



Spring Guide

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2026





Letter from Jill Williams

Dear Covenant family,

I hope each of you is well. Now that 2026 is underway, we are glad for you to receive this Spring Guide. This is an important time at Covenant as we engage the early months of a pastoral transition since our dear friends and pastors Thomas and Beth Daniel accepted a call to serve in Dallas. In the months following the Daniel's departure, it has been incredible to witness the Covenant family continue to flourish and be a faithful presence in God's world. There are signs of Spirit-infused life everywhere. One sign of discipleship and your commitment is there was a record financial pledge amount for 2026. Let us praise God together for all that God has done and continues to do in our midst.

We hope this guide will encourage your faith as we move through winter and into spring. This wonderful resource provides an overview of the opportunities available to get involved in the mission and ministry of Covenant this spring and to find community and ways to serve. There is an article about the Love Letter Fund, an update on the pastoral transition and where we are in the process, and much more. We remain deeply thankful for the generosity of so many who made a way for us to renovate Eaton Hall, the patio, and front entrance. This transformation will impact generations to come. To celebrate 65 years of God's faithfulness to this congregation, we will rededicate Eaton Hall in March. God has loved and guided Covenant for 65 years and will continue to do so!

Please take this Spring Guide and use it as a resource to know what is coming up on our calendar, learn more about who Covenant is, and consider how you and your family might be called to participate in the life of this beloved community.

Friends, God has a purpose for us in 2026 that is greater than we can possibly imagine. Some of God's most important formation work happens during the transition times of our lives, and transitions can deepen one's trust and dependence on God. We hold hopeful expectation for what lies ahead as we continue to encourage one another to follow Jesus wherever we live, work, and play.

With you on the journey,
Jill





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Meet the New Members

We are so excited to welcome the newest members of our congregation to the Covenant community! Learn about our mission, our people, and our community in our next Explore Membership class starting April 22. Details and registration at covenant.org/membership.



Michelle Berry



Cindy Cochran



Bob Furu



Jill Jackson



Mike Jackson



Eric Moreland



Kay Moreland



Katie Oliver



Mark Oliver



Kirstie Osten



Paige Polishook



Amanda Powell



Ben Powell



Terry Mitchell



Patricia Mitchell



Jason Strihan



Julie Strihan



Max Williams



Caroline Williams



Mark Williamson

NOT PICTURED:

Juli Bell, Kandace Williamson
Clarissa McWilliams

Interested in becoming a member at Covenant?

Our next Explore Membership class will be April 22 and 29 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Learn more at covenant.org/membership
or email Amy Skaggs at askaggs@covenant.org



A Season of Trust and Hope

PASTORAL TRANSITION



Some seasons in the life of a church feel like turning a page. Familiar words give way to blank space, and the story continues not with certainty, but with trust. This is one of those seasons at Covenant.

Last fall, our congregation marked the closing of a meaningful chapter as Senior Pastor Thomas Daniel accepted a call to Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas. In late September, Covenant gathered to offer prayers of gratitude for Thomas and Beth Daniel, celebrating years of faithful leadership and the many ways God's presence was known through their ministry. It was a moment of joy tempered with tenderness, a reminder that endings and beginnings often arrive hand in hand.

Since then, Covenant has been living into a quieter, steadier work. Under the leadership of Interim Head of Staff Jill Williams, the church has continued its life together worshiping, serving, learning, and caring for one another while attending to the deeper questions that naturally surface in a season of transition: Who are we now? What is God shaping among us? Where might we be called next?

Rather than rushing toward answers, Covenant has chosen to listen.

Earlier this year, members were invited to share their voices through a church wide survey. Those responses are now being woven into a Mission Study, a reflective snapshot of Covenant's life, values, and sense of calling in this moment. The Mission Study will help articulate not only who we are as a community, but what kind of leadership will best serve the church in the years ahead.

Prayer has been central throughout this season. In January, Covenant held a 24 hour prayer vigil, with members praying around the clock for the person God is preparing to become the church's next senior pastor. Prayers were also offered for patience, wisdom, and trust, for leaders carrying responsibility, and for the congregation as a whole. It was a quiet but powerful act of faith, grounding the search in hope rather than urgency.

As spring arrives, Covenant is preparing to take its next faithful step by forming a Pastor Nominating Committee. This group, elected from within the congregation, will carry the sacred work of listening deeply, discerning prayerfully, and conducting a confidential search for the pastor who will one day be called to serve here. There is no fixed timeline for this process. Instead, the pace is guided by discernment, trust, and openness to God's leading.

Through it all, Covenant's ministry continues. The life of the church has not paused while the search unfolds. Worship fills the sanctuary, relationships deepen, service extends into the community, and the mission remains clear: to encourage one another to follow Jesus wherever we live, work, and play.

This season is not merely about finding a new pastor. It is about becoming a people who wait well, listen carefully, and move forward together with confidence that God is already present in what is unfolding. The story is still being written, and Covenant steps into the next chapter with gratitude for what has been and hope for what is yet to come.

Learn More

Learn more about our pastoral transition process at [**covenant.org/pastoral-transition**](https://covenant.org/pastoral-transition).

Celebrating 65 Years

OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



On March 26, 1961, ninety-eight founding members officially organized to form Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Over the past 65 years, Covenant has blossomed into a thriving community of approximately 2,000 active members dedicated to encouraging one another to follow Jesus wherever we live, work, and play.

