

Covenant Presbyterian Church

607 E. 3rd St. Long Beach, CA 90802 - 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!

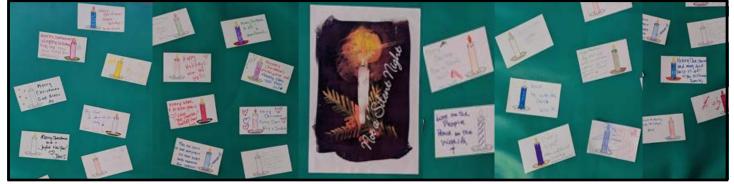
Warmly in Christ,

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.

January 5 th	January 12 th	January 19 th	January 26 th
Matthew 2:1-23	Isaiah 43:1-7	John 2:1-11	Luke 4:16, 20-30
"Outsiders Who Know	"Engulfed in Flames, but	"The God of	"The God of Gentle
Better than Insiders"	Not Consumed"	Wine"	Strength"

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: goeuminwgq 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.

WEEKLY STUDIES

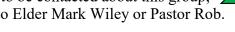
Mondays - In-depth Bible Study

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.



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.



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).



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#

To join this study,

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#

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

- 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





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



of Officers

Ordination & Installation takes place in worship on January 19th.

Returning officers are most welcome to attend.

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 19th
- Trustees at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21st
- Elders at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21st

CHURCH OFFICERS IN 2025

Deacons:

Cynthia Olson, Felecia Taylor, Greg Perkins, Irini Antoniades, Lea Lindley, Mei Cameron, Narin Antoniades, 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 26th. 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 11th 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.
- 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, or by using this QR code.

