

# The Covenant Contact

June 2024

## Seasons



As we move from Spring into Summer, I'm just now finally getting accustomed to it actually being Spring! When I lived in Arizona, I desperately missed the seasons changing. I missed the rhythm of the fast pace of summer

moving into a slower pace in the Fall as the earth slowly began its slumber. The slow contemplative nature of Winter, and then the excitement of new birth during the Spring all brought a sense of movement in my life.

Whereas, in Arizona, there are two seasons: hot and hotter. You moved a little faster in the Winter, but slower to a slumber in the summer as people huddled inside by their air conditioners, barely able to move in the sweltering heat.

But here it's gradual . . . the seasons move from fast to slighter less fast, to slow and then it picks back up a bit into a quicker pace.

*"See, I am doing a new thing!*

*Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*

*I am making a way in the wilderness*

*and streams in the wasteland.* (Isaiah 43:19)

In this chapter of Isaiah, God is telling his people not to be afraid, because God had rescued them from slavery in Egypt. Why would they need to be told this? Because they were currently in exile in Babylon as a result of their choice to worship other gods. The consequences for their sin, after God mercifully sent prophet after prophet calling them to repentance and they refused, was for God to remove them from the Promised Land, and place them in Babylon for a time.

For some people, winter might feel like exile. They dislike the cold and the snow. For others, summer might feel like exile while they huddle near their fans inside and ask the Lord to bring cool breezes.

We live our lives in a rhythm, whether we realize it or not. Our days and weeks have rhythms that we have carefully put into place based on our choices. There is a breathing in and out to all we do, with people and activities, and those rhythms build our lives.

Our spiritual lives can have rhythms – types of ups and downs. We experience times when God feels far away and cold and times when he feels close and personal. These, too, are rhythms in the same way seasons are throughout our year.

In the verse just before, God tells his people:

*"Forget the former things;*

*do not dwell on the past."* (Isaiah 43:18)

In this case, he's specifically telling them to forget how he brought them out of Egypt, because, as amazing as that was, he was going to do something even more amazing to bring them out of their exile. "I am doing something new and different this time! I am preparing something even better for you," he says to them.

In the high and low rhythms of our lives, the presence of God is always there. It may be our circumstances, our sin, or some other external force that makes him feel far away. The promise is not just that he is present, but that he is doing something in each rhythm, each season, of our life.

The New Testament also speaks of God moving us forward and doing something new in many places. Philippians 3:14 says, *"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."* 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"* And from Hebrews 12: *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off every-thing that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles."*

*And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”*

One of my favorites is Philippians 1:6: *“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”*

So even though this word from Isaiah is to specific people in specific circumstances, we, too, have the promise of God doing something new, and, as that last verse reminds us, something *good*. This is even after Jesus’ rescue of us on the cross. There is more to come in the way Jesus is redeeming the world, and I’m not just talking about when heaven comes to earth and Jesus will reign over all. I’m talking about what he is doing in us, **here** and **now**, as we are called to make disciples and push back the effects of sin in the world. There is more coming in this redemption. Are we ready?

*In Christ, Pastor Stephanie*

### ***Sanctuary Screens***

- **Sanctuary Screens:** We are scheduling work to get the screens installed in July (wiring, equipment, software, etc.). Once that is done, we will begin training and trials so that we can start using them fully in the Fall. The screens will add to our worship experiences on Sunday mornings, and we are working toward a seamless transition. Contact John Bedosky (203-770-5304) for questions.
- **Your Prayers Requested:** Please keep praying for the Church Purpose Team, which is working on discerning the Lord’s voice in the work he is setting before us. Your prayers are an important contribution to this process. Contact Cathy Fredlund (cbfredl@optonline.net or 203-841-7239) with any questions.

### ***Women Ministries***



Women Ministries events are for all women of the church and their friends.

- **Annual Picnic:** Women Ministries invites all girls and women of the church and their friends to our annual picnic on Monday, June 3, at 6 pm at Ann Ryan's. Please bring a potluck dish and join us for dinner, games, a devotional, and dessert!
- **Kitchen Detail:** Tuesday, June 4, at 9:00 am.
- **Book Club** next meets on Wednesday, July 10, at 6:30 pm. The book to read is *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Location TBD: If anyone wants to host outdoors since it will be summer, that would be delightful!

### ***Christian Education***

- **Zumba** meets again one more time at 6:00 pm on June 10 in the Potter’s House. Each session is \$8 per person.
- **CHYG Car Wash and Bake Sale:** CHYG is fundraising for UNITE East (July 15-19) with a car wash and bake sale on Saturday, June 15, 10:00-2:00. Bring your car! Bake something for the sale! Buy something good to eat! (Two youth and two counselors are going to UNITE.)
- **Vacation Bible School:** Contact Cathy Fredlund (203-841-7239), Christy Barrett (203-841-7254), or Mary Butkevich (860-514-4343) if you are interested in working to plan VBS for the week of August 12.
- **Sunday School:** While it’s several months away, we need to plan ahead to be sure all our Sunday School classes are fully staffed. If this is something the Lord is nudging you to do, contact the CE board.

