

The Covenant Contact

March 2025

Aiming

*Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and he will establish your plans.* (Proverbs 16:3)

Remember when you were young and trying to figure out what you were good at? You joined a baseball or softball team to see if that was fun. You took on different types of projects in 4-H in the summer to see what you might be good and creative at. You joined the chess club or debate club as you got older, trying to figure out: - am I a strategic thinker? Do I like to argue the other side of an issue even if I don't agree with it?

Or maybe you asked, "Can I shoot the ball in the hoop pretty easily?" Or "I can jump pretty high - maybe trying hurdles in track is the way to go?"

Whatever you tried, you pursued it or stopped it for probably two reasons: 1) you didn't enjoy it, or 2) you weren't very good at it.

Those two things often go together, but I know people who aren't good at something they really love. And that's okay - as long as the passion and the desire are there.

I read this story at our most recent Quarterly Business Meeting, and it illustrates the point I'm trying to make:

THE ARCHER - A PARABLE

There's an old story about a man who's walking around a farm, when he turns the corner of a barn to discover an archer doing target practice. There are five targets on the side of the barn, each of which has an arrow dead in the bull's-eye.

The man turns to the archer and says, "Wow! That's really impressive! You must have put in a

lot of hours to get so good that you've hit every target dead-center. What's your secret?"

The archer says nothing. Instead, he walks up to the barn, pulls each arrow out, drops each one into his quiver, and walks around to another side of the barn. That side has nothing on it—no targets at all, just a small door. The archer takes an arrow, aims for the door, and shoots. To the first man's surprise, the archer misses the door by a wide margin.

But the archer doesn't seem to be upset at what surely must be a humiliating moment for him. Instead, he picks up another arrow but also misses wide. Then another and another until all five arrows have completely missed the door, landing in random spots on the barn wall. Still not upset by this, the archer lays down the bow, walks over to the corner of the barn, picks up a small can of red paint and a paint brush, and proceeds to paint a bull's-eye around each arrow.

(from Small Church Essentials by Karl Vaters)

When you became a believer, God gave you a spiritual gift. It may have changed as you've grown and matured or it may not have. Either way, that gift is something he wanted you to use to glorify him. And that gift is also something you are passionate about. Those two things cannot be separated.

That doesn't mean the gift is always easy - one of mine is discernment, and I've been through seasons at churches where being a prophetic voice, discerning what is of God and what is not, was really lonely.

It was also something I was compelled to do. I couldn't *not* do it. It was as if it was in my DNA.

That's how God works. When King Solomon wrote, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans," he was acknowledging that God is the one who

creates the plans and that whatever you feel so strongly about is something you are to commit to the Lord.

And yet, at times, it's like the archer shooting the arrow ending up in many places. But remember - he was always aiming at the same thing.

When our aim is to the Lord, we might land in a couple of different places – maybe running the nursery, helping make crafts for Light Up Thomaston, being part of a committee that makes decisions about the work that needs to be done on our church building – but the aim should always be the same: God.



What arrows are you shooting right now? And are they committed to God or someone or something else?

In Christ, Pastor Stephanie

Lenten Reflections

Join Pastor Stephanie and Pastor Marcus for five reflection sessions on *humility* during Wednesdays in Lent as we prepare our hearts for Easter. For sessions at the Congregational Church, enter by the parking lot side door closest to the front of the church.

3/12	7:00 pm	Potter's House
3/19	7:00 pm	1st Congregational
3/26	7:00 pm	Potter's House
4/2	7:00 pm	1st Congregational
4/9	7:00 pm	Potter's House

Women Ministries



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

- **Kitchen Detail:** Wednesday, **March 5**, 9:00 am
- **Bake Sale** with CE for summer camperships: Sunday, March 16 in the Fellowship Room right after worship. Please bake for the sale and buy some yummy treats to support camperships for our children and youth. Squanto is expensive but so worth it!
- **Book Club** The book chosen for March is *The Book Woman's Daughter* by Kim Michele Richardson. We will meet on Thursday, March 27, at Martha Tillow's (343 Hickory Hill Rd.). This book is a sequel to *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* which we read a few months ago. If you didn't read the first book, this is a stand-alone story. You may appreciate the story and characters more if you read it first, but it isn't necessary.

