

## *The Covenant Contact*

September 2019

### *God Has Marked Out a Path for Us*

*Let us run with perseverance  
the race that is marked out for us.  
(Hebrews 12: 2)*



Some may remember the movie "Dead Poets Society." The movie stars Robin Williams, who plays John Keating, a high school English teacher at an all-boys private academy. A great role! He is committed to

helping his students take advantage of life's opportunities.

There is a gripping scene in the movie when Keating leads his class out into the foyer of the building, where old photographs of graduating classes from decades past cover the walls. As the boys study the portraits of those who graduated generations before them, Keating states that the men in those pictures were just like them, full of hope and ambition. Then Keating asks his class, "Did they wait till it was too late to realize their full potential?"

Then he tells the class that *if they lean in close they can hear a message* from the men in these pictures. So they lean in and Keating whispers, "Carpe diem. Carpe diem. Seize the day, boys. Make your lives extraordinary."

Read through Hebrews 11 and you will be brought on a journey through the "Hall of Faith," a list of heroes and heroines of the faith and the extraordinary things they did for

God. Maybe they, too, are calling out to us, "Seize the day. Make your life extraordinary for God. Follow the path God has marked out for you; take it!"

Our Covenant denominational purpose statement is: *We join God in God's mission, to see more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world.* Or, stated more simply, **Deeper in Christ – Further in Mission – Together.** And our ministry in Thomaston is to follow that path marked out for us. Will we trust God and go deeper in Christ together? Will we choose for God's plan for outreach and mission, going together?

Can you find your place to go deeper in discipleship and mission; to make disciples and to reach out to those God has put along your path? I see it happening and God wants us all involved, using those spiritual gifts unique to each one of us. All to glorify God!

Let us make our life together extraordinary for God, as we love him, love one another, and reveal Christ's love to the world around us.

*In Christ, Pastor Tim*

### *Membership Class*

A membership class will be offered on Sunday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on September 22 and 29 in the Fellowship Room. This is a great opportunity for individuals and couples to become members and/or refresh their existing membership. Our denomination has developed new material based on a theme: **The Meaning of Membership.** Let Pastor Tim know if you are interested in coming.

## ***Guatemala Mission Trip - November 8-15***

The mission of KidsAlive International is to:

*Rescue orphans and vulnerable children, care for them in compassionate, holistic settings and share with them the life-changing hope of the Gospel.*

Please be in prayer for our team as we prepare to head to Kidsalive International's **Oasis** in Guatemala City. Going are: Linda Hansen, Karen Lawrence, Sarah Morton, Rev. Jody Guererra, Bill Guererra, Joyce Lush, Kim Wright, Julia Wood and Pastor Tim Olsen.

### ***Men's Retreat, Pilgrim Pines***



**The Men's Retreat at Pilgrim Pines is October 11-13.**

Come together as men to elevate your passion to live for Christ. Take an exciting journey together through engaging worship, practical teaching, spiritual direction, fellowship, great food and fun. Cost is \$165; register online at [pilgrimspines.org](http://pilgrimspines.org).

### ***Safe Church Training***

Safe Church training for all adults who work with our children and youth (Sunday School, youth groups, Nursery volunteers) will be on Saturday, September 14 at 9:00 a.m. (Coffee and continental breakfast at 8:30). Also, background checks are needed – if you haven't yet done yours, get a form from the table outside the church office and turn it in to Ruth Johnson, the Office Manager.

## ***Outreach Ministries***

### **Potter's House Outreach, downtown Thomaston.**

On Friday night on September 20 at 7:00 p.m. we will meet to pray and walk downtown to talk with, bless, pray for, and invite people to the Potter's House.

### **Ministry to Prisoners and their Families.**

Names and addresses of prisoners we currently correspond with, along with corrections department instructions for being sure they get our cards and letters, are posted on the bulletin board in the Potter's House. Please take an instruction sheet and information for one of our prisoners.

### ***Sunday School***

**Sunday School classes** for all ages (3 through adults) start on Sunday morning, September 8 at 9:00 a.m. Be sure to stop in the Gathering Room that morning to register your child for Sunday School and our youth and children's ministries.

**Ice Cream Social:** Or come to the Fellowship Room at 5:00 p.m. to register them, have some ice cream, and catch up with your friends.

**Adult Sunday School Class:** Starts September 8. Study of Romans, in the Library. Starts September 8. Bring your Bible. Contact Ken Semeraro (203-768-3631 or [kends76@aol.com](mailto:kends76@aol.com)) for more information.

### ***Quarterly Business Meeting***

The fall Quarterly Business Meeting is September 15 at 11:40 after a **fellowship potluck**. Please bring a dish to share for the table; beverages and desserts will be provided. All are invited and encouraged to come to the meeting after, especially all board members.

***Second Saturday  
Worship & Prayer***

## Women Ministries



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

### Continuing Activities

1. **Women's PM Study:** Starts September 17 at 6:30 p.m. and meets every other Tuesday in the Library. Starting *The Rock, The Road, and the Rabbi* with Kathie Lee Gifford. Contact is Peggy Steinis.
2. **Women's Bible Study:** Starts September 12 at 9:30 a.m. and meets every Thursday in the Potter's House. Starting *Assured* by Rick Warren. Contact is Ann Carr
3. **Crafts for Light Up the Town:** Starting in September – stay tuned for more information. Contacts are Karen O'Connell and Elsa Hurlbert.
4. **Women's Book Club:** Next meets on Wednesday, September 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Martha Tillow (343 Hickory Hill Road, Thomaston). The book to read is *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate.

