

# The Covenant Contact

September 2024

## Passionate Invitations



Being passionate about something isn't always easy. The stuff of everyday life keeps our attention focused on survival: rest, work, family, and all that comes with maintaining

our lives.

One of my favorite theologians, Friedrich Buechner, writes, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

Deep gladness is hunger, passion, and a drive that motivates us — a 'burning in the bones' so deep inside of us that it will reveal itself at some point in our lives. I wholeheartedly believe this burning, this passion, this drive, is God-given. It looks different for each of us, but it comes from the same place for all believers: it's part of a passionate pursuit of Jesus.

This pursuit of Jesus is more significant than the passion we feel for our job or family, and it ought to be the overarching pursuit of our lives. Any other passion we have must fall under this arch.

*The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:2-3)*

God has pursued each one of us, and we have experienced the love of Jesus so profoundly that we

testify to and proclaim this fact. This is not easy to do in a world that often feels hostile to the Church. Yet a passionate pursuit of Jesus calls us to be a people of proclamation for what He has done in our lives.

One reason the world feels hostile to the Church is the assumption it's an organization that wants something from people. But what if we could communicate an invitation to people that the Church isn't looking to get something from them but has something for them?

1 John 1:3 actually speaks directly to this:

*"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ."*

There are around 7,000 people in Thomaston. I know of about eight churches that meet and most of them consist of less than 50 people. When you do that math, that's a lot of people who aren't attending church. Thousands, even. Many don't realize they need Jesus. We no longer live in a world where church is a forgone conclusion, so we must open our eyes to the opportunities around us.

We also must be a church willing to be intentional. . . to welcome, to reach out, invite, and care for the people in the community around us. But the overarching passion behind this should be the invitation that Jesus and the Church has for people, for each one to have fellowship with God and his people.

*In Christ, Pastor Stephanie*

- **Pastor Stephanie** will be in Chicago for a doctoral class for the first two weeks of September and also will be at the Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Pines (9/13-15). If you need pastoral care during this time, contact Church Chair John Bedosky, Diaconate Chair Cathy Fredlund, or any Diaconate member.

## ***Financial Life Seminar***

- **Financial Life in Order Class:** Wills, Trusts, Money Management?! Getting your financial life in order can free you to do what God's called you to do. Covenant Trust, a financial services organization serving the ministries, members, and friends of the Evangelical Covenant Church, will present this one-time seminar on September 27 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Room.

A financial life in order means building a financial plan that allows you to save money, afford the things you really want, and achieve long-term goals like saving for college and retirement. In this presentation, we'll discuss the components that make up a smart financial plan including saving, investing and estate planning and why you need them in your financial plan.

Light snacks and drinks will be available. All are welcome! Invite your friends.

## ***Women Ministries***



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

- **The ECCWM Fall Retreat** at Pilgrim Pines is September 13-15! The Rev. Dr. Devyn Chambers-Johnson will speak on "This Is My Story" – living and proclaiming the Good News. Pastor Stephanie is leading worship for the retreat and teaching a session on spiritual gifts. Registration is due by September 7. Go to [www.pilgrimpines.org/ecc-womens-fall-retreat](http://www.pilgrimpines.org/ecc-womens-fall-retreat).
- **Book Club** next meets on Wednesday, September 4, at 6:30 pm at Morton's Pond (Old Northfield Road, Thomaston).

## ***Quarterly Meeting Change***

- The date for the Quarterly meeting of the congregation usually held in September is postponed to October 13, 11:30 after worship in the Sanctuary.

## ***Diaconate***

- **The RSV Bibles** that were removed from the pews are in boxes in the conference room. You are welcome to take as many as you need before we give them away.

## ***"Chosen" Group***

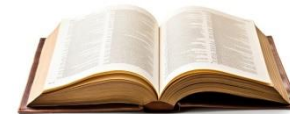
- **The group** viewing "The Chosen" episodes meets on Saturday mornings at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Room (except for breakfast at Esme's & Ruby's the fourth Saturday of the month). All are invited. Tea will be available!

## ***Lay Readers***

- **A new schedule** for lay readers is being prepared for October and the months following. If you would like to be added to the rotation, contact Ruth Johnson.

## ***39ers Study***

- **The 39ers** begin meeting again on September 9 at 10:45 am in the Fellowship Room. They meet during the school year on Mondays when Thomaston Schools are in session (no meeting when school is canceled).



## Youth Groups

Trailbalzers/Pathfinders is for students in Grades 1-3 and 4-6. Leaders are Brenda Tousignant, Lori Vigeant, and Haley Morton. They meet once a month



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 7-12. The leaders are Beth Campbell and Sue Sundell.



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



## Christian Education

- **Zumba is moving**, starting September 9, from Tuesdays to Mondays, 6:30 pm, in the Potter's House.
- **Sunday School returns September 15:** We need 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.
- **Ice Cream Social and Youth Program Registration.** Come on Sunday, September 15, 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Room to register your children for Sunday School and the youth groups.

