary donation is tax deductible. But donating money in addition to donating bikes is entirely optional.

In the meantime, if you see bikes that people are giving away in front of their homes and you have a means of transporting them to your house, please do. If not, please let me know. In the past week, I collected 7 bikes, all within 2 miles of my house. Please call or text Rita Corey with any questions: 781-784-4533.

Children's Sunday: June 13



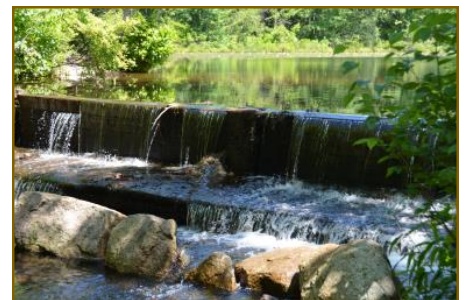
Help continue the tradition started in 1902 of giving a red geranium plant to each Sunday School student on Children's Sunday.

Donations may be placed in the offering plate, dropped off at the church, or made online. Please note on the envelope that this donation goes towards "Children's Sunday geraniums."

Children! Are you practicing memorizing Psalm 23? Remember Judy's promise: if you can recite some or all of the 23rd Psalm upon collecting your geranium, you will get a prize!

Children and Youth Programs Are Coming Soon!

We are very excited to announce that VBS is returning August 16 - 20. See our VBS article for more details. Thank you, Liz Eaton and Karen Short for Co-Chairing this important program for our kids and community. We can't wait to see this year's theme and experience the fun activities as we learn about Jesus' great love for us!



Get ready for our Children's Rally Sunday on 9/12, for grades Pre-K through 12th grade. Sunday School classes are from 9:15-10:15am. Join us on 9/12 as we kick-off a new year!

We need someone to serve as our Sunday School Director. We work as a team so you will have plenty of support from our wonderful volunteer teachers. We also need a Sunday School teacher for our 4th and 5th graders. If you are interested in working with our children and youth in any capacity please contact Cheryl Oppen at 781-254-2490 or children@ecovchurch.org for more information.

Our Junior Church and Nursery Care programs held during Sunday worship services will start up again on 9/12. We have missed seeing our children and youth and look forward to a great year ahead!



Greeters and Ushers Needed

The Health and Safety Team has worked diligently to follow health and safety guidelines to keep visitors and members safe and, toward that end, has primarily taken over the weekly tasks of Ushering and Greeting.

We are so grateful for those of you who have volunteered your time to welcome our church and visitors back into the building.

We need more volunteers to come forward, as the committee is small and we occasionally struggle to find sufficient helpers.

Please call Melissa Gallinaro (508) 241-2708 or Cheryl Opper (781) 254-2490 if you are able to help.

Whole Life Stewardship

Lists! We all have them. Grocery lists. School supplies lists. Honey do lists. Bucket lists. They seem to be our way of life sometimes. We even have unwritten lists. You know, those things we mean to do...later, when we have time. Sometimes our acts of kindness are on those unwritten lists. I'd like to share the lyrics of an old song that has stuck with me for a very long time. This is whole life stewardship in action.

I May Never Pass This Way Again

I'll give my hand to those who cannot see the sunrise or the falling rain.

I'll sing my song to cheer the weary along for I may never pass this way again.

I'll share my faith with every trouble heart so I shall not have lived in vain.

I'll give my hand, I'll sing my song, I'll share my faith because I know that the time is now to fulfill each vow for I may never pass this way again.

Stewardship Is...



Love in Action

A Note From Pastor Devyn

Thanks everyone for your prayers recently as the girls and I traveled to Seattle. We had a wonderful time reuniting with my family after nearly 2 years!

Thank you for rejoicing with me in this opportunity and for all the birthday wishes and cards I received!



The Church Prayer Meetings

The church prayer meetings are Monday evenings at 7:30 through the month of May. Please join us in carrying one another before the throne of God.

Here is the zoom information to join the prayer meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87526368525?pwd=bmJRZEppbFhpVy9ReXFjUkZpSktXdz09>

Meeting ID: 875 2636 8525, Passcode: 544237





**For questions or information,
contact:**

Bev Carlson
Chair of Worship & Music
Ministries

Ginny Elson
Director of
Music Ministries

Worship & Music Notes

Worship and Music Ministry Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, May 4, 7 p.m.

Choir Meetings/Rehearsals (Zoom)

Thursdays, May 6 and 20, 7 p.m.

Choir and Handbells Parking Lot Picnic

Sunday, May 2, after worship (weather date, May 16)

Bring a lawn chair and a bag lunch for a period of in-person prayer, devotion, and fellowship.