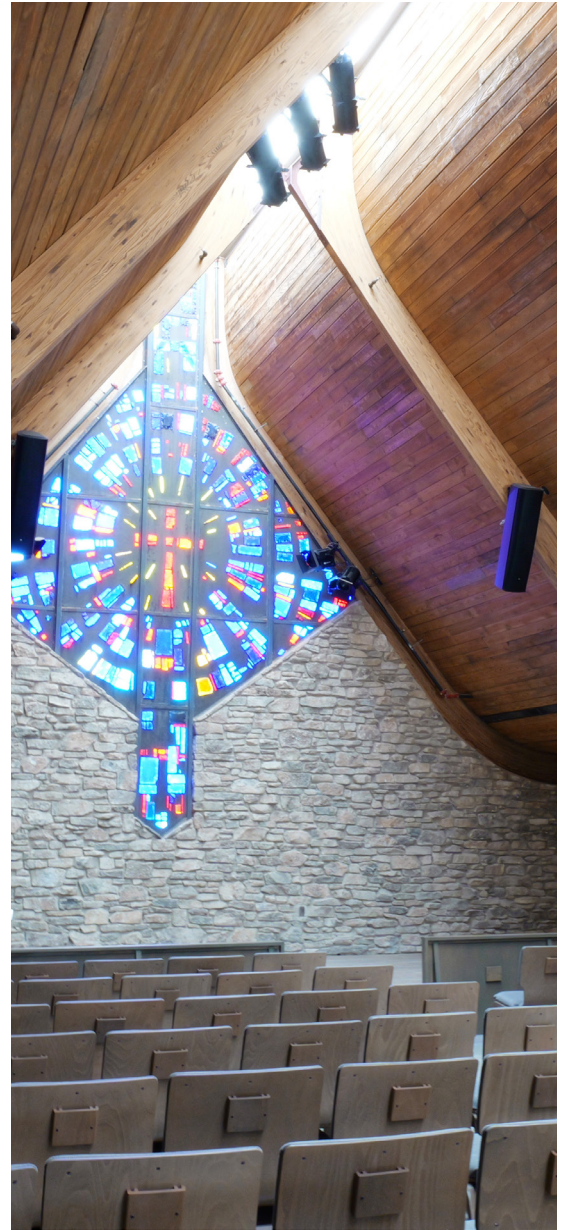




Come celebrate with us!

Our original Sanctuary, named after founding pastor, Reverend Carl Eaton, has been fully renovated and is ready to reclaim its position as the heart of our campus.

A grand re-opening of Eaton Hall will be held on **Sunday, March 29th at 12:15 p.m.** This day will include a short dedication ceremony, tours of the updated facility, and a shared meal.





A Place to Gather

The Covenant Churchwide Picnic at the Skaggs'

When Jan Skaggs is asked what first comes to mind when she thinks about the Churchwide picnic each May, she doesn't hesitate.

"Baptism," she says. "It's the baptism."

Not just the moment itself, but everything around it: the congregation gathered along the creek banks and dam, people standing shoulder to shoulder, cheering when the pastor and the baptized emerge from the water. It is celebratory and communal and deeply joyful. "It's one of the best gifts to us," Jan says.

That scene captures what the picnic has come to represent over decades: not simply an event on the calendar, but a living picture of the church as a whole. On Sunday mornings, worshipers are often divided by service times. At the picnic, those lines dissolve. "If you're an 8:15 worshiper, you don't really get to know the 11:00 people," Jan explains. "Out here, everybody mixes and mingles. The baptism becomes this picture of the whole body of Christ."

Held on the Skaggs' property for roughly forty years, with a brief hiatus along the way, the picnic has grown into one of Covenant's most beloved traditions. Jan and Harold have been married for 32 years, but the picnic predates their marriage, reaching back to the late 1980s. Its return, they recall, was fueled in part by the youth group. Kids loved coming out to the property, and as the students came, the parents followed. Soon, the whole church followed too.

On picnic day, the valley fills with blankets, food, and people spread across the land. Cars now park safely in the pasture, thanks to a carefully orchestrated system of cones and volunteers, and by dusk those same cones are magically gathered up as everyone pitches in to help. It is casual, cooperative, and quietly organized, the kind of order that emerges when a community knows the place and one another well.

For Jan, opening their home and land has never felt like an obligation. "It's a real privilege and honor," she says. "I'm just really grateful that God has provided this place and that we can provide it for other people." Growing up in cities, she notes, many children rarely experience open land like this. "It's like a gift we received from the Lord that we're happy to pass on."

Harold sees the land itself as part of that gift. Over the years, they've found Indigenous artifacts on the property dating back thousands of years, reminders that this place has been lived on, loved, and gathered in long before them. "This spot on earth that God made has been occupied and loved on by generations and centuries of people before us," he says. "We're so fortunate and so blessed to get to live here."

That sense of stewardship shapes everything they do. From Men in the Word barbecues to choir and Lamplighter parties to the picnic itself, sharing the land is simply part of being faithful with what they've been given. "We're nothing but stewards," Harold says. "We're trying to be good ones."





Over time, even the preparation has become communal. What once fell mostly to Harold now involves a whole crew, led by Jack Skaggs, who has turned workdays into something joyful. People mow, haul, and prep together, sometimes with supervised older kids climbing onto tractors and equipment. "It's a joy to let kids who are so controlled in town do something a little different," Jan says.

And then there are the details everyone remembers: the rope swing that launches brave swimmers six feet into the creek, always tested first by "some giant brave boy"; the familiar foods brought year after year; the women who know their way around the Skaggs' kitchen; Harold wandering from table to table sampling potato salad, chicken salad, and watermelon like a very happy dog. "We know who makes the best of everything," he laughs.

At its heart, the picnic feels like what church can be at its best. Harold calls it "an Acts 2 moment", not because anyone is studying scripture, but because people are breaking bread, sharing space, and caring for one another. Different ages, different services, different personalities, all together. "Everybody gets along," Jan says. "Everybody helps."

It also feels safe. The Skaggs often compare it to a family reunion, complete with crabby uncles and overly helpful great-aunts. For years, their own family gathered here, and visiting parents remarked on how free their children felt, able to run and explore without fear. That same sense of safety now extends to the wider church. "It's a safe place," Jan says. "It's a family."

When the day winds down and people head home, Jan and Harold hope they leave lighter than when they arrived. With joy. With a sense of community. With a deeper awareness of God's

presence among them. "The Lord is what brought us together," Harold says.

They felt the absence of that gathering deeply during COVID, when the picnic couldn't happen. Even in dry years, the community adapted, once turning a hillside into a giant slip-and-slide when the creek ran low. The point was never the conditions, but the togetherness.

As the years go on, Harold has begun quietly ensuring the picnic will outlast him, passing leadership to the next generation, hoping it continues to bring joy long after he and Jan are no longer the hosts. "It means so much to this community," he says. "I'd love for it to keep going."

For now, though, each May, the valley fills again. Food is shared. Children swing into the creek. Baptisms are celebrated with cheers echoing off the banks. And for one long, beautiful afternoon, the church becomes fully visible, gathered in joy, grace, and gratitude.

