



## Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

January 1, 2025

Beloved of God,

We ended last year focusing on Jesus at the start of His first coming.

But we couldn't think of His being born in that Bethlehem barn without thinking of His promise, and the promise of the prophets who foretold Him, that He would come a second time to set the whole world right and establish God's justice and righteousness throughout the earth.

Our faith is all about Jesus, from beginning to end.

And our message to the world, the world into which God sends us to serve, is all about Jesus, from beginning to end.

It's not that we are particularly special people, but that He is a spectacularly special Person – and that He has done a spectacularly special job in initiating improvements of our character and conduct, making us very different people than we would have been had He not gotten His hands on us.

And our message is that what He has done for us He would gladly and eagerly do for anyone who gives up on making their own way and gives themselves over to His governance and transforming action on their behalf.

We are not special, but we know Someone who is exceedingly special and would do special things for anyone who gives Him half a chance.

So, in this first month of this new year, let us set our trajectory aright. Let us put first things first. Let us represent Jesus clearly and compellingly in our behavior and in our basic messaging. Let us direct people's attention to this Redeemer who makes folks better than they used to be and enables them to make more of a difference for good in their community and throughout the world.

Jesus is the light of God's love, the bright warmth of God grace, the source of new life and power for serving God and His good purposes of justice, compassion and witness. Jesus, therefore, deserves to be front and center in all we say and do!

May we be windows through which others catch glimpses of who He is and how He can change folks for the better!

Warmly in Christ,

*Rob & Adele*



### Christmas Greetings from your Covenant Family

*You will be able to read every greeting on a special publication, distributed on the 12th day of Christmas.*



# 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 9:57 a.m. on Sundays.

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

<b>January 5<sup>th</sup></b> Matthew 2:1-23 “ <i>Outsiders Who Know Better than Insiders</i> ”	<b>January 12<sup>th</sup></b> Isaiah 43:1-7 “ <i>Engulfed in Flames, but Not Consumed</i> ”	<b>January 19<sup>th</sup></b> John 2:1-11 “ <i>The God of Wine</i> ”	<b>January 26<sup>th</sup></b> Luke 4:16, 20-30 “ <i>The God of Gentle Strength</i> ”
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## SUNDAY SCHOOL (Hybrid: On-site & On-line)

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

Adults are invited to attend Sunday School and study *The Second 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 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> graders meets in the Art Room for those attending in-person, and for those on-line through *Google Meet*.

Email [ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org](mailto:ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org) for virtual joining information.

### **CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL (11:15 a.m.)**

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

Email [ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org](mailto:ALangworthy@CovenantLB.org) for virtual joining information.

## WEEKLY STUDIES

### **Mondays - In-depth Bible Study**

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** &  
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 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** &  
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 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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Join by using meeting code: **ohcydfgcm**  
**By phone:** Dial **1-415-662-0116** &  
Enter this PIN: **903 321 793#**

# SPECIAL PROGRAMMING



## RISING TIDE @ MKEC Programming for Children & Youth Mondays - Thursdays

*Homework Help, Tutoring, Activities,  
Science Experiments, The Arts, Recreation,  
Mentoring 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](http://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**

Thank you for making our Christmas special!



New officer training  
will be held in-person  
at 7:00 p.m. on  
January 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Returning officers are most  
welcome to attend.*



Ordination &  
Installation takes  
place in worship on  
January 19<sup>th</sup>.

*Please hold our officers  
in your prayers.*



The first Board meetings of 2025  
will be for:

- Deacons at 4:00 p.m. on  
Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>
- Trustees at 6:30 p.m. on  
Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>
- Elders at 6:30 p.m. on  
Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>

## CHURCH OFFICERS IN 2025

### Deacons:

Cynthia Olson, Felecia Taylor,  
Greg Perkins, Irimi Antoniadis,  
Lea Lindley, Mei Cameron,  
Narin Antoniadis, Ruben Lindley,  
Sandy Smeby





### Elders:

Bubele Sakala, Dan Schneberk,  
Ed Story, Howard Wray,  
Jar'Reese Billberry, Jeff Sutton,  
Jen Schwing, Karen Kennedy,  
Kris Hall, Margaret Hullett,  
Mark Wiley, Mary Lou Fourtané

### Trustees:

Dan Schneberk, Ed Story,  
Jeff Sutton, Jen Schwing,  
Kris Hall, Margaret Hullett

## 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 January 26<sup>th</sup>. Please note: details are typically announced the Thursday prior to the event. To be added to the contact list for **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 January, Cutters will be enjoying breakfast on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. To receive more information about *Cutters*' gatherings, see Mary Lou Fourtané or Pastor Adele.
- **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. 
- **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](mailto: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, or write a check and mail 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), or by using this QR code. →*

