



Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

December 1, 2024



Beloved of God,

We often resist acknowledging it, but the truth is... *we're not self-sufficient!*

We owe our being alive at all to a Power from outside of us. No thanks to us, we were brought into existence.

We owe our being newly alive in the Holy Spirit to a Person beyond us. No thanks to us, we were brought into such a salvation.

Self-help cannot make us right enough to be right with God!

Christmas is the story of God the Son taking the initiative, entering our sin-sick world, coming down to our level (eyeball-to-eyeball) in our brokenness and lostness and, if we trust Him, lifting us up in ways we could never do for ourselves.

That story is a story for everyone – and we get to write an addendum to it if we like. We can, in Jesus' name, take the initiative, enter the world of those living at a distance from Him, and invite them to see what following Him looks like – and how it might be something they'd want to give a try!

None of this need involve anything fancy or impressive. We might invite someone to join us in a church social event – such as the Christmas Tea put on by the women on Dec. 7th or the Christmas Dinner the Cutters and their friends will be enjoying on Dec. 15th. Or we might offer to pick them and bring them with us to a fun activity such as Movie Goers on Dec. 1st or the Sanctuary Carol Sing on Dec. 15th. Or we might ask if they'd like to sit with us in worship some Sunday in Advent or on Christmas Eve.

This outreach is hard and fruitless only if we do it under our own power alone. If, however, we pray for the Lord to help us and to reach out through us, we might have more good responses than we expected.

So let us embrace our needing help from beyond ourselves and turn to Him with faith-filled expectation that He will make something marvelous of even our modest efforts.

And let us remember that December is a season that by itself softens hearts and makes people open to exploring the spiritual. If we invite them to do so with us, who would, even if they decide to decline, mind our gracious, generous offer?

Warmly in Christ,

Rob & Adele



Covenant Advent Devotional 2024



We updated Covenant's 2014 devotional to lead us through the Advent season this year. It is available in printed form in the Narthex (which can be mailed); on our social medias (Facebook, Twitter & Instagram); and on our website. May your Advent season be enriched as you reflect on "Not a Silent Night".

Giant Christmas Card

A giant card will be located in the Narthex where people can post Christmas messages to the congregation and donate money saved on cards & stamps to help those in need in the community. Also, if you aren't here in person, you may send messages to ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org for Pastor Adele to post on your behalf.



IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL WORSHIP

Our weekly in-person Sunday service is held each Sunday at 9:57 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 Sermon Series through Christmas Eve December 24th: “*Help from Beyond*”

December 1 st	December 8 ^h	December 15 th	December 22 nd	December 29 th
Jeremiah 33:31-33	Malachi 3:1-4	Zephaniah 3:14-17	Micah 5:2-5a	Philippians 3:10-14
“Part 1: <i>Delivered from our Delusion</i> ”	“Part 2: <i>Fixed from being the Problem</i> ”	“Part 3: <i>Strengthened in the Joy of Hope</i> ”	“Part 4: <i>Brought into the Best Version of Ourselves</i> ”	“ <i>Forgetting the Past, Embracing the Future</i> ”

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24th

Live Streaming & In-person

7:00 p.m.

Isaiah 9:2b, 6-7 & Luke 2:1-7

“Part 5: *The Gift that Keeps
on Giving*”



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

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (11:15 a.m.)

Adults are invited to attend Sunday School and study *The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians*, under the leadership of Elder Mark Wiley. The class meets 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: **goeumjnwgg** or call from your phone **1-209-781-9485**, entering this PIN: **443 527 177#**.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL (11:15 a.m.)

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

Email ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org for virtual joining information.

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL (11:15 a.m.)

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

Email ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org for virtual joining information.

