

The Covenant Contact

April 2019

Our Home in the Heart of God



Lord, you have been our dwelling place through all generations.
Psalm 90: 1

I was back home on the Northside of Chicago for a week, in Glenview, the town where I grew up. My mom had a knee replacement and then was transferred to a rehabilitation center. I needed to be there for her. I took Mom to the hospital, which is right next door to my old high school. Seeing the classroom windows, ball fields, track, football standards, bleachers, tennis courts and gymnasium brought back a flood of memories – happy times, friendships, family struggles, regrets, joys, victories and defeats. Each day I drove past my old neighborhood, parks we played in, bridges we jumped off, the river we explored, railroad tracks and old bike paths we traversed. I was back home, but was it my true home?

We all have homes or have had homes – what ideas do we associate with home, the dwelling-place to which we naturally belong? First of all, protection. A little child feels sure of protection in their own home; there are people there who would die rather than let them come to harm. Then there is provision; we are provided for. A sense of peace, of familiar surroundings, of being at home. There is also a sense of enjoyment, a sense of love and gladness that make a joy-filled place. We need this, and, in a measure, it comes to us in our own homes, but they may pass away. We also need our true home; the Lord must be our dwelling-place.

As believers, our home is in the heart of God. His love, salvation and grace have been offered freely, through the sacrifice of his son, Jesus Christ. I came home to Him when I was eight years old and first believed that Jesus died for my sins, for my forgiveness and salvation. All throughout my life there have been new awakenings to God's plan for me. I have had times of backsliding, rebellion, repentance and returning home again to God. I always found his open arms and loving welcome. In God, in Christ, I continue to become a man of God!

Lent brings us along the road of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. In the story, Peter is one we encounter who denied he even knew Jesus. This was his own backsliding, but Jesus eventually restored him and Peter went on to fulfill God's purpose for his life.

Have you come home to God? Have you matured in Christ and developed a faith that can move mountains? Maybe, maybe not, but it is a spiritual journey of joy and sorrow, of repentance and spiritual awakening. Why not start today; be reconciled to God and to others. This is what God has done for us through Jesus Christ! Make it a new day!

In Christ, Pastor Tim

Family Night

All-Church Missions Family Night, April 28: Ron and Janet Ziegelbauer will be with us for a potluck meal and will speak about their experiences in the Congo. Please bring a dish for the table to share. Desserts and beverages will be provided.

All Sunday evening groups are invited to come at 5 p.m. A great night for our church and to support our missionaries!

Lent into Easter, 2019

Lent, Holy Week and Easter

- 4/7 John 12:1-8 Pastor Tim Olsen
4/14 **Palm & Passion Sunday** Pastor Tim Olsen
4/17 Lenten Soup Supper, 6:30 First Congregational
Pastor Tim speaking
4/18 **Maundy Thursday**, 6:00 pm – Soup and Bread Meal
Worship, 7:00 pm, *Crown of Thorns*
Meet the Crown Maker, Sign Maker and Vinegar Man
4/19 Good Friday Worship – Potter's House, 7 pm
4/21 **Easter**
6:30 am **Sunrise Service**, Morton's Pond
10:00 am **Celebration of the Resurrection**

Sanctuary Flowers for Easter

Once again, you can help decorate our Sanctuary by purchasing memorial flowers for Easter. Contact Antoinette Krasnowski (860) 283-5925 or ann121959@optonline.net) by no later than Sunday, April 14. Flowers cost \$10 each. Please give your money or check, payable to Antoinette Krasnowski, with how many flowers you want and the names of those you want to honor. After Easter Sunday worship, continue your remembrance by taking your flowers home.

Christian Education - Campership Need

God is good! We have requests for many children to attend summer camp at Squanto this year! Currently the CE Board has \$805.96 available for camperships (plus a promise for another \$400 pending), but we still fall short of requests (\$2,200). Any contribution will help!! Please mark your donation for Camperships.

Second Saturday Worship and Prayer

Join us on the second Saturday each month for a season of praising our Lord and praying with and for each other. Next one: April 13, 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Focuses for April

• **For family, friends and loved ones who go to church only on major holidays.** Pray that their hearts will be open and that they will really **hear** the Good News this Easter.

• **For the needs of the congregation:** parents with families; our children and youth, work situations and employment conditions, marriages in trouble, persons battling cancer, addictions, and other illnesses; families of those with addictions; our elderly and shut-ins. **Who comes to your mind when you run through this list?** The Holy Spirit is prompting you to remember these people and pray for them to experience his resources as they work through their struggles.



• **For the Potter's House ministry:** It already is a place for conversation and prayer and connecting on Friday nights. Please pray that the ministry of this dedicated space will be extended beyond the walls of this building and into the community through Christ's people, whether from this congregation or another.