## Banquet of Blessing

- **Need:** snack/granola bars, pasta sides, potato sides, paper towels, toilet paper
- **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



# September 2024

(Rev 8/29/2024)

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:4-5

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1*</b> 11:30 M&E (Youth Room)	<b>2</b> LABOR DAY <i>Pastor Stephanie away for class</i>	<b>3</b> <i>Pastor Stephanie away for class</i>  6:30 Zumba (Potter's) 6:30 Prayer (Church Office)	<b>4</b> <i>Pastor Stephanie away for class</i>  6:30 Book Club (Morton's Pond) 6:30 NA (Fellowship)	<b>5</b> <i>Pastor Stephanie away for class</i>  6:30 CE Board (Potter's House) 7:30 NA Subcommittee (Gathering Room)	<b>6</b> <i>Pastor Stephanie away for class</i>  6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)	<b>7</b> 10:00 "Chosen" Group (Fellowship)  <i>Pastor Stephanie away for class</i>
<b>8*</b> <i>Pastor Stephanie away for class</i>	<b>9</b> 10:45 39ers Study (Fellowship)  <i>Pastor Stephanie away for class</i>  6:30 Zumba (Potter's)	<b>10</b> <i>Pastor Stephanie away for class</i>  6:30 Prayer (Church Office)	<b>11</b> <i>Pastor Stephanie away for class</i>  6:30 NA (Fellowship)	<b>12</b> <i>Pastor Stephanie away for class</i>	<b>13</b> <i>Pastor Stephanie away for class/retreat</i> Women's Retreat (Pilgrim Pines)  6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)	<b>14</b> 10:00 "Chosen" Group (Fellowship)  <i>Pastor Stephanie at Women's Retreat</i>
<b>15*</b> 9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS! <i>Pastor Stephanie and Women's Retreat return</i> 4:00 Ice Cream Social and Registration for Sunday School and Youth programs (Fellowship)	<b>16</b> 10:45 39ers Study (Fellowship)  6:30 Tres Dias Secretariat (Fellowship) 6:30 Zumba (Potter's)	<b>17</b>  6:30 Prayer (Church Office)	<b>18</b>  6:30 NA (Fellowship)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House) 6:30 Tres Dias Secuela (Fellowship)	<b>21</b> 9:00-4:00 Private (Gathering Room)  10:00 "Chosen" Group (Fellowship)
<b>22*</b> 11:30 Trustees (Potter's House)	<b>23</b> 10:45 39ers Study (Fellowship)  6:30 Zumba (Potter's)	<b>24</b>  6:30 Prayer (Church Office)	<b>25</b>  6:30 NA (Fellowship)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Financial Life Seminar (Fellowship)	<b>28</b> 9:30 "Chosen" Group (Esme's & Ruby's)
<b>29*</b>	<b>30</b> 10:45 39ers Study (Fellowship)  6:30 Zumba (Potter's)	*Sundays: 10:00 am Worship; 11:15 Fellowship Sunday School starts on 9/15 at 9:00 am <u>Sunday worship services</u> 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.				

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

Coffee Fellowship sponsored by: Missions & Evangelism Board \*\*

**\*\*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:			
9/1	Christy Barrett Savannah Acevedo	10/6	Patricia Vigeant Megan Campbell	9/1	Communion – none	9/1	Ted Ryan
9/8	Lori Vigeant	10/13	Gina Whaley Lauren Whaley	9/8		9/8	Liz Montambault
9/15	Courtney Ayer	10/20	Sue Sundell	9/15		9/15	Peggy Schwetz
9/22	Cathy Fredlund Haley Morton	10/27	Christy Barrett Savannah Acevedo	9/22		9/22	Dawn Roaix
9/29	Mary Butkevich			9/29		9/29	Dave McClay
				10/6	Communion – none	10/6	
				10/13		10/13	
				10/ 20		10/ 20	
				10/27		10/27	

**Sunday School Staff**

K &-Pre-K Grace Duke	3-4 Mary Butkevich	7-8 (D/C) Pastor Stephanie
1-2 Lori Vigeant	5-6 Ruth Hopkins	Class Helpers: Christy Barrett, Drew Gomes, Patricia Vigeant

**Youth Staff**

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

**September Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Birthdays		Anniversaries
10 Brian Dayton	23 Gunnar Saghafi	2 Rebecca & Nick DeLotto
11 Peighton Giambra	27 Jay Herbert	8 Mary & John Butkevich
17 Art Piel (86)*	30 Becky Morton	16 Celeste & Mike Bergamo
20 Kurt Bengston		16 Cheryl & Craig Morton
21 Brenda Tousignant		28 Cathy & Jay Fredlund
		30 Dawn & David Roaix

**Connections:**

- Pastor: Stephanie Nelson: pastor@covchurchthomaston.org or 860-283-9146 (study)
- Church Chair: John Bedosky
- Diaconate Chair: Cathy Fredlund
- Treasurer: Ken Hopkins
- Office "Churchmouse" Ruth Johnson  
Office/Kitchen: 860-283-5071
- Meal Coordinator: Sandra Dunn
- Prayer Coordinator: Mary Butkevich