Save the date for the 2026 Churchwide Picnic!

Mark your calendars for the annual Churchwide Picnic! We'll be gathering at the Skaggs' Ranch on **Sunday, May 3, from 4 p.m. to dusk.**

God calls us to be a
Love Letter
to the city of Austin



Scan to
Learn More

We're being formed and shaped all the time.

The things we prioritize, how we use our imagination, and the passions we pursue form us in big and small ways every day. As Christians, we confess that Jesus Christ is at the center of our formation. The gospels reveal a pattern of solitude, community, and service in Jesus' life that models a pattern for Christian formation. We invite you to use this guide to review the practices of solitude, community, and service available at Covenant this spring.

THE PRACTICE OF

Solitude

The practice of solitude provides time and space to be with God and with ourselves for the sake of rest and renewal. Here are a few Covenant resources that may be helpful on your journey to seek out solitude.

Covenant Library

The Covenant Library is tucked away on the first floor of FEB and hosts a rich variety of literature available for checkout. The library is open during business hours and for Sunday services.

Covenant Prayer Labyrinth

Located in the southeast corner of the church parking lot, the Prayer Labyrinth is a sacred space for meditation and prayer. Visit the Prayer Labyrinth any time.

Covenant Sermon Archives

Sermons and worship services are recorded and stored in our archives each week. Access to both video and audio recordings, as well as sermon discussion guides, can be found online at covenant.org/sermons

Covenant Daily Devotional

If you don't have a regular practice of prayer and scripture reading, we invite you to pray and read with us every day by subscribing to the daily devotional email. Monday through Friday morning, you'll receive an email with a guided devotional for prayer and study.

Sign up at covenant.org/devotional



Baptism at Covenant

Baptism is a visible sign of an invisible grace. The visible sign is the water. We use water because water purifies, it refreshes, and it cleanses. The sign points towards the promise that in Jesus Christ we are engrafted into the family of God, that we have received forgiveness of sins, and that one day we will be resurrected to eternal life.

The sacrament of baptism has deep and wide ranging theological meaning in the Christian faith. Here at Covenant we believe that the depth and beauty of the gospel is on full display when our congregation observes and participates in a baptism. As Presbyterians, we believe that baptism is both a gift we receive and a means by which we participate in God's story and live lives of discipleship.

Baptism is first a gift because it is something we freely receive on account of God's mercy. We do not enter into the waters of baptism because we have earned God's love. Baptism is grace. Prior to anything we have ever done, God speaks words of love and belonging over each one of us. When we baptize children at Covenant, we lean into the promises of God that he claims and loves each one of us even before we can respond.

We also believe that baptism is a primary way we respond in faithfulness to God.



We encourage and celebrate when people in our congregation make decisions to be baptized because baptism provides an opportunity to make a public profession of faith to renounce sin and to follow Jesus. Responding to God's grace and participating in the story of God is the greatest calling we have upon our lives. To that end, we invite children who were baptized as infants to participate in a confirmation class. In confirmation, we invite our youth to remember their baptisms and God's grace in their lives and to stand in front of the congregation on their own two feet and proclaim "I believe." Praise be to God for his grace that goes before us and for the opportunity to respond.

Learn More

To inquire more about baptism you can visit our website at covenant.org/life-events or contact Maureen Crawley at mcrawley@covenant.org.

"Here at Covenant we believe that the depth and beauty of the gospel is on full display when our congregation observes and participates in a baptism."





COVENANT.ORG/CLASSES

Studies, Groups, and Classes



Nursery

ONGOING

Nursery care is available for children 3 months to 4 years of age during Sunday services.

Sundays, 8:15, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m. 2nd Floor, FEB

Katie McFarlane, kmcfarlane@covenant.org

Sunday School

ONGOING

Sunday School is available for children ages 2 years to 5th grade. Kindergarten - 3rd grade will experience large group time, play games, worship God and listen to stories from the Bible. 4th and 5th graders meet in small groups and walk through the Old and New Testaments, respectively.

Sundays, 9:30 a.m., Check-in on the 2nd Floor FEB

Christian Meyer, cmeyer@covenant.org

Wednesday Night

ONGOING

Childcare is available for our Wednesday evening programs for 3 months to 4 years of age. To learn more, send a message to our childcare team.

5:00 - 7:00 p.m., FEB Nursery Hallway

Katie McFarlane, kmcfarlane@covenant.org

Joy Ministry

ONGOING

Does your child need extra support here at Covenant? Our Joy Ministry program matches each child with a volunteer buddy trained to help your child attend and participate more fully in Sunday school.

Sundays, 9:30 a.m.

Katie McFarlane, kmcfarlane@covenant.org

Covenant Presbyterian Preschool

Covenant Presbyterian Preschool welcomes students ages 9 months through Pre-K for exemplary Monday through Friday programming. Learn more and register for the 2025 - 2026 school year at covenant.org/preschool.

Laura Hargrave, lhargrave@covenant.org

Sunday Morning Small Groups

ONGOING

Grades 6-12 are invited to join us on the 4th floor from 9:30-10:30 each Sunday morning. We'll hang out with our small groups and connect with friends. There will be donuts, games, fun, and group time with our incredible leaders.

9:30 a.m., FEB 4th Floor

Christian Antwi, youth@covenant.org

Wednesday Night

ONGOING

Grades 6-12 gather together for a time filled with games, food, and engagement with Scripture. Together we will center ourselves around the stories of the Bible as we develop a vibrant Christian faith rooted around Jesus Christ. Dinner costs \$5 and youth are encouraged to bring friends!

*Doors open 5:30 p.m. / Programming 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
FEB 4th Floor*

Christian Antwi, youth@covenant.org

Young Adult Brunches

ONGOING

Monthly brunch for young adults held at rotating homes near Covenant.

4th Sundays, 12:15 p.m.

Feb 22, March 22, April 26, May 31

Kathryn Sedberry, ksedberry@covenant.org

Young Adult Lent Small Group

BEGINS THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16

A new young adult small group will meet for five weeks during Lent, with the possibility of continuing beyond that. Day and location will be determined by interest. Content, curriculum, and leader training will be provided.