• **For the Potter's House visitors and Alpha participants:** Pray for them to long to know God better and to keep seeking. Pray for the word to spread to those who need to hear.

• **For individuals in prison and for their families.** We are connected to a few such families. How do families manage when one is in prison? What happens when the time served is over? Pray for a clear vision of how God wants us to minister. Pray for **Kairos Prison Ministry**, which serves both prisoners and their families. Talk to Pastor Gary or Pastor Ann or go to www.kairosct.org to learn more.

• **That our hearts would overflow in generous gratitude for all God has done for us through Jesus:** The Bible does not hold back about urging us to demonstrate our faith with physical acts of service, kindness, and generosity. Pray for us to become aware of where God wants us to act and to be generous toward serving him there.

HomeFront

This year on Saturday, May 4, we will participate in our 7th HomeFront day! We have our project assignment, and are making plans according to the homeowner's needs. You can get involved by signing up to volunteer, donating money to help fund our project, donating food/drink for the volunteer work party, and, most importantly, praying! **We still need**

to raise \$2,248. Donations can be placed in the offering, marked for HomeFront. **This is an awesome opportunity to positively impact our community while demonstrating God's love.** More information can be found at homefrontprogram.org. **Signup sheet is in the Fellowship Room.**



Guatemala, November 2019!

Jay and Cathy Fredlund have invited us – anyone interested – to come to Guatemala in November and experience their missionary work. A dream team is forming from throughout the United States, from Thomaston and from the area. **Our trip is November 9-16!** Contact Pastor Tim for more information if you are interested.

Sermons online

Go to covchurchthomaston.org and click on Sermons to select which sermon to listen to or to share with a friend.

Online Giving

If you are a person who has committed to give the same amount every week, giving online really makes sense. To set up regular online giving to the Covenant Church go to covchurchthomaston.org and click on the About tab.

Alpha!

Alpha meets on Thursdays, 6:30 pm. Cards are available to use as invitations. Dinner is free, followed by a teaching and small groups, all ending by 8:15 pm.

Dinner is free, but we provide it. Please check the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Room to see what you could provide, even if you are not attending. Contact Mary Butkevich (860 514-4343 or marybutkevich@gmail.com) if you are interested in being part of the team or Sandy Miller (sanjeanm@aol.com or 860 459-0361) to help with meals.

Becoming Better Disciples

Join us on Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m. in the Gathering Room. The study is "21 Day Habit." Bring your Bible. Our weekly format is Scriptures and questions for discussion. The homework is to begin to use the habit and to consider its application in our lives.

Women Ministries



Women Ministries events are for all women of the church and their friends.

Brunch on April 27, 10-11:30: *Foods that Heal, Foods that Harm*, with Natalie Adamson

Continuing Activities

1. **Stitching with Spirit:** Monday evenings at 7:00 at Karen O'Connell's (250 Reynolds Bridge, Apt. B2, Thomaston)
2. **Women's PM Study: (for women who work during the day)** Meets in the church Library every other Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. (4/2, 4/16, 4/30, 5/14, 5/28).
3. **Women's Study:** Meets on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Potter's House. We currently are studying "The Rock, The Road, and the Rabbi" with Cathie Lee Gifford.
4. **Women's Book Club:** The next book to read is *Slow Way Home* by Michael Morris. We meet on Monday, April 29, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Karen O'Connell to discuss. Please join us.

Missions and Evangelism

Easter Baskets: We are providing 50 Easter baskets to Thomaston Town Services for local children. Please put any goodies (candy, small toys, books, etc.) in the large basket in the Missions Room (next to the Church Office). Due by April 7. Our youth will assemble the baskets.

Banquet of Blessing: Please remember to keep us stocked (with good expire dates, please – we cannot give away out of date food).

Benevolence Needs: Some in our church community are struggling financially. If you are able to, please consider supporting others in need by making an extra donation to the Pastor's Benevolence Fund. Use the special envelopes in the pews or write Pastor's Benevolence Fund on your envelope or check.

Potter's House



The Potter's House is open for coffee, conversation and prayer on **Friday nights, 7:00-10:00**, staffed by Peggy Steinis, Pastor Ann, and others. Please drop in on a Friday night to see if this is one of God's callings for you. Please share a Potter's House business card (in the Potter's House) with anyone who might want to come in.

Borrowing Church Furnishings

Trustees policy for borrowing church furnishings:

1. Only tables and older folding chairs may be borrowed.
2. BEFORE borrowing, call Rick O'Connell (860-283-8361) or Bee Bothroyd (860-309-3212). they will record how many chairs/tables you are borrowing.
3. Tables and chairs must be returned in the same (or better) condition than when they were borrowed. Tables must be washed. Chairs, if they were used outside, must be clean and free of dirt or grass.

