

# *The Covenant Contact*

June 2019

## *Create in Us a Pure Heart, O God*



*My heart and my flesh may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever, (Psalm 73: 26).*

I am a “glass half-full” person, generally joyful, loving, and always ready to play golf! I know I fail

every day; I can feel offended when triggered, hold a grudge, and at times find myself in a rut. So, maybe I have half a heart of gold! Just being honest, but God is doing a deep work within me. I know my weaknesses and limitations. I also believe I can do all things God expects of me, through Jesus Christ, who strengthens me. Detective Harry Callahan, at the end of *Magnum Force*, says, “A man’s got to know his limitations.” A Clint Eastwood classic!

How far would you go if offended in some way? Are there limits? I came across this declaration by John Bevere, (from *The Bait of Satan*).

*In these last days when many are offended and filled with hate and betrayal toward others, I refuse to join them. I will commit to living my life in such a way that the unconditional love of God, which has been poured out in my heart, will radiate in this darkened world of offense (Rom. 5:5).*

For me it is a matter of maintaining a pure heart through regular repentance, confession of sin, and knowing where my strength and love come from. Then I am free, joyful, hopeful, thankful, and useful to serve God daily.

Consider King David, a man after God’s own heart. God’s spirit was upon him, even at a young age. The shepherd boy, who protected his flock from wild beasts and took down

a giant with one sling of a stone. He knew what it meant to believe in and be supported by the Living God. As king, he conquered much, but power led to abuse and sin. He showed no restraint.

**Psalm 51** reveals David’s confession: *Against Thee, and Thee only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Thy sight (v. 4); Create in me a pure heart, O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (v. 10).*

Our heart and flesh do fail. We fall short every day. What we do with our sin is key. David confessed his sin; he cried out to God for mercy. He returned to God, who was the strength of his heart and his portion forever.

**Create in us a pure heart, O God.** Pure means to be “clean, blameless, unblemished from guilt.” Interestingly, the word can refer specifically to that which is purified by fire. John the Baptist told people that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire (Matthew 3:11). Malachi speaks of the Messiah as being like a “refiner’s fire” (Malachi 3:2).

Being pure in heart involves having a singleness of heart toward God. A pure heart has no hypocrisy, no deceit, no hidden motives. The pure heart is marked by transparency and an unbending desire to please God in all things. The sky is the limit for what the Lord has in store for you. He declares it over you today: *I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord; plans, not to harm you, but to give you hope and a future!*

*My heart and my flesh may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

Prayer: Father, your word teaches me that a pure heart is like gold. Give me purity of heart and cause me to be tender and pliable to your instructions. As your servant, I will follow Paul’s instruction to Timothy to be gentle, patient, and filled with humility in all my relationships – especially with those in opposition to me – in some manner or way (2 Timothy 2:24-26). In Jesus’ name, Amen.

*In Christ, Pastor Tim*

## ***New Candidate for a Bi-Vocational Minister's License!***

**Elizabeth Whitney** has been offered a call to be our new Discipleship Pastor. This is exciting for the church and for Liz and her family! At the quarterly business meeting June 2, we discussed and voted about extending a call to Elizabeth. A **call** extended by the church and a **job description** are required by the East Coast Conference for Liz to begin the process of being licensed as a bi-vocational minister, as early as next spring. So, we want to do all we can and give her this opportunity. The Discipleship Pastor's job description is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

## ***New Summer Discipleship Group***

God is always at work in our lives – even in the summer when the church schedule is a bit more relaxed. So it's a good idea to carve out a little "faith time" to stay connected and on track with him. A new **women's discipleship group begins on Monday, June 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the Potter's House**. There is no book to buy and there is no homework. Liz Whitney is leading the group.

## ***Summer Opportunities for Ministry***



### ***Potter's House Outreach, Downtown***

**Thomaston:** When you walk downtown Thomaston or drive through or pray, what do you see? Well, this summer hopefully, you will see members and friends of the Covenant Church

walking, talking with those they encounter, listening, praying for, and inviting anyone interested in coming to the Potter's House on Friday nights. Let us pray for God to impact this town and area through His Church! May his kingdom come to Thomaston and his will be done as it is in heaven.

## ***Summer Opportunities for Ministry***

**Roar VBS – Life is Wild; God is Good:** This is for kids from 4 years old to 6th grade and will run from 9:00 am to noon each day, June 24-28. Bring all kids and their friends; volunteer, donate! Come every day for the Safari Celebration at 11:45 am. Contact Rachel Ewers to get involved (203 907-7052 or kyliejax@optonline.net). Thank you!