December 15th, a very special Sunday



3:00 p.m. in the
Sanctuary
(In-person &
Streamed Live)
Peter Bates, organist
Maria Shafer, soprano

5:00 p.m. in the
Fireside Room
Reservations are required.
\$20 per person, plus small
appetizer, cookies or
dessert to share



WEEKLY STUDIES

Mondays - In-depth Bible Study (except 12/30)

This on-line study meets at 7:00 p.m.
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](https://meet.google.com/ohcydfgmmm) &
Join by using meeting code: **ohcydfgmmm**
By phone: Dial **1-415-662-0116** &
Enter this PIN: **903 321 793#**

Tuesdays - Book Club (except 12/31)

The on-line Book Club meets at 6:30 p.m.
to discuss *The Jesus I Never Knew* by Philip Yancey.
If you would like to be contacted about this group,
please reach out to Elder Mark Wiley or Pastor Rob.



To join this study,
Online: Visit [Meet.Google.com](https://meet.google.com/duhmbnkqku) &
Join by using meeting code: **duhmbnkqku**
By phone: Dial **1-225-503-0091** &
Enter this PIN: **470 552 822#**

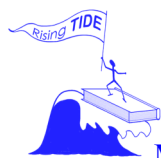
Thursdays - Bible Study (except 12/26)

This Bible Study meets 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](https://meet.google.com/ohcydfgmmm) &
Join by using meeting code: **ohcydfgmmm**
By phone: Dial **1-415-662-0116** &
Enter this PIN: **903 321 793#**

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING



RISING TIDE @ MKEC

Programming for Children & Youth

Mon. - Thurs. (except Dec. 23rd - Jan. 2nd)

*Homework Help, Tutoring,
Activities, Science Experiments,
The Arts, Recreation and 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

- to **sign up a new young person**, click on *New Participant Enrollment Form*
- to **sign up a returning student**, click on *Fall 2024 Participant Renewal*
- to **apply to be a tutor, mentor or general volunteer**, click on *Volunteering*

**Special Middle School & High School Programs
are held on Wednesdays**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE CONGREGATION
INVITE YOU TO THE:

Joy Gathering



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024, 12:00PM

Chez Bacchus

743 E. 4th Street, Long Beach, CA 90802

Located across from Ace Hardware, 1 block east of Covenant Church.

Note: For those unable to walk from the church parking lot,
a car shuttle will be provided.



MENU

*Seasonal Salad, Tea Tower, 3 Types of Tea Sandwiches, Scones,
Muffins, Assorted Pastries, Choice of Tea*



Cost: \$35, includes tax & tip (Natura Water Service & Wine are extra).

RSVP: By 12/1/24 to Mary Lou (562) 233-7405 or Diana (562) 537-3965.

Birthday Offering: Contributions to this annual offering will be sent to Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery to support mission programs.



If you'd like to make a donation towards the **Christmas gifting** for Rising TIDE young people,
simply make a check out to Covenant and indicate on the memo line that it is for Christmas gifts.
Thank you! (Your donation this year will go towards something warm and cozy.)

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 December 1st to see *Bonhoeffer* at *Regal Towne Center*, 12:40 p.m. showing. For more details about [Movie Goers](#), please contact Pastor Adele.
- [Cutters](#) are a group of adults who enjoy getting together monthly to break bread together over the breakfast or dinner table. In December, Cutters will be enjoying their annual Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 15th at 5:00 p.m. This year the event will be held in the Fireside Room at Covenant. Please see Mary Lou Fourtané or Pastor Adele to make your reservation and find out more details.
- [Covenant Adult Choir](#) rehearses on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. If you'd like to join, please contact 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.
- If you would like us to [join you in prayer](#), you can contact one of the Pastors through the church office at (562) 437-0958, complete a prayer request card found in the Narthex or use this QR code. 
- Would you like to [buy a poinsettia by December 15th](#) to enhance the beauty of the Sanctuary this Advent season? If so, please contact Adele at ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org or type this link in your web browser: <https://forms.gle/KJxxk6WEmuiJVLGCA>. (The cost is \$15.00.) 
- [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.
- To explore joining a women's or men's [small group](#), reach out to Pastor Adele or Pastor Rob.
- If you are interested in [volunteering](#) to help staff the office for a few hours one-day-a-week, please see Pastor Rob or Pastor Adele.
- [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 or using this QR code. →