Handbell Rehearsals

Saturdays, May 15, 22, 29, and June 5, 11 am, Sanctuary

Upcoming Special Dates

Sunday, May 9, Mother's Day

Sunday, May 23, Pentecost Sunday/Confirmation

Sunday June 6, Music Appreciation Sunday

Sunday, June 13, Children's Sunday

Easter Joy Continues: Singing Hymns on the Lawn

We enjoyed singing two Easter hymns on the front lawn after both services Easter morning. To Bob and Dave and the Worship & Music team, thank you for all your planning and playing to make Easter extra celebratory on such a beautiful day. Below are images from the 10:30 and 8:30 services.



Easter Scavenger Hunt

A huge thank you to the Children & Youth Team (Joyce Nelson & Erin Gomes, and other organizers) for their hard work and creativity in planning and implementing a safe egg scavenger hunt. Enjoy images from the celebratory day!



Closing the Gap to Build a Stronger Future

The Council recently appointed a committee to address our 2021 budget gap. The committee members are: Bob Clary, Liz Eaton, Jerry Marsan, Tom McCormick, Cheryl Oppen and Ray Wallace

The goal is not to just close the gap but to build a stronger foundation for our church, to grow our church family, and reconnect with our community. To reach these goals we are launching our “Closing the Gap to Build a Stronger Future” efforts.



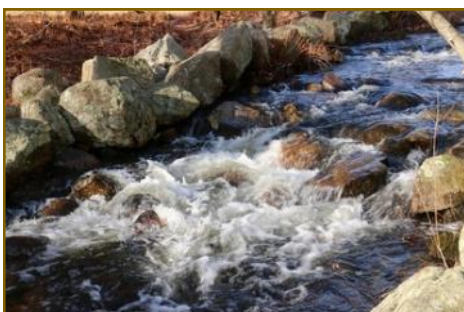
At our annual meeting we voted in a \$36,600 budget deficit. We took a leap of faith, and trusted that God would help us close that gap. Well as we know GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME! In April a family from our church generously made a \$20,000 pledge to help us shrink our budget gap. God is answering our prayers!! Praise the Lord!

We don't want to just close the remaining \$16,600 budget gap to cover our expenses, we want to share the love and hope of Jesus Christ with our neighbors as we continue to grow our church family.

Remember all gifts, no matter the size, will make a difference. God always blesses our giving! Here are some ways you can join us:

1. Make a donation to our church by writing a check. Add a little extra to your weekly or monthly giving.
2. Use our GivePlus online application to donate in memory of or honor of a loved one. Celebrate a birthday, coach or teacher by donating to the church.
3. Hold a family yard sale or set up a lemonade stand and donate your proceeds to the church.
4. Give up a few Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts drinks each week and put whatever you would spend in a jar. You would be surprised how quickly this adds up.
5. Share some of your stimulus check with the church to do God's work.
6. Sell some of your stocks to donate to the church.

Be creative, engage your kids, and challenge your family, to be a part of our church efforts to grow our church family and reconnect with our community. For more information contact any committee member. Together we can make a real difference!



faith and
finances

YTD Financials as of April 23, 2021

Income	83,326.11
Expenses	83,136.64
Net	189.47

GIVEPLUS⁺
A VANCO COMPANY



Join us for Sunday Worship Service at 10:30am

The Health and Safety Team has been working closely with the Pastors and the Worship and Music Team to provide a welcoming safe environment on Sunday mornings to celebrate God's love and His word.

Reservations are encouraged, but we also welcome walk-ins on Sunday mornings. We have plenty of safe seating and would love to see your smiling faces in person. We will continue to follow state guidelines as we provide social distancing seating, as well as masks and hand sanitizer.

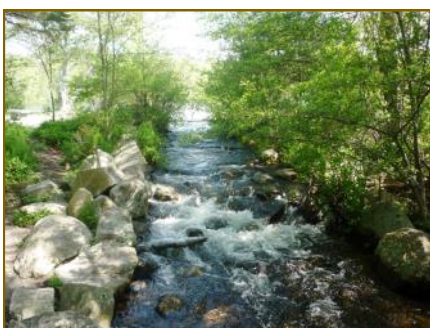


We would like to say a special thank you to our amazing Worship and Music staff and volunteers: Ginny, Alice, Susan, Adam, Jeff, Kam, Dave, all of our wonderful musicians, our incredible virtual choir, our beautiful handbell choirs, and our dedicated camera operators. All of you have played an important role in our worship services. Also, we want to thank all of our ushers and greeters who have been overseeing our health and safety guidelines each week. Bless you all!!

As we continue to fill our sanctuary, our online live streaming services will continue! If you are interested in being a part of our worship volunteers please contact the church office. We welcome and need your support!

From the Church Office

June Tidings submissions are due Tuesday, May 18th. Email your submissions to the church office: office@ecovchurch.org. Please note that PDF's don't play nicely with Publisher, the program used to create The Tidings.



Summer Office Hours



Looking Ahead: Beginning June 1, the church office hours will be Tuesday to Thursday, 10AM-2PM.