Sign up at covenant.org/small-group-signup

Kathryn Sedberry at ksedberry@covenant.org.

ADULTS COVENANT.ORG/ADULTS

ALL AGES

Choir Parents Lent Small Group

BEGINS FEBRUARY 18

Choir parents have an opportunity this spring to participate in a small group that will meet for five weeks during Lent. Any children not in choir who are 4 and under will be able to attend childcare during this time. The group will meet in a classroom on Covenant's campus. An agenda and curriculum will be provided.

Sign up at covenant.org/small-group-signup and indicate "Choir Parents".

Wednesdays, Feb 18 & 22, March 4, 11, & 25

Kathryn Sedberry, ksedberry@covenant.org

Explore Membership Class

BEGINS APRIL 22

This class is designed for those interested in joining the church. In four sessions, you will have the opportunity to become familiar with our mission, connect with the pastoral staff, meet new people, and find ways to serve.

Wednesdays, 6 - 7:30 p.m., April 22 & 29

covenant.org/membership

Small Groups

ONGOING

New small groups are forming which will meet for six weeks during Lent, beginning the week of February 16. Groups are encouraged to study "The Great Divorce" by C.S. Lewis which will be the topic of a three-week Wednesday evening Lent series. Books will be available to purchase on the patio throughout February. Sign up to be in a group or be a leader at **covenant.org/groups**.

Empty Nesters Sunday School Class

ONGOING

For married couples in their 40s/50s/60s who are approaching or already enjoying the empty nest stage of life. Provides opportunities for fellowship, book study, social outings, and Bible study while pivoting to the second half of marriage.

Sundays, 11:00 a.m., FE 107

Bethany Leffingwell, leffingwellbethany@gmail.com

Early Word Bible Discussion Class

ONGOING

Read and discuss the sermon discussion guide on the sermon preached the week before and the scripture that will be preached in worship the morning of the class.

Sundays, 8:30 a.m., CO 208

John Fincher, jfincher5561@gmail.com

Wednesday Morning Prayer

ONGOING

A weekly 45-minute time of prayer following the liturgy for Daily Prayer from the Book of Common Worship. Bible readings come from the Revised Common Lectionary readings or as chosen by prayer leader.

Wednesdays, 9:00 – 9:45 a.m., Virtual

Bonnie Canizaro, bonnietexas@mindspring.com

Frank Sheppard, frank-sheppard@att.net

Faith and Community

ONGOING

We are a "Sunday morning small group" journeying through life and faith together. We discuss Bible passages, recent sermons and great books on faith. In the Spring we plan to begin a study of the book "When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself."

Sundays, 9:30 a.m., FE 106

Royce Poinsett, royce_poinsett@hotmail.com

Koinonia Sunday School Class

ONGOING

Read and discuss books that explore a variety of Christian topics. First Sunday of the month devoted to a previous Covenant sermon. Drop-ins are welcome.

Sundays, 9:30 a.m., FE 107

Michele Keeler, mkeeler@austin.utexas.edu

Exploring Scripture Class

ONGOING

This new Sunday morning class is a place for people to gather around Scripture to learn who God is and to grow in obedience to God. This discussion-style class is designed for anyone who is new to Scripture or who is seeking to read and apply the Bible in their daily lives. No prior work or knowledge is required, and all are welcome. We will continue our study of the Old Testament into the spring. The class is led by Laura Tuma, Dan Hart, and Chuck Volk.

Sundays, 9:30 a.m., FE 100

Kathryn Sedberry, ksedberry@covenant.org

Kairos Class

ONGOING

Video lesson and facilitated discussion.

1st & 3rd Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., FE 107

Stephen Murray, smurray@covenant.org

Pickleball

ONGOING

All ages and levels of play are welcome! Feel free to bring a friend, open to the community. Nets, balls, paddles, and music provided.

March – November: Thursdays, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

December – February: Fridays, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

FEB 4th floor Gym

Gina Lento, ginalento@gmail.com

Maria Raper, maria.r.raper@gmail.com

Parents of Teens Sunday School Group

ONGOING

The teenage years are full of change, for adolescents and for their families. Join fellow parents of teens to learn, share, and be encouraged by each other as we seek to love our teens well, parent them effectively, and prepare them to live independently. Our study is guided by "The Five Love Languages of Teenagers" by Gary Chapman, interspersed with supplemental materials on topics of interest to be presented by group members throughout the year.

Drop-ins are always welcome.

Sundays, 9:30am, FE 108

Jen Kost, jen@tashcorp.net

Walking the Mourner's Path

BEGINS OCTOBER 1

A Christ-centered, spiritually-directed grief support group for those mourning the death of a loved one. Grief can be transformed when shared with others navigating these same unfamiliar and often difficult paths in a safe and supportive space.

Fall Session

Thursdays, Oct. 1 – Nov. 19, 2026 | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Sanctuary Parlor

Jana Harrison, jharrison@covenant.org

Men in the Word

ONGOING

Weekly men's study emphasizes building community and living lives guided by scripture. Spring study is the book of Mark.

Thursdays, 6:00 a.m., FE 200 and virtual

Mike Barnes, mkbtbarnes@gmail.com

Downtown Men's at Covenant!

ONGOING

Men's lunch, fellowship, and bible study discussion. \$10-20, RSVP required.

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m., CO 208

Maureen Crawley, mcrawley@covenant.org

Andrew Hawkins Men's Bible Study

ONGOING

Weekly men's Bible study with an informal structure geared toward a rich supportive fellowship. The course of study for a given period is discussed and agreed on by the members. The scriptures being studied are read aloud in a group setting each week and then discussed among the group. Members can attend in person or through ZOOM.

Mondays, 6:30 p.m., CO 202, or via Zoom.

Gene McKenzie, geno7218@gmail.com

Monthly Women's Bible Study

ONGOING

Monthly Women's Bible Study meets in small groups for scripture study, fellowship, prayer, and mission. This is a great introduction to those new to Bible study or for busy women who are looking for a prayerful community. The 2025-26 study is "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ." Women are welcome to join at any time of year.

Monthly Meetings, dates vary, in-person and virtual

Registration and info at covenant.org/pw

Monthly Women's Lunch Bunch

ONGOING

Monthly BYO lunch study featuring fellowship, prayer, and discussion.