Fellowship Time after Worship

- **Coffee Fellowship after worship** is hosted by the boards (CE, M&E, Trustees and Diaconate), Women Ministries, and the Social Committee, with each group responsible for two months per year.

Since some of these groups have a lot of overlap, it would help if other individuals (or a group of friends) could sign up to host for some particular Sunday. Food and beverages are provided by the church, so what is needed is setup, serving, and cleanup.

Sign up for your turn on the clipboard located by the Kitchen. Thank you.

New Respite Ministry

Do you have 2-3 hours at a time available at any point during your week?

We want to start a ministry for those who are primary care givers for a loved one, allowing for them to request someone to come and be with their loved one while they run errands or take a break. **This will not be on a set schedule, so this is flexible and adaptable to what works for you to help out.** Please contact Glenn Hafele (860 309-2065 or glennhafele11@gmail.com) or Pastor Stephanie for questions about what it means to volunteer.

Baby Shower

Jessica Bedosky invites all the women of the church to a small baby shower for her daughter Rebecca after church (11:45-1:30) on Sunday, March 30. We will have a brief devotional and refreshments. Your presence is the best gift, but if you would like to bring something, here are suggestions: baby books, diapers (newborn and stage 1), wipes or boy clothing.

Save the Date

Worship Night at the Opera House: Several Thomaston churches and their Worship Teams will join together on Friday night, May 30, to worship and sing together. Details to follow or check with Glenn Hafele (860 309-2065 or glennhafele11@gmail.com).

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
BEGINS MARCH 9.
MOVE YOUR CLOCKS
ONE HOUR FORWARD.**



Facebook Promotions

Did you know?

If you “follow” our church on Facebook (Covenant Church of Thomaston) and mark that you are interested or are going to an event that **all** of your Facebook friends will see it?

Also, did you know that you can invite your friends to a church event using the events we create on our Facebook page? There’s a button that says, “Invite” and you can search for your friends on it to send them an invitation.

That’s why we’ve started creating events on Facebook, rather than just posting. This is a proactive way to get our ministry work out to people – and it’s free! So take advantage of this simple way to promote our church to those locally that you know are looking for a place to belong. A personal invite goes a long way - and a Facebook invite could, too.

Youth Groups

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



3/23 11:30 am Regular Meeting (Potter’s House)

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. Pastor Stephanie is the leader. They meet on Sundays at the 9:00 am Sunday School time.



CHYG (Covenant High Youth Group) is for all students in grades 7-12. The leaders are Beth Campbell and Sue Sundell.



3/2 4:00 Regular meeting
3/21-23 "Grease," presented by the THS Drama Club.
Several from our group are in the show.
3/30 4:00 Regular meeting

Coming:
4/12 6:00 Paint Night! At the church

Christian Education

Bake Sale with Women Ministries for summer camperships: Sunday, March 16 in the Fellowship Room right after worship. Please bake for the sale and buy some yummy treats to support camperships for our children and youth. Squanto is expensive but so worth it!

Banquet of Blessing

- **Need:** canned chicken, cereal, canned vegetables, canned fruit, soups (not vegetarian vegetable), crackers, granola/snack bars, chicken/tuna snacks to go, paper towels, toilet paper.
- **No perishable foods. Check expiration dates.** We don't give away out of date food.

Prayer Chain

Contact Prayer Coordinator Mary Butkevich (860-514-4343 or marybutkevich@gmail.com) 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 (860-483-2015 or daytondunn@mac.com).

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 (860-605-8040).

