



Covenant Presbyterian Church

607 E. 3rd St. Long Beach, CA 90802 - www.CovenantLB.org - (562) 437-0958

February 1, 2024

Beloved of God,

A blogger named Ethan Richardson has noted that Ash Wednesday, marking the start of the season of Lent, is a holy day “that’s never going to be coopted by our culture at large”. Christmas may be hijacked by pretty lights and nicely wrapped presents; and Easter, by chocolate bunnies and Peeps; but Ash Wednesday – with its messages of saying No to oneself and dying to oneself – is safe: a day “the church can keep all to itself”.

This year Ash Wednesday falls smack dab in the middle of the month: on February 14th. (And, yes, that day is also Valentine’s Day.) The month begins (at least on its first Sunday, February 4th) with the church’s annual meeting to celebrate God’s grace over the past year and ends with the run-up to a happy French-themed party (Rising TIDE’s fundraising dinner on March 1st) to celebrate God’s grace through the church’s main mission work; but there at the center of the month is Ash Wednesday, reminding us that, when Jesus explained what it meant to be His disciple, He spoke of denying oneself, taking up one’s cross and following the example of the One who gave His life at Calvary (Mark 8:34).


Wait! Doesn’t Jesus love us and want us to be happy? Of course, He does; but He understands the fruitfulness of delayed gratification. This is shown in how, right after He specifies what discipleship involves, He promises (Mark 8:35) that those who lose their life for His sake will find life. His disciples forego blessings in the present to gain greater and longer-lasting blessings in the future.

This is a crucial truth to take to heart and to bear in mind, that we might live by its message. So on Ash Wednesday we mark our foreheads with the sign of the cross, that we might remember our mortality and live for eternity and that we might remember to fulfill our repentance and keep turning to the God who saves us. By such remembering, we can give God full-hearted thanks for all His loving kindness in 2023 and for the gracious privilege to work with Him to bless others (for example, by uplifting the lives of urban children and youth).

One last note: You may participate in the Ash Wednesday service either in-person or on-line. It will take place live, at noon in the Sanctuary on February 14th. It will be simultaneously livestreamed, and then immediately put on-line to be viewed later as well. By your participation, you will be blessed; and for your participation, we will be most grateful!

Warmly in Christ,

Rob & Adele



February 14th
Ash Wednesday Worship
12 Noon in the Sanctuary & Streamed Live
Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion
James 4:8-10
“A Positive Negative”

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL WORSHIP

Our weekly in-person Sunday service is held each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The service is also streamed live on *YouTube*: **Covenant Presbyterian Church Long Beach CA** and our website: www.CovenantLB.org at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays.

All services remain available throughout the week and in our video libraries.

Sunday, February 4th - Holy Communion

Psalm 131

“Modesty of Mind, Happiness of Heart”

Sunday, February 11th

Psalm 133

“Expansive Encompassing”

Sunday, February 18th

Psalm 138

“The Supreme Good”

Sunday, February 25th

Psalm 143

“Reorientation of Preoccupation”

SUNDAY SCHOOL

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

On-site & On-line at 11:00 a.m. Adults are invited to attend Sunday School, this month studying *The Acts of the Apostles*, under the leadership of Elder Mark Wiley. The class is offered in a hybrid-style at 11:00 a.m. — in the Meeting Room for those in-person, and for those on-line through *Google Meet*. If you would like to join on-line:

- please visit [Meet.Google.com](https://meet.google.com/goeumjnwgg) & use the meeting code: **goeumjnwgg**
- or dial in from your phone, **1-209-781-9485** & enter this PIN: **443 527 177#**.



CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth Hybrid Sunday Programming

Youth gather in-person & on-line on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. for Sunday School, fellowship and youth group activities.

Children's Hybrid Sunday School

Sunday School for children thru 5th grade meets at 11:00 a.m. in a hybrid-style (in-person & virtual).

For more information about the children's & the youth's programming, including codes to join virtually, please contact Pastor Adele at ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org.

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH

- The **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held immediately following worship on **February 4th**. Cyber copies of the Annual Report, as well as paper copies, are available. If you'd like a copy, please let Pastor Adele know.
- Covenant women (PWC) will be hosting an afternoon **Valentine Craft Gathering** on **February 4th** at 2:00 p.m. (See next page for details.)
- **Souper Bowl Sunday** takes place on **February 11th**. (See next page for details.)
- Everyone interested in going to the movies on **February 25th** with **Movie Goers** should contact Pastor Adele for details.

WEEKLY STUDIES

Mondays - In-depth Bible Study

This on-line study meets on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Adele and Pastor Rob jointly lead this study through the Bible.

You are invited to join our study as this month it studies the book of 2 *Samuel*.



To join this study,

Online: Visit [Meet.Google.com](https://www.meet.google.com) & Join by using meeting code: **ohcydfgcm**

By phone: Dial **1-415-662-0116** & Enter this PIN: **903 321 793#**

Tuesdays - Book Club

The on-line Book Club starts the month on break, to decide what book to read, but resumes on February 20th at 6:30 p.m. Contact Elder Mark

Wiley or Pastor Rob who lead this group, on Tuesdays, beginning at 6:30 p.m. for more details.