1st Thursdays, 12:00 - 1:15 p.m., FE 104 sitting room

Maya Moghadam, maya@mayasdesignstudio.com

Lamplighters

ONGOING

Lamplighters combines an individual inductive study with a weekly podcast, small group discussion, and prayerful fellowship. We remain rooted in God's Word and connected to one another as we seek to grow as followers of Jesus Christ. The 2025-2026 study is "Mark: God's Word." Women are welcome to join at any time of year.

Days/times vary, in-person and virtual

Registration at lamplightersbiblestudy.com

Moms in the Word

ONGOING

Moms in the Word falls under the umbrella of Lamplighters, and is a low-pressure weekly Bible study that provides fellowship for young moms with free childcare available. Spring study is "Esther" by Kelly Minter.

Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., CO 208

Med Luckett, medluckett@gmail.com

Children's Choir

Children's Choirs are for children in Pre-K through 5th grade.

Rehearsals on Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m.

Elizabeth Gilligan, egilligan@covenant.org

Children's Chimes

Children's Chimes are for children in 3rd through 5th grade.

Rehearsals on Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.

Elizabeth Gilligan, egilligan@covenant.org

Journey Youth Choir

Journey Youth Choir is for students grade 6-12. Periodically participate in worship throughout the year and travel off-site to share their musical gifts.

Rehearsals on Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m.

Jerry Wise, jwise@covenant.org

Covenant Youth Band

The Covenant Youth Band is for grades 9-12. Lead the music for the youth in weekly gatherings and other services.

Jerry Wise, jwise@covenant.org

Presbyterian Pickers

This diverse group of musicians spreads joy in our preschool and nursery classrooms during our 9:30 a.m. Sunday service. BYO instrument.

Jesse White, jcwhite16@gmail.com

GraceNotes Choir

GraceNotes is Covenant's auditioned chamber choir singing sacred music from all styles and historical periods. Audition is required.

Michael Shuman, mshuman@covenant.org

Pro Musica Handbell Choir

Our handbell choir is a dedicated five-octave ensemble for new or experienced ringers, ages high school through adult. The group provides music for Sunday morning worship, concerts, and other church events.

Rehearsals on Sundays, 7:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Gilligan, egilligan@covenant.org

Sanctuary Choir

Our Sanctuary Choir regularly participates in the traditional worship services. This choir sings a wide range of music and welcomes all singers, regardless of ability.

Rehearsals on Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Michael Shuman, mshuman@covenant.org

Worship Band

The worship band leads the congregation in song during weekly services and other gatherings. Audition Required.

Jerry Wise, jwise@covenant.org

Need help finding your spot?

We want to help you feel at home at Covenant. Whether you have a question, want to get to know us better, or get involved with community, our visitor coordinator, Amy Skaggs, looks forward to connecting with you personally.

Email Amy at askaggs@covenant.org





Covenant Builds

Building Home, Building Community at Community First! Village

For nearly a decade, Covenant has been showing up at Community First! Village with hammers in hand and hearts wide open. What began as a small effort by a dedicated group has grown into a long-standing partnership, one that has helped provide safe, dignified housing for neighbors coming out of chronic homelessness.

This spring, Covenant is building its sixth home at Community First! Village.

Our first build took place in 2016, when a small team from Men in the Word assembled a simple kit home, fitting together pieces much like Lincoln Logs. In 2020, during the height of the pandemic, that same core team built two identical homes at the same time, offering stability and hope in a season marked by uncertainty. The fourth home followed in 2022, and the fifth in 2023, each one deepening relationships, strengthening skills, and reinforcing Covenant's long-term commitment to this community.

Over time, Community First! Village itself has grown into a more expansive and structured organization. Volunteers now arrive on site wearing hard hats and high-visibility vests, and homes are built from standardized plans provided by the Village. The home being built this year is part of a new phase of development that includes hundreds of homes, each intentionally designed to foster connection, dignity, and belonging.

What makes this year's build especially meaningful is that, for the first time, the entire Covenant community has been invited to participate.



The response has been remarkable. More than 60 people have already signed up to volunteer, and the January build dates filled quickly. What was once a small, specialized project has become a shared expression of service, generosity, and faithfulness.

Community First! Village is a ministry of Mobile Loaves and Fishes, a Christian social outreach organization founded in 1998 and supported entirely by private and corporate donations. The Village is a master-planned community providing affordable, permanent housing and supportive community for men and women coming out of chronic homelessness.

Every detail of the Village is intentionally designed to encourage relationship. Homes feature front porches and are clustered around shared spaces, including laundry rooms, restrooms and showers, outdoor kitchens, and green spaces, creating natural opportunities for connection. Today, nearly 470 formerly homeless neighbors call the Village home. Once fully developed, it will serve approximately 1,900 residents, with access to a market, clinic, counseling services, and meaningful job opportunities.

Each home Covenant builds represents more than a structure. It is a place of safety, dignity, and belonging, and a visible sign of what can happen when a community shows up together.



How to Get Involved

Interested in helping build homes at Community First! Village? Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome, and training is provided on site.

To learn more or sign up, email Harry Evans at harryevansconsults@gmail.com



COVENANT.ORG/SERVE

Service Opportunities



First Impressions

WELCOME TEAM

Join us for just one Sunday a month as a welcoming presence to greet Sunday morning guests, answer questions, and direct them to where they need to go.

Amy Skaggs, askaggs@covenant.org

FRONT DESK COORDINATOR

Welcoming and friendly personalities are occasionally needed to greet visitors and take messages from the front desk. No technical skills are required and training is available!

Jennifer English, jenglish@covenant.org

Worship Services

USHERS

Welcome guests, provide seating assistance, answer questions and support offering and communion.

Michael Shuman, mshuman@covenant.org

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Help to lead music in all services - whether as a solo instrument or in a group.

Michael Shuman, mshuman@covenant.org

LEAD VOCALISTS

Help lead music in worship in all services. Audition is required.

Michael Shuman, mshuman@covenant.org

WORSHIP SETUP

Help prepare the worship space for services such as communion, paraments, hanging of the green, etc.

Michael Shuman, mshuman@covenant.org

ALTAR FLOWERS

Give flowers for the sanctuary in memory or honor of loved ones. Arrangements are \$45. Learn more at covenant.org/flowerform.