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



March 2025

(Rev 3/4/2025)

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
<p>*Sundays: 9:00 Sunday School; 10:00 am Worship; 11:15 Fellowship Sunday worship services are recorded and posted on the church website (covchurchthomaston.org). Worship bulletins, which include the weekly announcements, also are posted on the church website.</p>						1
<p>2* 11:30 Quarterly Meeting (Sanctuary) 4:00 CHYG 7:00 M&E Board (Zoom)</p>	<p>3 10:45 39ers Study (Fellowship) 6:30 Zumba (Potter's)</p>	<p>4 9:30 Women's Study (Conference) 4:00 Prayer (Church Office)</p>	<p>5 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00 Kitchen Detail 6:30 NA (Fellowship)</p>	<p>6 7:30 NA Subcommittee (Gathering)</p>	<p>7 Mother/Daughter Retreat (Pilgrim Pines) 6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)</p>	<p>8 Mother/Daughter Retreat 1:00 Private (Sanctuary, Fellowship Room)</p>
<p>9* DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS 11:30 Diaconate Board (Conference) Mother/Daughter Retreat returns</p>	<p>10 10:45 39ers Study (Fellowship) 6:30 Zumba (Potter's)</p>	<p>11 9:30 Women's Study (Conference) 4:00 Prayer (Church Office)</p>	<p>12 7:00 Lenten Reflections (Potter's House) 6:30 NA (Fellowship)</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 5:00 Respite Care (Fellowship) 6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16* 11:15 CE/WM Bake Sale 11:30 Trustees (Conference)</p>	<p>17 10:45 39ers Study (Fellowship) 6:30 Tres Dias Secretariat (Fellowship)</p>	<p>18 9:30 Women's Study (Conference) 4:00 Prayer (Church Office)</p>	<p>19 6:30 NA (Gathering) 7:00 Lenten Reflections (1st Congregational))</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)</p>	<p>22 9:30 "Chosen" Group (Esme's & Ruby's)</p>
<p>23* 11:30 Trailblazers/Pathfinders (Potter's House)</p>	<p>24 10:45 39ers Study (Fellowship)</p>	<p>25 9:30 Women's Study (Conference) 4:00 Prayer (Church Office)</p>	<p>26 7:00 Lenten Reflections (Potter's House) 6:30 NA (Gathering)</p>	<p>27 6:30 WM Book Club (Tillows')</p>	<p>28 6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30* 11:45 Bedosky/Delotto Baby Shower 4:00 CHYG</p>	<p>31 10:45 39ers Study (Fellowship)</p>					

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

Coffee Fellowship sponsored by: Christian Education Board **

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

NURSERY		ALTAR FLOWERS		LAY READERS:		SCREEN MONITORS	
3/2	Lori Vigeant	4/6		3/2	Jessica Bedosky	3/2	Peggy Schwetz
3/9	Courtney Ayer	4/13		3/9	Gina Whaley	3/9	Peggy Schwetz
3/16	Cathy Fredlund	4/20		3/16	Janet Cappelletti	3/16	Cathy Fredlund
	Haley Morton			3/23	Liz Montambault	3/23	Peggy Schwetz
		4/27		3/30	Jennifer/Grace Nolan	3/30	Peggy Schwetz
3/23	Patricia Vigeant		4/6	4/6	Peggy Schwetz	4/6	
	Megan Campbell		4/13	4/13	Dawn Roaix	4/13	
			4/20	4/20	Rebecca DeLotto	4/20	Cathy Fredlund
3/30	Mary Butkevich		4/27	4/27	Dave McClay	4/27	

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, Haley Morton	

Youth Staff

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

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays 3 Valerie Hobson 8 Monique Cyr 12 Gary Merrill 20 Josh Gomes	20 Sarah Morton 20 Patricia Vigeant 21 Rita Andreoli 25 George Anticoli (82)*	27 Rob Sanson *George Anticoli 66 Upper Valley Road Torrington CT 06790	Anniversaries None
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Connections:

- Pastor: Stephanie Nelson: pastor@covchurchthomaston.org or 860-283-9146 (study)
- Church Chair: John Bedosky: jbedosky@outlook.com or 203-770-5304
- Diaconate Chair: Cathy Fredlund: cbfred@optonline.net or 203-841-7239
- Treasurer: Ken Hopkins: khopkins195@yahoo.com or 860-283-5031
- Office "Churchmouse" Ruth Johnson: cmouse@covchurchthomaston.org or 860-605-8040
Office/Kitchen: 860-283-5071
- Meal Coordinator: Sandra Dunn; 860-483-2015 or daytondunn@mac.com
- Prayer Coordinator: Mary Butkevich; 860-514-4343 or marybutkevich@gmail.com