



## Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

May 1, 2024

Beloved in Christ,

We, who live out our discipleship to Christ in and through and from the fellowship of the Covenant family, want our family to grow spiritually, morally and, yes, numerically.

Of course, quality matters more than quantity; and people matter more than numbers. But numbers represent people! So how could we not want numerical growth if that means more and more people are being blessed by walking through life in the loving companionship of Jesus Christ and in the caring, supportive companionship of the family He creates?

The mission of a church must always involve more than the pursuit of numerical growth, but it must never exclude the pursuit of numerical growth.

To pursue numerical growth is to engage in evangelism. Evangelism arises out of Christians loving one another in the spiritual home they share and then sending one another out beyond that home to offer others the blessings of a life with Christ!

Engaging in such outreach takes courage, patience, humility and, most of all, genuine concern for those not yet a part of the Christian faith.

Even more, it takes the gracious help of God. We at best are channels through whom God touches others and wins them to Himself. No one becomes a follower of Christ apart from the work of the Holy Spirit!

This month we celebrate Pentecost. Pentecost marks the first coming of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' disciples. On Easter Day, Jesus had reminded them that "as the Father has sent me" – that is, sent Jesus from heaven to reach out and communicate the Father's love to all people – "so I send you" – send you and me to reach out and communicate the Father's love into every corner of the earth. Then, immediately after saying that, Jesus had breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." [John 20:21-22]

On Ascension Day Jesus had reminded them yet again that they would "receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witness...to the ends of the earth".

Then on the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit did come upon them. The Spirit empowered them a) to reach out to a variety of people who spoke countless different languages and b) to communicate to that variety of people about the Father's love in such a way that each heard the good news of Jesus in their own tongue. What was happening was dual action: the disciples were acting but, even more decisively, the Holy Spirit was acting. From that divine-human collaboration in the work of evangelism, there was great numerical growth. Acts 2:41 says, "Three thousand persons were added" to the family of Jesus' disciples that day.

It was, as Tony Evans once put it, like walking on one of those moving sidewalks found in many airports. Our legs may be carrying us forward, but the moving sidewalk is simultaneously carrying us along. We're acting and it is acting – and the collaboration is enabling us to walk further and faster than we ever could on our own.

This month, let us both walk in obedience to Christ's call to go and bear witness to the ends of the earth and entrust ourselves into the power of the Spirit that the Spirit may make our outreach fruitful in a way we never could on our own.

That will eventually bring the numerical growth that will thrill the heart of God!


Warmly in Christ,

*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"**

<b>Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Holy Communion</i> Matthew 5:1-6 "Reflection #1: <i>Resting our hope in the Right Place</i> "	<b>Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Mothers' Day</i> Matthew 5:7-12 "Reflection #2: <i>Getting to Grow When We Don't Have To</i> "	<b>Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Pentecost</i> Acts 2:1-14  "Empowered to Tell the Best Story Ever"	<b>Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Memorial Day Weekend</i> Matthew 5:13-16 "Reflection #3: <i>Becoming Salty Charac- ters...But Bright Ones</i> "
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## 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 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](mailto: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](mailto:ALangworthy@CovenantLB) for virtual joining information.

## WEEKLY STUDIES

### **Mondays - In-depth Bible Study (except 5/27)**

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*.



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 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.



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

## Pentecost Celebration

You are invited – but not required – to wear red on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, in celebration of the Holy Spirit's presence made visible through tongues of fire that first Pentecost.

For those who will be with us in-person, you are invited to join in a **picnic in the Courtyard** following Sunday School at 12:00 Noon.

The church will provide sandwiches, and there is no charge – but participants are asked to bring food to share with others.



## MAKE YOUR UPCOMING SUMMER PLANS

### Potluck Picnic & Courtyard Worship

Thursdays

June 20<sup>th</sup> & July 18<sup>th</sup>

Doors open at 5:45 p.m.



- Bring food to share and your table service, beverages provided
- The meal will begin at 6:00 p.m., after *grace*
- Worship will start about 6:45 p.m.

### Summer Olympics 2024 Rising TIDE-Style

Free for children & youth

Mondays -Thursdays

June 17<sup>th</sup> - July 25<sup>th</sup>

9:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



- Visit [www.RisingTIDEatMKEC.org](http://www.RisingTIDEatMKEC.org) to register a young person to **attend** or to register to **volunteer** and help out directly with young people behind the scenes
- Extended hours for youth on Mon. & Wed.

### End-of-Summer Potluck Picnic

Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>

In the Courtyard

12 Noon (After Sunday School)



- Bring salads, fruit, chips or dessert to share as the meat and beverage will be provided
- See Pastor Adele to volunteer for set-up

A colorful poster for "Rising TIDE's FREE LEARNING FAIR". The poster features a robot, a book, a globe, and a basketball. Text includes: "When: Saturday, May 14th 2024 11am to 2pm", "Where: Rising TIDE @ MKEC 607 E 3rd St Long Beach 90802", "Experience our Free Learning Fair! Open to all - Interactive Workshops, resources, endless fun. Ignite your passion for Learning!", and "Free Food, Games, and Prizes!".

Rising TIDE's  
**FREE LEARNING FAIR**  
with Stanford University Alumni

When: Saturday, May 14th 2024 11am to 2pm

Where:  
Rising TIDE @ MKEC  
607 E 3rd St  
Long Beach 90802

Experience our Free Learning Fair! Open to all -  
Interactive Workshops, resources, endless fun.  
Ignite your passion for Learning!

Free Food, Games, and Prizes!

## RISING TIDE @ MKEC

### Programming for Children & Youth

(Closed for Memorial Day, May 27<sup>th</sup>)

Homework Help, Tutoring, Activities,  
Science Experiments, The Arts, Recreation & More

**12:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.:**

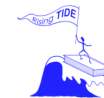
Pre-school & Elementary-aged Children

**2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.:**

Middle School & High School Youth

Go to [www.RisingTIDEatMKEC.org](http://www.RisingTIDEatMKEC.org)

- to **sign up a child**, click on *New Participant Form*
- to **apply to volunteer** to uplift young people, click on *Volunteering*



### Special Middle School & High School Programs:

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.

Empowerment Groups:






Boys 2 Men

GLOW (*Girls Leading Others Wisely*)

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.

Youth Group

## DID YOU KNOW ... ?

- **The 7th Annual Golf Tournament** fundraising event for Rising TIDE will take place on Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. Are you a golfer? Do you know a golfer? Would you simply like not to golf but make an impact in young lives through Rising TIDE? You can find out more details on the website: [www.RisingTIDEatMKEC.org](http://www.RisingTIDEatMKEC.org) or by contacting Pastor Adele. 
- 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 May, Cutters will be enjoying breakfast on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at The Local Spot - 6200 PCH. See Mary Lou or Pastor Adele to make a reservation or to find out more details. 
- **Covenant Adult Choir** meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. See Peter Bates for more details.
- **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. 
- 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.
- Join members of your Covenant family for an afternoon at a local movie theater (and a light meal following) on May 26<sup>th</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](mailto:ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org). 
- **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](mailto: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](http://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**.*