## ***Missions and Evangelism***

- **Teen Challenge will be visiting on June 23:** This is a service of hope and second chances. Many in our society struggle with various kinds of addictions. Reach out to those in your circle of influence who may benefit from this service and invite them! More information to follow on Teen Challenge and what they do for adolescents and adult men and women.
- **Summer Concert Outreach:** We will have an official presence at Thomaston's summer concert series this year, handing out water to anyone who wants it. Concerts are at Reeves Field this year (because the Seth Thomas Park rebuild is starting). We are on the schedule for concerts on June 24, July 15 and 29, and August 5. Concerts start at 7:00 pm. Contact Glenn Hafele) for details.

### ***Summary: Board Meeting of May 19***

Pastor's Stephanie described how the Purpose Team is addressing the task of formulating mission and vision statements for our church.

General Fund offerings as of May 12 are \$63,980.70. General Fund offerings are over budget due to two large and unusual donations from church members totaling \$9,000 received at the beginning of the year. The General Fund balance is \$26,548.90. The restricted funds total is \$40,483.39 (which includes the bank CD of \$10,000). The restricted fund for the sanctuary screens project is \$7,140.00.

The Trustees will hold a spring work day. Osowieckis have been asked to fix a portion of the driveway between our two buildings.

One person, or possibly two, will be recommended for membership at the next congregational business meeting.

### ***(Board Meeting Summary, continued)***

The Thomaston Savings Bank will conduct two financial seminars for us: on July 24, "Getting Your Financial Life in Order," and on November 1, "Are you Being Fleeced?" The church will have an outreach presence for Thomaston's annual Summer Concerts at Reeves Field on the following Monday nights: June 24, July 15, July 29, and August 5.

Vacation Bible School is planned for the week of August 12, with the format or number of days still to be decided. A committee will be formed. The last day of Sunday School will be June 9. This coincides with the June quarterly business meeting, so there will be no meal after worship that day. CE will hold an annual all-church picnic at Nystroms at the end of summer.

"Teen Challenge Adult" will be presenting during worship on June 23. An outreach picnic is planned for July and a pasta dinner for the fall. Three playgrounds will be collected Memorial Day weekend and stored for later shipment to Guatemala. Cathy and Jay Fredlund recently traveled to Guatemala to visit where the playgrounds already sent have been installed.

Last year's WM book swap will be repeated on Saturday, May 18, at Cathy Fredlund's house. The women's book club will meet on May 21. The annual WM picnic is scheduled for June 3. Women Ministries will donate \$300 towards the Sanctuary screens.

Once the Sanctuary screens are installed, the church will ask the sound system company to give training on using the system.

Words for the special music songs during worship will be printed and provided on a table in the wing for those that would like to follow along.

*Jay Fredlund, Vice Chair*

## Youth Groups

**Pathfinders** is for students in Grades 1-3. Leaders are Brenda Tousignant and Lori Vigeant.



**Trailblazers** is for students in Grades 4-6.

**We need a leader for this group**

**D/C (Discipleship/Confirmation)** is for students in grades 7-8, a two-year journey, exploring who God is and what God means in our life. All junior high students are welcome to attend. Leaders are Pastor Stephanie and Jessica Bedosky.



**CHYG (Covenant High Youth Group)** is for all students in grades 9-12. The leaders are Beth Campbell, Sue Sundell, and Gina Whaley.

6/15 10:00-2:00 Car Wash and Bake Sale fundraiser for UNITE



**CHYG UNITE: 7/15-19/2024 @ Bowling Green State University, OH.** Contact Beth Campbell or a member of the CE Board to say you plan to go (UNITE Registration must be done by the church as a group).

**Liturgical Dance** is for girls in grades 1-8. The leader is Jessica Bedosky. Practice times vary and are in the Sanctuary.



## *Banquet of Blessing*

- **Need:** baking mixes/frosting, snack/granola bars, gallon storage bags.
- **No perishable foods. Check expiration dates.** We don't give away out of date food.
- **No canned green beans, mixed vegetables or vegetarian vegetable soup right now.**

## *Prayer Chain*

Contact Prayer Coordinator Mary Butkevich for prayer concerns and rejoicings.

## *Meal Coordinator*

Providing a meal to someone during a difficult time is one way to show how much we care. If you know someone who might benefit, contact Sandy Dunn.

## *Crafty Fridays*

In the Potter's House, 6:00-8:00 pm. If you have a craft to do, bring it. If you don't have a craft but would like to visit and chat, that's okay! Contact: Ruth Johnson.

## *Giving Made Easy*

Give online in just two minutes. You can opt for one time, weekly or monthly donations. Just open the camera app on your phone and scan the QR Code. You will then be taken right to the Giving Page on our website.

