

## **Covenant Presbyterian Church**

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

June 1, 2024

Beloved in Christ,

Last month in worship we began an extended, careful sermon series on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

On the last Sunday of May, we reflected on Jesus' saying that His followers are "the light of the world" and "the salt of the earth". We came to understand that this means that we who follow Jesus are to bring the warm brightness of His love and the delicious flavor of His life to those not yet a part of His family of faith. This then led us to consider how we cannot be His light for others if we hide under a bushel basket; or His salt, if we don't let His Spirit get us out of His salt shaker.

In other words, we fulfill our identity as Jesus' light and Jesus' salt by engaging in the world and with its people beyond the church.

We do this work of evangelism in two ways: 1) We reach out and invite folks in, and 2) We go out to where folks are and there represent Jesus' loving concern for them.

Andrew is the biblical model of the first approach. According to John 1:35-42, once he met Jesus and sensed who He is, Andrew found his brother Simon Peter, told Peter he thought Him the Messiah, and took Peter with him into Jesus' presence to see for himself.

We can follow Andrew's approach to evangelism whenever we ask someone to join us in some activity of the church and accompany them in that activity as they see for themselves.

This month provides a particularly promising opportunity to imitate Andrew. Thursday evening, June 20<sup>th</sup>, we have the first of two Summer Courtyard Picnic and Worship events. (The second one takes place on July 18<sup>th</sup>.) The Courtyard gates open at 5:45; we eat from 6:00 to 6:45; and we worship from 6:45 to 7:30. Because of the informal, casual nature of this affair, some people, not used to church, might be comfortable to give it a try, and check things out, when they might not yet be comfortable coming to other activities.

Won't you then try the "reach out and invite in" approach to evangelism?

The second approach, that of going out to where folks are and there representing Jesus and His good news, is modeled by all the disciples as they obeyed Jesus call, in Matthew 28:19, to "go…and make disciples of all nations."

We may not go outside the nation of the America, or even outside the city of Long Beach. But Jesus wants us to serve Him outside the church by meeting folks on their own turf and giving them a sight and/or a taste of His presence. This may happen with our immediate neighbors where we live, with those who participate in the same community or shared interest groups as we, in our workplace, in the stores we frequent, anywhere!

We may not know how to spark a conversation with some spiritual dimension to it, but we can pray that the Lord would cause such opportune moments to arise on their own. If we keep praying and keep an eye peeled for God's answering such praying, we might be surprised at how often God answers such prayer. As the former Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, used to say with a twinkle in his eye, "I am not saying miracles still happen; but I notice that, when I pray, there are a lot of strange coincidences that come about!"

Won't you also try the "go out and represent" approach to evangelism?

Won't you become more and more the light and salt Jesus means for us all to be?

Warmly in His love,

Rob & Adele

## **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.

#### Sermon Series: "Life Revolution From the Sermon on the Mount"

Sunday, June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sunday, June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday, June 16 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday, June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday, June 30 <sup>th</sup>
Holy Communion	Matthew 5:21-26	Father's Day	PWC Officers	4th of July
Matthew 5:17-20	"Reflection #5:	Matthew 5:27-33	Installation	Recognition
"Reflection #4:	Honoring the	"Reflection #6:	Matthew 5:33-37	Matthew 5:38-42
Pursuing the Right	Sacredness of Each	Completing	"Reflection #7:	"Reflection #8:
Righteousness	Human Being"	Commitments"	Keeping Promises"	Making Sacrifices
Rightly"				for Love's Sake"

# **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: goeuminwgq or call from your phone 1-209-781-9485, entering this PIN: 443 527 177#.

### **YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School for 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 meets on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Adele and Pastor Rob jointly lead this study through the Bible. It is now in the book of 2 Samuel.

#### **Tuesdays - Book Club**

The on-line Book Club is discussing Anne Lamott's book Somehow: Thoughts on Love on Tuesdays, at 6:30 p.m. Contact Elder Mark Wiley or Pastor Rob (group leaders) for more details.

#### 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).

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

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#

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





### **DID YOU KNOW ... ?**

- Join members of your Covenant family for an afternoon at a local movie theater (and a light meal following) on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The movie and show time have yet to be announced. For more details about Movie Goers, please contact Pastor Adele at ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org.
- Cutters are a group of adults who enjoy getting together monthly to break bread together over breakfast (on • Saturday) or over dinner (on Sunday). In June, Cutters will be enjoying dinner on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 See Mary Lou or Pastor Adele to make a p.m. at Belmont Brewing Company (BBC) - 25 39th Pl. reservation or to find out more details.
- 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 SU 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 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.



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 4<sup>th</sup> FAQ.