To join this study,

Online: Visit [Meet.Google.com](https://www.meet.google.com) & Join by using meeting code: **duhmbnkqku**

By phone: Dial **1-225-503-0091** & Enter this PIN: **470 552 822#**

Thursdays - Bible Study

This Bible Study meets each Thursday on-line and over the phone at 4:30 p.m.

It is presently studying the *Gospel of Matthew* (led by Pastor Rob).



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Online: Visit [Meet.Google.com](https://www.meet.google.com) & Join by using meeting code: **ohcydfgcm**

By phone: Dial **1-415-662-0116** & Enter this PIN: **903 321 793#**

SPECIAL EVENTS



Bells are ringing calling ladies to a **Valentine Craft Afternoon** hosted by PWC.

Women, plan to join in a fun afternoon as you will have an opportunity to make unique valentine cards

(taught by our own Sandy Smeby!)

Sunday, February 4th, at 2 pm in the Fireside Rm

See Mary Lou for details.



Please join us for
An evening in Paris, Rising TIDE-Style

On **March 1st**, beginning at 6:00 p.m., there will be interpretive centers, a mock French bar & French appetizers, followed by a full course meal at 6:45 p.m. to raise much needed funds.

Help Rising TIDE climb their Eiffel Tower — 1,710 steps of giving — to reach a goal of \$50,000. The first \$20,000 is being matched!

Reservations are required. To reserve, simply visit www.RisingTIDEatMKEC.org, call/text 562-257-6881 or scan this QR code:

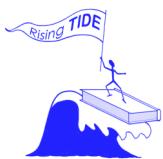


TACKLE  HUNGER

On Super Bowl Sunday, join with the youth from Covenant and across the nation to raise money to help tackle hunger. Make this **SOUPER BOWL** year a winner! Look for youth with soup pots as you leave worship collecting financial and food donations on **Sunday, February 11th**, give through Covenant's website, or mail a check to the church. Thanks for making a play to tackle hunger in Long Beach!

DID YOU KNOW ... ?

- **Cutters** are a group of adults who enjoy getting together monthly to break bread together over breakfast (on Saturday mornings) or over dinner (on Sunday evenings). In February, Cutters will be enjoying breakfast on Saturday, February 10th at 9:00 a.m. at Polly's Pies on Atlantic Ave. in Long Beach. See Mary Lou or Pastor Adele to make a reservation or to find out more details. 
- Join members of your Covenant family for an afternoon at a local movie theater (and a light meal following) on February 25th. The movie and show time have yet to be announced. For more details about **Movie Goers**, please contact Pastor Adele at ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org.
- **Covenant Adult Choir** meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. See Peter Bates for more details.
- The **Order of Worship** for Sunday worship is located just above the video of the worship service on the website and is archived under "Worship - Sermon Archive", along with a text copy of the sermon. Hard copies of the sermons are found in the Narthex. They can also be mailed or emailed when requested.
- When the new weekly worship video is posted, the **previous week's video** can then be found in the video archives of the website under "Covenant's Videos" and on our *YouTube* channel: Covenant Presbyterian Church Long Beach CA.
- **Hometouch** is a weekly publication that is mailed or emailed. (You choose in which form you receive it.) It provides updates about things happening around Covenant, as well as a devotion and an activity page.
- **E-touch** is a weekly publication that is emailed on Saturday evenings. It includes *Covenant* news and a biblical reflection on something newsworthy. These reflections are timely and thought-provoking.
- You can **request to receive copies** of the sermons, *Hometouch* and/or *E-touch* by contacting Adele at ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org.
- You can check out RightNowMedia.org and let Pastor Adele know if you would like to join. 
- Our **social media presence** is on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter with the handle [@CovenantLB](https://www.instagram.com/CovenantLB).
- **Covenant has an app** called *CovenantLB* that you can download on your favorite device.
- Two **women's small groups** and one **men's small group** offer opportunities to connect and grow.
- Volunteers help staff the church office on weekdays to answer calls, assist those who stop by, and help with small clerical jobs. Might you be interested? Please contact Pastor Adele. 



RISING TIDE @ MKEC Programming for Children & Youth
Homework Help, Tutoring, Activities, Science Experiments, The Arts, Recreation and More

Monday - Thursday

12:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.: Pre-school & Elementary-aged Children

2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.: Middle School & High School Youth

Visit www.RisingTIDEatMKEC.org to **sign up a child**, click on *New Participant Registration & to apply to volunteer* to uplift young people, click on *Volunteering*



*Your giving sustains the ministries of this church. You may make an offering in worship on Sunday morning, give either by writing a check and mailing it to the church, or give on-line from the church website by clicking on the green button on the website's home page, www.CovenantLB.org. Also on the website, if you would like to pledge, go to **About** on the top bar, then on **New to the Church?**, and scroll down to the 4th **FAQ**.*