**Guatemala Team:** Eleven of us will be meeting together this summer for team building, prayer, and preparation for our mission trip November 8-15. Our co-leaders: Sarah Morton and Pastor Tim. Team: Jody Guerrero, Bill Guerrero, Linda Hansen, Karen Lawrence, Joyce Lush, Dave McClay, Liz Whitney, Julia Woods, and Kim Wright.

**Narrative Budget Team:** A sub-committee will be formed to work alongside our Budget committee this Fall. A narrative budget supplements our line-item budget and captures our financial commitments by highlighting the primary areas of ministry with story-telling! We have five ministry categories we will write descriptive paragraphs for. We can use stories, quotes, and/or pictures to illustrate each ministry's vision, purpose, and effectiveness. Pastor Tim has some names in mind, but let him know if you are interested.

**Ministry to Prisoners & Families:** We are part of a Covenant Justice Conference Triad, with churches in Easton and Washington, CT. We have been given a grant of \$1,500 to help in our ministry to prisoners and their families. The three pastors meet regularly with a mentor, the Rev. Dierdra Clark of the New Rochelle Covenant church in New York, to share our ministry stories and challenges and will be planning a leadership team retreat this fall. We currently have members who write letters, visit and help care for the prisoner's families. The needs going forward include help with citizen re-entry, job placement, housing, and career training. If you feel called to join the team, speak with Pastor Tim or Pastor Ann.

## *A Few Words about Finances*

Since we missed a January worship service because of the weather, we have been reminding ourselves that we need to make up that Sunday's missed offering. Our Treasurer, Barb Hanley, has been telling us that we have been "just keeping up" with the church's financial commitments.

Unfortunately, "just keeping up" now has dropped out of sight. At the Quarterly Business meeting on June 2, Barb told us that our current **available cash as May ends, around \$2,000**, consists entirely of restricted funds, with none of it designated for the General Fund. At the same time, she projects that **June's expenses will be around \$17,000**. Some are expenses that are due semi-annually. Most of them are payroll, insurance, and pension expenses which cannot be put off, along with the usual loan payment and utilities.

**So this is another appeal.** We know that we have already made several appeals all spring – the furnace fund, HomeFront, and camperships. But through the years we have proven ourselves to be generous toward God and to be up to whatever we need to do to meet our commitments. **We can do it again.**

## *Consider Online Giving*

People who have set up online giving report that they are really happy with it. One person is especially happy that she doesn't have to scramble to remember her envelope as she goes out the door to get to church on time!

If you have been holding back on signing up online because you really want to have something to put in the offering plate each Sunday, you still can do that. Sign up online for part or even most of your regular commitment and put the rest in as the plate is passed (some do this even though they give most of their offering online once a month). Or give it all online and put an empty envelope into the plate – you could include a prayer need or a note of encouragement to a staff member.

To set up online giving, go to [covchurchthomaston.org](http://covchurchthomaston.org) and click on the "About" tab.

## *Prayer Focuses for June*



• **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](http://www.kairosct.org) to learn more.

• **For new graduates** looking ahead to the next phase. This can be a scary time.

• **That our hearts would overflow in generous gratitude for all God has done for us through Jesus:** Jesus spoke frequently about money and possessions. He taught clearly that we are 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.

• **For asset-limited families** who struggle to feed their children during the summer when the kids don't have free or reduced fee lunches at school. (Please keep the Banquet of Blessing stocked.)

• **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 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.

## ***Job Description for Our New Bi-Vocational Pastor***

Title: Discipleship Pastor

Hours: 10 to 15 hours per week

Qualifications: A clear sense of God's calling for ministry; a church member who is active in the life of the church and in "good standing" with the requirements of the Evangelical Covenant Church Ordered Ministry.

Reports to: Pastor and the Church Board

Job Goal: To direct and develop a flourishing ministry Of making and deepening disciples of Jesus Christ

### Areas of Responsibility:

- Working with the Christian Education Board
- Shepherding children's, youth, and adult ministries and teams
- Leading worship, preaching, teaching, administering the sacraments, and pastoral care
- Meeting regularly with the pastor and pastoral staff
- Submitting an annual report
- Fulfilling the continuing education requirements for ECC to remain "in good standing" as a licensed minister.

## ***Keeping Up***



- Dear Pastor Tim and Thomaston Cov Mission Team: It is exciting to see what God is doing in the Thomaston community through the ministry of you all. We were so excited to see the Covenant Companion article about Potter's House.

Thank you so much for hosting the mission night a couple of weeks ago. It really was nice to see you all again and to have the opportunity to share what God is doing through our ministry at Rain Forest International School in Cameroon. We loved that the children were included in the whole evening.