Congregational Care

CANCER CARE MINISTRY

Our Cancer Care Ministry offers God's hope and love to Covenant members newly diagnosed or in active treatment to face the challenges of cancer, reminding them with prayer, presence, assistance, and friendship that they are not alone as they journey with cancer. Volunteers help by providing meals, helping with yard work, writing notes of encouragement, or offering miscellaneous help.

Jana Harrison, jharrison@covenant.org

CARD WRITING

Come and join a ministry of sending handwritten notes or greeting cards to encourage someone in the Covenant family.

1st Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m., CO 208

Roni Divine, veronica.divine@gmail.com

MEMORIAL SERVICE RECEPTION TEAM

Volunteers care for Covenant families and provide support through set up, serving refreshments, cleanup, or baking cookies for on campus memorial service receptions.

Robin Moore, robinhm52@att.net

MEMORIAL SERVICE USHER

Volunteers provide support by ushering on campus memorial services.

Bretna Hackert, bretna@mail.utexas.edu

PRAYER TEAM

Uphold the congregation, its ministries, and the larger community in prayer at a place and time of your choosing. Requests sent over email.

Jana Harrison, jharrison@covenant.org

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Members knit and crochet baby blankets and shawls for those in need due to illness or loss, plus hats and scarves for homeless young adults. No experience is required.

3rd Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m., SA 114

Nancy Bissell, nancybissell45@gmail.com

Tech Team

SLIDE OPERATOR

Manage slides for worship services and special events. No experience required. Training is provided.
tech@covenant.org

LIVESTREAM

Support our online congregation by running cameras, operating slides, or managing the website portal for our Sunday livestream.
tech@covenant.org

AUDIO

Assist with audio during worship services and special events.
tech@covenant.org

LIGHTING

Assist with stage lighting for worship services and special events. No experience required. Training is provided.
tech@covenant.org

Communications

WRITERS

Writers and editors are needed to support the production of devotionals, blogs, and stories.
MP Garcia, mgarcia@covenant.org

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Photography volunteers support coverage of Covenant events throughout the week. All ages are welcome!
MP Garcia, mgarcia@covenant.org

Small Groups

SMALL GROUP LEADERS

Small groups are intentional communities of 8-10 people who encourage one another to live out Covenant's mission through prayer and studying scripture together. Groups meet at the time and location of their choice, and leaders are provided with training and resources. New small groups are forming that will meet weekly during Lent. Sign up on the patio in February or at covenant.org/groups.
Kathryn Sedberry, ksedberry@covenant.org

Kids

KIDS LEADERS

Volunteers, who can commit to serve once a month, are needed to serve and nurture and play with Covenant's youngest members! All volunteers will be trained to teach, assist and foster a welcoming and safe learning experience for our kids.

Christian Meyer, cmeyer@covenant.org

JOY MINISTRY LEADERS

Covenant Kids wants all children & families to feel welcome, known, and loved! Our Joy Ministry was created to provide all children the ability to experience community here at Covenant. We pair trained volunteers with children who might need special support or accommodations to create an environment for them to fully participate in our programming.

Katie McFarlane, kmcfarlane@covenant.org

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to care for and play with Covenant's youngest members! All volunteers will be trained on nursery policies and paired with an experienced caregiver to provide a warm, inviting environment for children ages 4 and below.

Katie McFarlane, kmcfarlane@covenant.org

ESL NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to support the children of ESL students during their class times. Volunteers help provide a fun, engaging experience for children ages 4 and below alongside experienced caregivers.

Katie McFarlane, kmcfarlane@covenant.org

CHILDREN'S CHOIR ASSISTANTS

Volunteers are needed to spend time with our young singers during choir. No musical experience required, just a commitment to support our choir leaders with your presence and helping hands. Choirs are ages PK-5th grade and meets on Wednesdays at 5:00.

Elizabeth Gilligan, egilligan@covenant.org

CHILDREN'S CHOIR MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

We are looking for people to support our spring musical performance on April 26th. If you have an interest in helping with sets, props, costumes, acting coaching, snacks, etc., please reach out to Elizabeth Gilligan to see if it might fit with your schedule.

Elizabeth Gilligan, egilligan@covenant.org

Youth

SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH LEADERS

Middle School and High School small group leaders meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 to explore Scripture and participate in the lives of our students. Two leaders are assigned to each small group of students to create an environment where each student's name is known and story is honored.

Christian Antwi, youth@covenant.org

WEDNESDAY EVENING YOUTH LEADERS

Join us on Wednesday night to share dinner, play games, and worship alongside our middle school and high school students. Wednesday evenings are a wonderful time to connect with our students, and to encourage them in their walk with God.

Christian Antwi, youth@covenant.org

SERVE IN AUSTIN

COVENANT.ORG/SERVE-AUSTIN

Families & Education

AUSTIN VOICES FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH

Austin Voices for Education and Youth (AVEY), a ministry working throughout East Austin, is a community collaboration that aims to strengthen families, support kids, and improve schools. AVEY trains and encourages parents to be leaders, connects families with resources, and helps to build safe and thriving communities. AVEY has monthly food pantry distributions in East Austin and is always looking for volunteers.

Lynn Bell, lynnjbell53@gmail.com

MENTOR A 4TH GRADER AT PADRON ELEMENTARY

Covenant has partnered with Padron Elementary to provide one-on-one mentorship to participating 4th graders. Mentors commit to one Friday afternoon a month and will be led by partner organization Academy 4. This is an amazing opportunity for anyone looking to serve monthly with a large group of Covenant members. We are looking for mentors, substitute mentors and Spanish speakers.

Med Luckett, med.luckett@academy4.org

MANOS DE CRISTO

Manos De Cristo is a long time partner of Covenant that seeks to empower low-income individuals with a loving hand of assistance. Manos promotes dignity and self-reliance by meeting basic needs with food and clothing, providing essential oral care, and furthering educational development. The Manos food pantry often needs donations and Covenant is collecting items they have requested. For more on Manos and the list of needed items, reach out to Melissa Mathews.

Melissa Mathews, jdmsocks@gmail.com

EAST AUSTIN YOUNG LIFE

EAYL is growing and seeks more volunteer support.