Thank you for your help and cooperation.

Youth Groups

Pathfinders is for students in Grades 2-3. The group meets once a month. The leaders are Linda Hansen and Brenda Tousignant.

If your child wants to participate, contact Brenda (203 232-1525 or soxj269@aol.com) or Linda (lindaehansen@aol.com or 860 283-9359).



Trailblazers is for students in Grades 4-6. Trailblazers leaders are Rachel Ewers and Christie Grabherr. If you have questions, need to register your student or want to help out, contact Rachel Ewers (203 907-7052 or kyliejax@optonline.net). Sessions are 5-7 p.m.

4/7 5:00 pm Trailblazers
4/14 5:00 pm Trailblazers
4/21 Easter – No Trailblazers
4/28 5:00 pm Missions Night



D/C (Discipleship/Confirmation) is our Junior High ministry. The 7th and 8th grade students have two years of Bible and teaching, with close friendships, service projects, fun activities, and a retreat. The leaders are Pastor Tim and Vic Whaley. Sessions are 5-7 p.m.



4/7 5:00 pm Session 19
4/14 5:00 pm Movie: *Risen*
4/21 Easter – No class
4/28 5:00 pm Missions Night

CHYG (Covenant High Youth Group) is for all students in grades 9-12. Leaders are Lisa Olsen and Nick Samela. Sessions are 5-7 p.m.

4/7 5:00 CHYG
4/14 5:00 CHYG
4/21 Easter – No CHYG
4/28 5:00 CHYG, with Special Guest



April 2019 (Rev 4/4/2019)

Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
Hebrews 10:24, 25

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:30 39ers Study (Gathering) 6:30 Stitching with Spirit	2 6:30 Prayer (Potter's) 6:30 Women's PM Study (Library)	3 6:30 NA (Fellowship) 7:30 Choir	4 6:30 Men's Study (Potter's) 9:30 Women's Bible Study (Potter's) 6:30 Alpha 7:00 Men's Study (Library)	5 6:30 Prayer Walk (start 1 st Cong, end @ Potter's) 7-10 Potter's House Open	6 WM ECC Spring Celebration, Keene NH
7* 5:00 Discipleship, Gathering Room 5:00 CHYG, D/C, Trailblazers 7:00 Church Board	8 9:30 39ers Study (Gathering) 6:30 Stitching with Spirit	9 6:30 Prayer (Potter's)	10 6:30 Lenten Supper, First Cong. 6:30 AI-Anon Dist. Business (Youth Room) 6:30 NA (Fellowship) 7:30 Choir	11 6:30 Men's Study (Potter's) 9:30 Women's Bible Study (Potter's) 6:30 Alpha 7:00 Men's Study (Library)	12 7-10 Potter's House Open	13 7:00 Second Saturday Worship and Prayer
14* PALM/PASSION SUNDAY 5:00 Discipleship, Lib. 5:00 CHYG, D/C, Trailblazers	15 10:00 La Leche League (Nursery) 6:30 Stitching with Spirit	16 6:30 Women's PM Study (Library) 6:30 Prayer (Potter's)	17 6:30 Lenten Supper, First Cong. 6:30 NA(Fellowship) 7:30 Choir	18 6:30 Men's Study (Potter's) 9:30 Women's Bible Study (Potter's) 6:00 Soup & Bread (Fellowship) 6:30 Grief Support (Gathering) 7:00 Maundy Thursday Worship	19 7:00 Good Friday Worship (Potter's)	20
21* EASTER **6:30 Sunrise worship (Morton's Pond)	22 9:30 39ers Study (Gathering) 6:30 Stitching with Spirit	23 6:30 Prayer (Potter's)	24 6:30 NA(Fellowship) 7:30 Choir	25 6:30 Men's Study (Potter's) 9:30 Women's Bible Study (Potter's) ECC Ministerium, Indian Orchard MA (Pastor Tim, Pastor Ann) 6:30 Alpha 7:00 Men's Study (Library)	26 ECC Annual Meeting, Springfield MA 7-10 Potter's House Open	27 ECC Annual Meeting, Springfield MA 10:00 WM Brunch, Foods That Heal, Foods That Harm (Fellowship)
28* 5:00 Family Night with Ziegelbauer Family	29 9:30 39ers Study (Gathering) 6:30 WM Book Club, (O'Connells')	30 6:30 Women's PM Study (Library) 6:30 Prayer (Potter's)	*Sunday Schedule – 9:00 Prayer in South Wing Prayer Room; 9:00 Sunday School; 10:00 Worship; 11:00 Fellowship Meetings are at the church unless otherwise indicated. Stitching with Spirit is at Karen O'Connell's (250 Reynolds Bridge Road, Apt.B2, Thomaston).			