We were encouraged by a number of people telling us they get our monthly prayer updates. We do appreciate prayer support from several of the folks in the congregation. If our ministry in Cameroon is something the church would like be more involved with we invite you to join our team of ministry partners. You can contact us or Ben Vasquez in the Serve Globally office for more information. *Gratefully, Ron & Janet Ziegelbaur*

- Hello Covenant Church Family. I would like to thank you for all the wonderful get well cards and prayers. I'm pleased that all of our prayers were answered. The surgery to remove the cancer was successful. The radiation killed the rest and now we just need to monitor the area and all should be fine. Thanks for all your prayers and support during this time.

*Love, Lisa McCoy*

## Worship and Prayer

### Second Saturday Worship & 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: June 8, 7:00 p.m.  
in the Potter's House

## Women Ministries



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

**Graduates Picnic**, Monday, June 3, 6:00 p.m. at Ann  
Ryan's (40 Quanopaug Trail, Woodbury). This is a potluck  
picnic, so bring something good to share. We will honor our  
women graduates

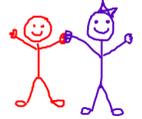
### Continuing Activities

1. **Women's PM Study:** (for women who work during the  
day). Church Library every other Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.  
(6/11, 6/25).
2. **Women's Book Club:** The book to read is *Hope on the  
Inside* by Marie Bostwick. Meet on Monday, June 10, at  
6:30 p.m. at the home of Lisa Olsen to discuss.

## 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 ([kyliejax@optonline.net](mailto:kyliejax@optonline.net) or 203 907-  
7052). Sessions are 5-7 p.m.

6/2 5:00 pm Trailblazers  
6/7-8 Trailblazers Lock-in (6:00 p.m.  
Saturday through 8:00 a.m. Sunday)



**D/C (Discipleship/Confirmation)** is our Junior High  
ministry. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.



Congratulations to our 5 young adults confirmed on May 19:  
Julia Bond, Eric Carr, Sammi Grabherr, Erik Sundell, and  
Lauren Whaley

**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.

6/2 5:00 CHYG  
6/9 Last CHYG, TBA



## ***Missions and Evangelism***

**Banquet of Blessing:** Please remember to keep us stocked (with good expire dates, please – we cannot give away out of date food). **Summer needs:** We will need “kid-friendly” food for the summer for families whose children usually receive free and reduced meals during the school year. Thank you.

**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.

## ***Camperships***

The Christian Education Board reports that you did it! We reached our goal. All who applied for camperships to be able to send their children to Camp Squanto will be covered. Thank you, all!

## ***Sermons online***

Go to [covchurchthomaston.org](http://covchurchthomaston.org) and click on Sermons to select which sermon to listen to or to share with a friend.

## ***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.

# June 2019 (Rev 6/2/2019)

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
<p><b>*Sunday Schedule – 9:00 Prayer in South Wing Prayer Room; 9:00 Sunday School; 10:00 Worship; 11:00 Fellowship</b></p> <p>Meetings are at the church unless otherwise indicated. Stitching with Spirit is at Karen O'Connell's (250 Reynolds Bridge Road, Apt.B2, Thomaston).</p>						1
<p><b>2*</b> CHILDREN'S DAY 11:15 Fellowship Potluck 11:45 Quarterly Business Meeting</p> <p>5:00 CHYG, Trailblazers</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>6:00 WM Graduates Picnic (Ann Ryan's)</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>6:30 Prayer (Potter's)</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>6:30 NA (Fellowship)</p>	<p><b>6</b> 6:30 Men's Study (Potter's)</p> <p>6:30 Alpha (Fellowship, Potter's) 7:00 Men's Study (Library)</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>7-10 Potter's House Open</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>6:30 Trailblazers Lock-in 7:00 Second Saturday Worship &amp; Prayer (Potter's)</p>
<p><b>9*</b> 8:00 End Trailblazers Lock-In</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>10:00 La Leche League (Nursery)</p> <p>6:30 WM Book Club (Lisa Olsen's)</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>6:30 Women's PM Study (Library) 6:30 Prayer (Potter's)</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>6:30 NA(Fellowship)</p>	<p><b>13</b> 6:30 Men's Study (Potter's)</p> <p>6:30 Alpha (Fellowship, Potter's) 7:00 Men's Study (Library)</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>7-10 Potter's House open</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>
<p><b>16*</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>6:30 Women's Discipleship (Potter's) 6:30 Stitching with Spirit</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>6:30 Prayer (Potter's)</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>6:30 NA(Fellowship)</p>	<p><b>20</b> 6:30 Men's Study (Potter's)</p> <p>6:30 Grief Support (Gathering) 7:00 Men's Study (Library)</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>7-10 Potter's House Open</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23*</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>9:00-noon VBS</p> <p>6:30 Women's Discipleship (Potter's) 6:30 Stitching with Spirit</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>9:00-noon VBS</p> <p>6:30 Women's PM Study (Library) 6:30 Prayer (Potter's)</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>9:00-noon VBS</p> <p>6:30 NA (Fellowship)</p>	<p><b>27</b> 6:30 Men's Study (Potter's) 9:00-noon VBS</p> <p>7:00 Men's Study (Library)</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9:00-noon VBS</p> <p>7-10 Potter's House Open</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>
<p><b>30*</b></p>						