Covenant Church of Thomaston  
Giving Page QR Code



# June 2024

(Rev 6/4/2024)

Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24, 25

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>*Sundays:</b> 9:00 am Sunday School for Grades Pre-K-6 and Discipleship/Confirmation for Grades 7-8            10:00 am Worship; 11:15 Fellowship  <b>Sunday worship services</b> are recorded and posted on the church website (<a href="http://covchurchthomaston.org">covchurchthomaston.org</a>). Worship bulletins, which include the weekly announcements, also are posted on the church website.</p>						<p><b>1</b>            9:30-11:30 Liturgical Dance (Sanctuary)</p>
<p><b>2*</b>            11:30 Diaconate (Conference Room)            M&amp;E Board (Youth Room)</p>	<p><b>3</b> 10:45 39ers (Fellowship)             6:00 WM Picnic (Ann Ryan's)</p>	<p><b>4</b> 9:00 Kitchen Detail             6:30 CE Board (Gathering Room)            6:30 Prayer (Church Office)</p>	<p><b>5</b>             6:30 NA (Fellowship)</p>	<p><b>6</b>             7:30 NA Subcommittee (Gathering Room)</p>	<p><b>7</b>             6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>
<p><b>9*</b> Last day of Sunday School            11:30 Quarterly meeting (Sanctuary)</p>	<p><b>10</b>             6:00 Zumba (Potter's House)</p>	<p><b>11</b>             6:30 Prayer (Church Office)</p>	<p><b>12</b>             6:00 Purpose Team (Conference Room)            6:30 NA (Fellowship)</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b>             6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)</p>	<p><b>15</b> 9:30 "Chosen" Group (Esme's &amp; Ruby's)            10:00-2:00 CHYG Car Wash/Bake Sale</p>
<p><b>16*</b></p>	<p><b>17</b>             6:30 Tres Dias Secretariat (Fellowship)</p>	<p><b>18</b>             6:30 Prayer (Church Office)</p>	<p><b>19</b>             6:30 NA (Fellowship)</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b>             6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)            6:30 Tres Dias Secuela (Fellowship)</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23*</b> TEEN CHALLENGE            ADULT            11:30 Trustees (Conference Room)</p>	<p><b>24</b>             Summer Concert Outreach, Reeves Field</p>	<p><b>25</b>             6:30 Prayer (Church Office)</p>	<p><b>26</b>             6:30 NA (Fellowship)</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b>             6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>
<p><b>30</b></p>						

## Volunteers: . . . through love serve one another. Galatians 5:13b

Coffee Fellowship sponsored by: Social Committee \*\*

**\*\*Only beverages are needed and are provided by the church. If you provide a snack, at least one that is gluten-free, please.**

NURSERY			ALTAR FLOWERS			LAY READERS:		
6/2	Courtney Ayer	7/7	Sue Sundell	6/2	Communion, none	6/2	Dawn Roaix	
6/9	Cathy Fredlund Haley Morton	7/14	Christy Barrett Savannah Acevedo	6/9	Liz Montambault	6/9	Dave McClay	
6/16	Patricia Vigeant Megan Campbell	7/21	Lori Vigeant	6/16	Linda Lawrence	6/16	Jessica Bedosky	
6/23	Gina Whaley Lauren Whaley	7/28	Courtney Ayer	6/23	Liz Montambault	6/23	Gina Whaley	
6/30	Mary Butkevich			6/30	Communion, none	6/30	Ann Ryan	
				7/7	7/7	7/7	Ted Ryan	
				7/14	7/14	7/14	Liz Montambault	
				7/21	7/21	7/21	Peggy Schwetz	
				7/28	7/28	7/28	Dawn Roaix	

## Sunday School Staff

K &-Pre-K Grace Duke	3-4 Margrit Saghafi	7-8 (D/C) Pastor Stephanie, Jessica Bedosky
1-2 Lori Vigeant	5-6 Ruth Hopkins	

## Youth Staff

CHYG (Grades 7-12) Beth Campbell Sue Sundell, Gina Whaley	Trailblazers (Grades 4-6)	Pathfinders (Grades 1-3) Brenda Tousignant, Lori Vigeant
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Liturgical Dance (Girls, grades 1-8) Jessica Bedosky, Peggy Schwetz, Britta Saghafi

## June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays	9 Taylor Gomes	25 Harriet McClay	Anniversaries
2 Tim Sundell	10 Gina Whaley	28 Zoey Conlon	13 Karen & George Anticoli (60)*
3 Connor Dunn	11 Greta Barrett	29 Peggy Schwetz	22 Michelle & James Bothroyd
3 Ruth Hopkins	14 Mike Barrett		25 Ruth & Ken Hopkins
4 Courtney Ayer	16 Darrell Bishop		28 Lauren & Peter Butkevich
4 Ann Ryan (84)*	20 Erik Sundell		28 Margrit & Jamie Saghafi
5 Bee Bothroyd (85)*	21 Jim Bothroyd (84)*		28 Martha & Jim Tillow
7 Lori Vigeant	21 Debbie Hurlbert		28 Brenda & John Tousignant

## Connections:

- Pastor: Stephanie Nelson: pastor@covchurchthomaston.org
- Treasurer: Ken Hopkins:
- Office "Churchmouse" Ruth Johnson: cmouse@covchurchthomaston.org or 860-605-8040
- Church Chair: John Bedosky: Office/Kitchen: 860-283-5071
- Diaconate Chair: Cathy Fredlund: ➤ Meal Coordinator: Sandra Dunn
- Prayer Coordinator: Mary Butkevich