Contact Information for the Pastors

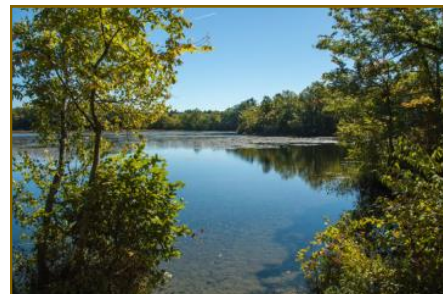
The Pastors currently hold the following office hours:

Pastor Devyn: Monday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., pastordevyn@ecovchurch.org; 773-818-7984

Pastor Ryan: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., pastorryan@ecovchurch.org; 773-895-7186

Tuesday is their day off.

(Please note this will change during school holidays.)



Celebrating *May* Birthdays!

Nichole Benvie	1	Brian Dennehy	7	Maxwell Kelly	19	Diane Hayes	26
Walter Valenzuela	1	Annie Poirier	7	Loriann Legare	20	Clifford Horne	26
Alex Slomba	2	Kimberly Sproul	7	Daniel Jennings	21	Blake Haynes	27
Niko Zelinski	2	Bryanna Finlayson	8	Ruth Porter	21	Gage Fritchman	28
Gregory Ribelin	3	Susan Plante	10	Shawn Clary	22	Carly Cidado	29
Rosemary Anderson	4	Roger Williams	12	Joyce Bean	26	Rosemary Larson	29
Diane Cidado	4	Anna Falls	14	Rebecca Carroll	26	Griffin Clary	31
Cooper Johnson	4	Judith Davis	15			Joseph Raduazzo	31



Care Ministry

Prayers of Petition

- Would we read and pray the Bible and see that the Lord is with us, despite our circumstances
- Our patience with one another as we have different opinions about Covid and it's ramifications
- Wisdom and discernment for our church as we continue to meet in person on Sunday mornings
- Those who are isolated and alone
- Those recovering from Covid and other illnesses
- Caleb Hurst as he continues to grow stronger as he approaches his first birthday
- Pilgrim Pines and New England Seafarers Mission: their finances and futures
- The health of marriages in the church and for those who long to be married
- Parents as they juggle work and childcare
- Kathy Murphy, friend of Steve and Sandy Willette, who is battling cancer
- Karen McSherry's brother, Mark, and his family, as he continues to deal with multiple health issues
- Please pray for continued strength and improvement for Len "Cid" Cidado

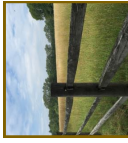
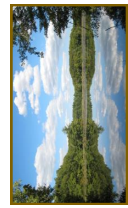
Prayers of Thanksgiving and Celebration

- God's promises are trustworthy and true. This is our rest.
- Our online worship services reach beyond our church family, and those participating in the sanctuary and from their homes
- The 8 Confirmants continuing the Confirmation class, as they learn and grow in their faith
- Cathy Zelinski's nephew, Burton, is recovering well from brain surgery
- The good results of Caleb Hurst's recent heart surgery. He is now sleeping through the night. Praise the Lord!
- Aimee Slomba's full healing
- Mike Bassett's continued recovery from prostate cancer



Psalm 121
A Song of Ascents

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.
- 6 The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
- 8 The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 Adult Class (Zoom) 10:30 Worship & Communion <i>Choir Lunch!</i> 1:30 Hymn Sing (OC) 5:00 Confirmation Class	3 7-8:00 Men's Bible Study 7:30 Prayer Hour	4 7:00 Worship & Music 7:00 Children & Youth	5	6 7:00 Choir	7	8
9  9:00 Adult Class (Zoom) 10:30 Worship 5:00 Confirmation Class	10 7-8:00 Men's Bible Study 7:00 Mission & Service 7:30 Prayer Hour	11 7:00 Council	12	13	14	15 11:00 Handbells
16 9:00 Adult Class (Zoom) 10:30 Worship with All Ages <i>Coffee Hour after the service!</i> 5:00 Confirmation Rehearsal	17 7-8:00 Men's Bible Study 7:30 Prayer Hour	18 7:00 PRC <i>June Tidings Due</i>	19	20 7:00 Choir	21	22 9—1:00 Bikes Not Bombs Bike Donations @ HTEC 11:00 Handbells
23  9:00 Adult Class (Zoom) 10:30 Confirmation Sunday	24 7-8:00 Men's Bible Study 7:30 Prayer Hour	25	26	27	28	29 11:00 Handbells
30 9:00 Adult Class (Zoom) 10:30 Worship	31 					



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N. Easton, MA 02356

Permit No. 20



CCC AT A GLANCE

Sunday Mornings

10:30 Worship Service (Online and In-person)

Staff:

Pastor Ryan & Pastor Devyn Chambers Johnson

Co-Pastors

Ginny Elson

Director of Music Ministries

Jen Krikorian

Office Administrator

Nick Zelinski

Church Custodian

www.ecovchurch.org

508.238.6423



Our Mission

To **Connect** the generations to Christ, to
Grow in our love for His Church, and to
Serve God in the greater Community