



Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

August 1, 2024

Beloved,

As last month we wrote in appreciation and celebration of the church elders, this month we do so in honor of another group of volunteers who are essential to the fulfillment of the mission of our church.

They are the deacons, church members who make a special effort to embody the love of Jesus to others, particularly those in special need. They take as seriously as anyone the call to imitate Jesus when He said that He came “not to be served, but to serve” (Matthew 20:28).

In the Bible, deacons are introduced in Acts 6. At that time, the church was growing rapidly and incorporating all kinds of people into its fellowship of shared love.

Many of the new members were poor and in need of extra help just to make it in life. It took a lot of work to take care of them all, and those who labored in this work had to be sensitive and vigilant in making sure that every segment of the church got an equitable share of the church’s charity.

The apostles valued this mission of compassion, and were at first very involved in it. But this mission of compassion had grown so big and complicated that their involvement in it was pulling them away from their God-given priorities.

So the apostles “called together the whole community of the disciples” and declared that “it is not right” that, even for so valuable a ministry, they should neglect their prime ministries of “prayer and serving the word”. So they instructed the congregation to select a number of people to head the ministry and thereby free up the apostles to do full justice to their primary calling.

Those selected by the people and appointed by the apostles to the work of mercy would later be commonly referred to as *diakanoi*, which literally means “servants”.

Servanthood should be a core quality of every member of a church of Christ and of each church as a whole. For example, the Apostle Paul called himself a “diakonos” (that is, “servant”) of the gospel of Jesus. But as the meaning of the term evolved over time, it came to refer to those with a specific calling to bring compassionate care to the needy.

In the Presbyterian tradition, deacons are those who embody Christ’s love “for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the loss, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress”. (*Book of Order*, G-20201)

We often see Covenant’s beloved deacons as those who jump into the troubled waters of others to be lifelines to the church and to rescue them from dark seas of difficulties.



So please join us in giving thanks for our Covenant deacons and pray for them as they represent the mercy of Christ widely for us all. Our deacons are Narin Antoniades, Mei Cameron, Margaret Hullett, Diana Law, Ray Law, Lea Lindley, Ruben Lindley, Cynthia Olson, Greg Perkins, Sandy Smeby and Felecia Taylor.

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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, August 4th

Holy Communion
John 13:31-35
“Love One Another”

Sunday, August 11th

Hebrews 12:1-3
“Running for
Jesus”

Sunday, August 18th

Romans 8:12-17
“Children of God:
Fitting into the Family
Puzzle”

Sunday, August 25th

2 Corinthians 4:5-12
“Treasured
by God”

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Hybrid: On-site & On-line)

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adults are invited to attend Sunday School and study *The Letter of Paul to the Romans*, under the leadership of Elder Mark Wiley. The class meets at 11:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room for those in-person, and for those on-line through *Google Meet*. To join on-line: please visit **Meet.Google.com** and use the meeting code: **goeumjnwqg** or call from your phone **1-209-781-9485**, entering this PIN: **443 527 177#**.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for 6th thru 12th graders meets at 11:00 a.m. in the Art Room for those attending in-person, and for those on-line through *Google Meet*.

Email ALangworthy@CovenantLB for virtual joining information.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for children thru 5th grade meets at 11:00 a.m. in the “Center” for those attending in-person, and for those on-line through *Google Meet*.

Email ALangworthy@CovenantLB for virtual joining information.

WEEKLY STUDIES

Mondays - In-depth Bible Study

This on-line study will resume meeting Mondays at 7:00 p.m. on September 9th to study *1 Kings*.

Pastor Adele and Pastor Rob jointly lead this study through the Bible.



To join this study,
Online: Visit **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 will resume meeting Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. on September 3rd to discuss the novel *Ordinary Grace*. If you would like to be contacted about this group, please reach out to Elder Mark Wiley.



To join this study,
Online: Visit **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 will resume its study on August 29th on-line and over the phone at 4:30 p.m. It is presently studying the *Gospel of Matthew* (led by Pastor Rob).



To join this study,
Online: Visit **Meet.Google.com** &
Join by using meeting code: **ohcydfgcm**
By phone: Dial **1-415-662-0116** &
Enter this PIN: **903 321 793#**

SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION



Rising TIDE is currently collecting school supplies.

If you would like to participate, here is a list of supplies needed to support our young people academically this school year:

- Mechanical Pencils
- Post-its
- Highlighters
- Calculators (Basic and Scientific)
- Pencil Boxes
- Jansport Backpacks (or heavy duty ones)
- White erasers
- Glue sticks
- Crayola crayons (24 pack)
- Crayola colored pencils
- Crayola markers
- Scissors

AUGUST

Church Sabbatical

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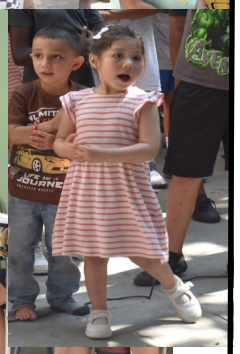
This August, as was the case August last year, the church is catching its breath. Its only “big” activities will be those that take place on Sunday (with the exception of *Back to School Day* on Monday, August 26th).

This August please slow down, linger prayerfully with the Lord, grow still and attentive to the deepest parts of your existence, and reflect on this scripture from Isaiah 30:15b, wherein God says, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”





In the grip of God’s grace,

Rob & Adele

Pastor Adele and Pastor Rob



DID YOU KNOW ... ?

- Plan to join members of your Covenant family for an afternoon at a local movie theater (and a light meal following) on September 22th. For more details about **Movie Goers**, please contact Pastor Adele at ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org. 
- **Cutters** are a group of adults who enjoy getting together to break bread together over breakfast (on Saturday) or over dinner (on Sunday). They will not meet in August but will be enjoying breakfast on Saturday, September 14th at 9:00 a.m. at The Potholder Café. More details will be available next month.
- **Covenant Summer Choir** rehearses on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. throughout the summer. If you'd like to join, please meet up with choir members in the Choir Room on Sunday morning. You can also 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.
- **Flowers to beautify the Sanctuary** on a particular Sunday can be purchased for \$50.00. You can place an order in honor or in memory of someone, and either plan to take the flowers with you following worship or donate them to be shared with those in need of special cheer. You can place an order using the link that can be found at the end of the Order of Service on our website, filling out a form found in the Narthex, or calling the church office. 
- **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.
- Two **women's small groups** and one **men's small group** offer opportunities to connect and grow.
- **Covenant has an app** called *CovenantLB* that you can download on your favorite device.
- Our **social media presence** is on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter with the handle [@CovenantLB](https://www.instagram.com/CovenantLB). 



*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**.*