If you would like to mentor a Young Life leader, host a meal, or participate in their ministry, contact **Will Withers, withers.will@gmail.com**.

Vulnerable Populations

DRIVE A SENIOR ATX

Drive A Senior ATX (DAS ATX) serves our aging population in Austin by driving seniors, providing calls, and checking in. DAS ATX is one of our longest-standing mission partners. This opportunity is one that is flexible and can provide an opportunity for a volunteer to connect to one of the loneliest populations in our area, aging adults.

Shelly Frost, cafrosts@yahoo.com

Welcoming the Stranger

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

Covenant, in partnership with Manos De Cristo, hosts ESL classes during the week. These classes, taught by Covenant volunteers, help non-English speakers learn language crucial for their ability to thrive in the US. We need assistant teachers and volunteer childcare support for parents attending class.

Jane Harris, jph802@gmail.com

Housing & Homelessness

STREET YOUTH MINISTRY

Street Youth Ministry has moved closer to Covenant and has many amazing and convenient ways to serve!

For information on how to get involved, contact

Garrett Hall, garrett_hall@yahoo.com

COVENANT BUILDS - COMMUNITY FIRST! VILLAGE

Covenant is partnering with Community First! Village to help build our sixth home in early 2026.

Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome to join this hands-on opportunity to help create a place of dignity and belonging for a new neighbor.

For information on how to get involved, contact

Harry Evans, harryevansconsults@gmail.com

CENTRAL MISSION AT CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For over a year, Covenant has joined Central Presbyterian Church in their Thursday morning mission to serve breakfast to unhoused neighbors downtown. This opportunity is a great way to connect to see the needs of those who are unhoused.

Whitney Bell, wbell@covenant.org

SERVE AROUND THE WORLD

[COVENANT.ORG/SERVE-WORLD](https://covenant.org/serve-world)

CUBA

Covenant has faithfully partnered with Luyanó Presbyterian Church in Havana, Cuba, since 1994. There are many ways to get involved with this ministry and partner with our friends in Cuba. For More information about our Cuba Ministry can be found at covenant.org/cuba.

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION

Covenant is excited to partner with IJM's Ghana Field Office, supporting their work to protect people in poverty from violence and modern-day slavery. We come alongside their team through prayer, encouragement, and raising awareness here in Austin.

Thais Kilday, thais.kilday@me.com

BELIZE

Covenant has been in partnership in Belize for over 10 years. Partnering with First Stone Church in Belize City as well as the Belize Central Prison, we take teams to serve alongside partners a build relationships and friendships. To learn more about this robust mission, contact Rusty Burnett.

Rusty Burnett, rburnett@matadorps.com

Still: An Evening *of* Contemplative Worship

2/15, 3/15, & 4/19

7 P.M.

Step out of the rush and into stillness. Join us for Still, a monthly worship night centered on quiet prayer, reflection, and unhurried connection with God.





COVENANT.ORG/EVENTS

Upcoming Events



February

SUN 01	Communion	8:15, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.
SUN 01	Explore Membership Begins	9:30 a.m.
SUN 15	Pie Ministry	2:00 p.m.
SUN 15	Still: Worship	7:00 p.m.
WED 18	Ash Wednesday Services	12:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
WED 18	Ash Wednesday Meals	12:30 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.
SUN 22	Young Adult Brunch	12:15 p.m.
WED 25	Church Dinner	5:30 p.m.
WED 25	The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis 1	6:00 p.m.



**Now
Enrolling**

Ages 9 months - 5 years 9am - 1pm (extended care option)

Designed to provide high quality, age-appropriate opportunities to prepare your child for grade school. We've been helping children develop problem-solving skills, confidence, social and emotional growth in a Christian environment for over 50 years.

Learn more at covenant.org/preschool

March

SUN 01	Communion	8:15, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.
SUN 01	20-Minute Choir	9:00 a.m.
SUN 01	Lenten Concert	4:00 p.m.
WED 04	Church Dinner	5:30 p.m.
WED 04	The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis 2	6:00 p.m.
SUN 08	Austin Brass Collective in Concert	4:00 p.m.
WED 11	Church Dinner	5:30 p.m.
WED 11	The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis 3	6:00 p.m.
SUN 15	Still: Worship	7:00 p.m.
SUN 22	Worship as a Family (Kids & Youth)	8:15, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.
SUN 22	Young Adult Brunch	12:15 p.m.
WED 25	Love Letter Fund Applications Due	
SUN 29	Palm Sunday Worship	8:15, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.
SUN 29	Palm Sunday Procession	9:30 a.m.
SUN 29	65th Anniversary Celebration and Eaton Hall Grand Reopening	12:15 p.m.
MON 30	Holy Week Worship (Daily through 4/1)	12:00 p.m.
MON 30	Holy Week Lunch (Daily through 4/1)	12:30 p.m.

April

THR 02	Maundy Thursday Dinners	6:00 p.m.
FRI 03	Good Friday Tenebrae Service	7:00 p.m.
SAT 04	Kids Easter Egg Hunt	9:00 a.m.
SUN 05	Easter Sunday	6:30, 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.
SUN 05	Worship as a Family (Kids & Youth)	8:15, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.
WED 08	Pub Bible Study	8:30 p.m.
SAT 11	Love Austin	9:00 a.m.
SUN 12	Annual Congregation Meeting	12:15 p.m.
SUN 12	Donuts with Deacons	Between Services
WED 15	Live More Screen Less	6:00 p.m.
WED 15	Pub Bible Study	8:30 p.m.
SUN 19	Kids Communion Conversation	12:15 p.m.
SUN 19	Still: Worship	7:00 p.m.
WED 22	Spring Explore Membership Begins	6:00 p.m.
WED 22	Pub Bible Study	8:30 p.m.

COVENANT.ORG/EVENTS

April

SUN
26

Young Adult Brunch

12:15 p.m.

SUN
26

Children's Choir Musical

2:00 p.m.

SUN
29

Pub Bible Study

8:30 p.m.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

in partnership with LAITY LODGE YOUTH & FAMILY
present

LIVE MORE SCREEN LESS

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

April 15TH, 6–7:30 P.M.