**Volunteers: . . . through love serve one another. Galatians 5:13b**

Coffee Fellowship sponsored by: Social Committee\*\*

**\*\*Only beverages are needed and are provided by the church. If you provide a snack, at least one that is gluten-free, please.**

NURSERY (Ages 0-5)		ALTAR FLOWERS		LAY READERS:			
6/2	Susan Abbott Aubrey Jackson	7/7	Sarah Jackson Emily Jackson	6/2	Communion – none	6/2	Peggy Steinis
6/9	Melanie Dobos Kiersten Sundell	7/14	Denise Merrill Asher Ewers	6/9	Liz Montambault, in memory of Don Montambault Barb Hanley, in honor of Rogene & Herb LaPlant	6/9	Lisa Sundell Olsen
6/16	Cindy & Dave Olbrys Lauren Whaley	7/21	Lori Vigeant Cecelia Ewers	6/16	Melanie Dobos	6/16	Dave McClay
6/23	Brook Holway Sarah Roaix	7/28	Patricia Vigeant Aubrey Jackson	6/23	Melanie Dobos	6/23	Gina Whaley
6/30	Patricia Vigeant Lauren Whaley			6/30	Sandy Dunn, in honor of Grace Dayton's Birthday on 7/1	6/30	Jessica Bedosky
				7/7	Communion – none	7/7	Peggy Steinis
				7/14		7/14	Antoinette Krasnowski
				7/21		7/21	Jane Stoddard
				7/28		7/28	Ken Semeraro

**Sunday School Staff**

Pre-K – K Cindy Olbrys,	3 – 4 Brenda Tousignant, Linda Hansen	7 – 12 Lisa Sundell Olsen
1 – 2 Jane Stoddard, Peggy Steinis	5 – 6 Sandra Miller	

**Youth Staff**

CHYG: Lisa Sundell Olsen, Nick Samela	D/C: Pastor Tim, Vic Whaley	Trailblazers: Rachel Ewers, Christie Grabherr	Pathfinders: Brenda Tousignant, Linda Hansen
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**June Birthdays & Anniversaries**

Birthdays				Anniversaries			
2	Tim Sundell	6	Tom Stange	16	Darrell Bishop	25	Samantha Semeraro
3	Connor Dunn	7	Lori Vigeant	16	Gary Butler	26	Chris Carr
3	Ruth Hopkins	8	Taylor Samela	20	Erik Sundell	28	Zoey Conlon
4	Courtney Ayer	9	Taylor Gomes	21	Jim Bothroyd (dad)	28	Lisa McCoy
4	Liz Butler	10	Gina Whaley	21	Deb Hurlbert	29	Peggy Steinis
4	Ann Ryan	13	Emily Jackson	23	Caleb Whitney	30	Donald Curtiss
5	Bee Bothroyd	13	Ruth Lundberg (83)	24	Margaret Bryden		
6	Jenna Dayton	14	Mike Barrett	24	Robert Morton		
6	Lynda Mitchell	14	Mike Bergamo (son)	25	Harriet McClay		
							2
							2
							3
							10
							13
							14
							16
							25
							28
							28

**Connections:**

- Pastor Tim Olsen: pastor@covchurchthomaston.org (Study: 860 283-9146; Home 860 283-7434)
- Pastor of Congregational Care: Gary Freimuth (860 283-4540 or ggfreimuth@optonline.net)
- Pastor of Visitation: Ann Carr (860 567-9178 or aecann@optimum.net)
- Church Chair: Antoinette Krasnowski: ann121959@optonline.net or 860 283-5925
- Treasurer: Barbara Hanley: barblhanley@gmail.com or 860 459-0561
- Office "Churchmouse" Ruth Johnson: cmouse@covchurchthomaston.org (Office: 860 283-5071; Home: 860 605-8040)
- Prayer Chain Coordinator: Ann Carr; 860 567-9178 or aecann@optimum.net
- Meal Coordinator: Sandra Dunn; 860 483-2015 or daytondunn@mac.com