Adult Workshop | FE200

Youth Workshop | FE400

Registration

ADULT covenant.org/LMSL

YOUTH covenant.org/LMSL-Youth



May

SUN 03	Communion	8:15, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.
SUN 03	20-Minute Choir	9:00 a.m.
SUN 03	Churchwide Picnic	4:00 p.m.
WED 06	Mission 101 Begins	6:00 p.m.
WED 13	Courageous Conversation	6:00 p.m.
SUN 17	5th Grade Graduation	9:30 a.m.
SUN 24	Worship as a Family (Kids & Youth)	8:15, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.
SUN 31	Young Adult Brunch	12:15 p.m.
SUN 31	Summer Sunday School Begins (Kids & Youth)	

mission 101

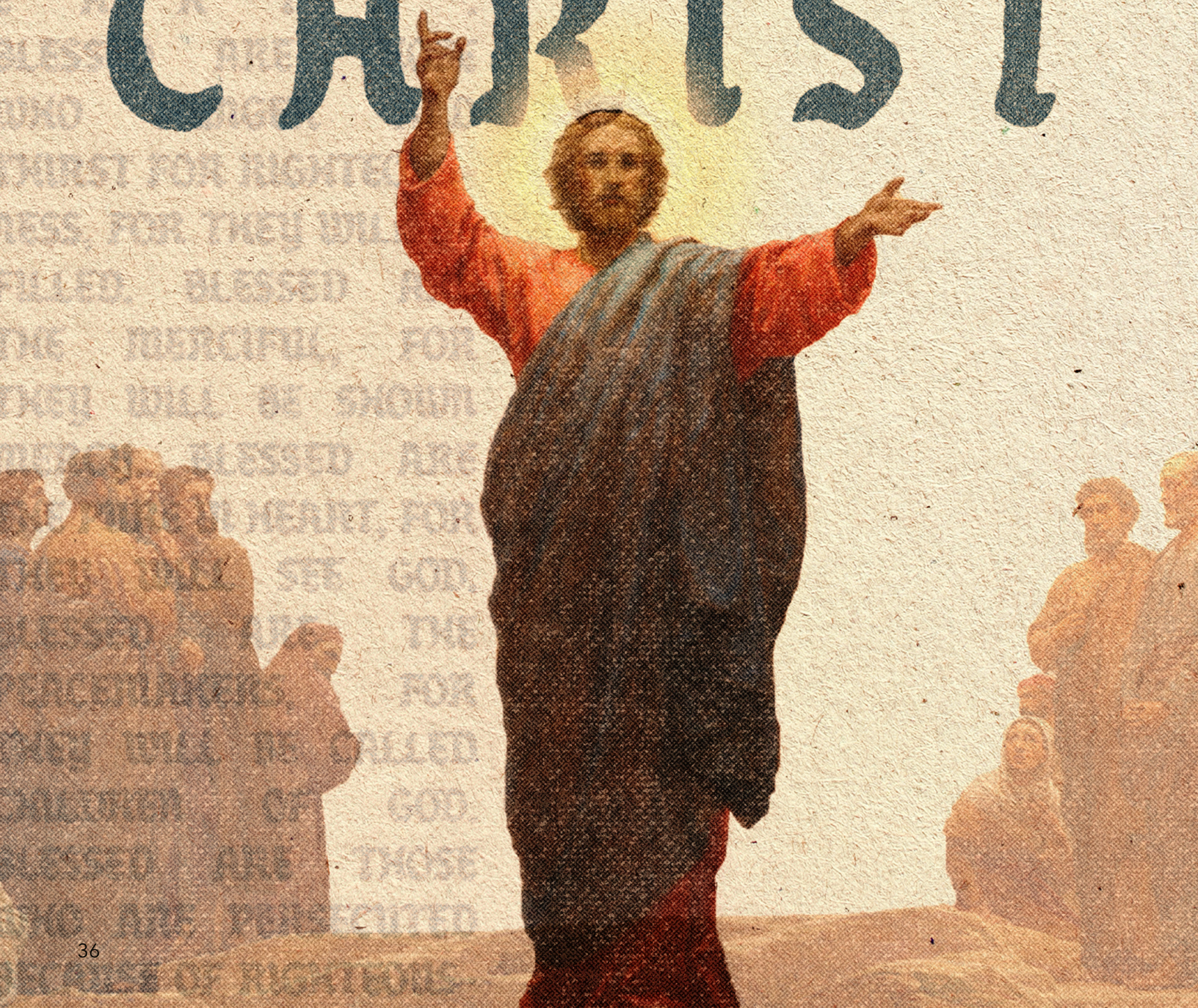
We're excited to offer Mission 101 again, beginning Wednesday, May 6 at 6:00 p.m. This three-week class is a deep dive into the theology of mission, Covenant's philosophy of mission, and best practices for serving. This is a great class for those planning to go on a mission trip, regularly serving with a nonprofit, or simply looking to engage more deeply in God's mission.



LENT AT COVENANT

BEGINS 2.18

DESIRING CHRIST



LENT EVENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

February 18, Noon & 6:30 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY MEALS

February 18, 12:30 & 5:00 p.m.

THE GREAT DIVORCE BY C.S. LEWIS

February 25, March 4, March 11, Dinner at 5:30 p.m., Program at 6:00 p.m.

LENTEN CONCERT

March 1, 4:00 p.m.

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

March 29, All services

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

March 29, 9:30 a.m.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

March 30 - April 1, Worship at 12:00 p.m., Lunch at 12:30 p.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNERS

April 2, 6:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

April 3, 7:00 p.m.

KIDS EASTER EGG HUNT

April 4, 9:00 a.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 5, 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

LEARN MORE COVENANT.ORG/LENT



Covenant Presbyterian Church
3003 Northland Drive
Austin, TX 78757

Encouraging one another
to follow Jesus wherever
we live, work, and play.

 covenant.org/spotify

 [@cov.atx](https://www.instagram.com/cov.atx)

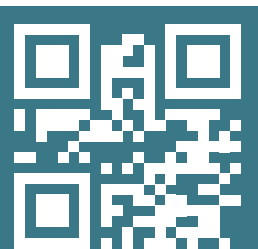
 fb.com/cov.atx

Join us on
Sundays

8:15 & 9:30 | Traditional Service

9:30 & 11:00 | Livestream Service

11:00 | Contemporary Service



covenant.org