### Keeping Up

- Ken Semeraro's phone number has changed: 203 768-3631.
- Liz Semeraro now is Liz Branch. She has moved to 48 Brynnes Avenue, Litchfield 06759. Her phone is: 860 201-3532.
- Gary Butler has an additional phone – this now is his primary number: 860 518-1636.
- Troy Muckle has moved: 206 Clay Street, Thomaston.
- Becky Carr has a new phone number: 203 598-5754.

### 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: **September 14**, 7:00 p.m. in the Potter's House. Come and be blessed.

## Prayer Focuses for September



If you feel that you can't pray for all of the areas on this list (some of them are ongoing), choose one or two that really speak to your heart or choose a different one for each day of the week.

- **For all involved in school sessions starting up again:** Safety and protection and good learning for students starting new grades or going to new school buildings or leaving home for school away; for teachers and administrators; for all school support staff – lunch workers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, custodians, and others.
- **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. Be sure to let these people know you are holding them up for the Lord's blessing.
- **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.
- **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 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.

## ***Youth Groups***

**Pathfinders** is for students in Grades 2-3. The group meets once a month. 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 4-6 p.m.

9/8 5:00 Ice Cream Social  
9/15 4:00 Regular Trailblazers  
9/22 4:00 Regular Trailblazers  
9/29 4:00 Regular Trailblazers



**D/C (Discipleship/Confirmation)** is our youth ministry for grades 7-8, a two year journey of exploring who God is and what God means in our life. All junior high students are welcome to attend. The leaders are Jessica Bedosky and Pastor Tim Olsen. We meet 4-6:00 p.m.

9/8 5:00 Ice Cream Social  
9/15 4:00 First night of D/C Youth Group!  
9/22 4:00 Session 1-**The Journey Begins.**  
BB one- Who Is God?  
9/29 4:00 Session 2-**Guide to Using the Bible**  
BB two-.We Believe about the Bible?  
10/06 4:00 Session 3 -**Getting to Know Our Maker**  
BB Three- God's Relationship to the World  
10//13 Columbus Day Weekend – No D/C



**CHYG (Covenant High Youth Group)** is for all students in grades 9-12. Leaders are Lisa Olsen and Nick Samela. Sessions are 4-6 p.m.

9/8 5:00 Ice Cream Social  
9/15 4:00 Regular CHYG  
9/22 4:00 Regular CHYG  
9/29 4:00 Regular CHYG



## ***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).

**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.

### ***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.



# September 2019

(Rev 8/30/2019)

*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*

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1*</b>  	<b>2</b> LABOR DAY	<b>3</b>  6:30 Prayer (Potter's) 7:00 Living Free Study (Potter's)	<b>4</b>  6:30 NA(Fellowship) 7:00 Choir	<b>5</b> 6:30 Men's Study (Potter's)	<b>6</b>  7-10 Potter's House Open	<b>7</b>
<b>8*</b> SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS 11:40 Diaconate  5:00 Ice Cream Social and Registration	<b>9</b>  6:30 Discipleship (Potter's)	<b>10</b>  6:30 Prayer (Potter's) 7:00 Living Free Study (Potter's)	<b>11</b>  6:30 WM Book Club, Tillows' 6:30 Al-Anon Dist. Meeting (Youth Rm) 6:30 NA(Fellowship) 7:00 Choir	<b>12</b> 6:30 Men's Study (Potter's) 9:30 Women's Bible Study (Potter's)	<b>13</b>  7-10 Potter's House open	<b>14</b>  9:00 Safe Church Training  7:00 Second Saturday Worship & Prayer (Potter's)
<b>15*</b> 11:45 Quarterly Business meeting  4:00 CHYG, D/C, Trailblazers	<b>16</b> 9:30 39ers Study  6:30 Discipleship (Potter's)	<b>17</b>  6:30 Women's PM Study (Library) 6:30 Prayer (Potter's) 7:00 Living Free Study (Potter's)	<b>18</b>  6:30 NA(Fellowship) 7:00 Choir	<b>19</b> 6:30 Men's Study (Potter's) 9:30 Women's Bible Study (Potter's)  6:30 Grief Support (Gathering)	<b>20</b>  6:30 PH Outreach Teams 7-10 Potter's House Open	<b>21</b>
<b>22*</b>  1:30 Membership Class  4:00 CHYG, D/C, Trailblazers	<b>23</b> 10:00 La Leche League (Nursery)  6:30 Discipleship (Potter's)	<b>24</b>  6:30 Prayer (Potter's) 7:00 Living Free Study (Potter's)	<b>25</b>  6:30 NA (Fellowship) 7:00 Choir	<b>26</b> 6:30 Men's Study (Potter's) 9:30 Women's Bible Study (Potter's)	<b>27</b>  7-10 Potter's House Open	<b>28</b>  9:30 Torrington Soup Kitchen
<b>29*</b>  1:30 Membership Class  4:00 CHYG, D/C, Trailblazers	<b>30</b>  6:30 Discipleship (Potter's)	<b>*Sunday Schedule – (Starts September 8) 8:30 Prayer in South Wing Prayer Room; 9:00 Sunday School; 10:00 Worship; 11:00 Fellowship</b>  Meetings are at the church unless otherwise indicated. Pastor Gary is on break for August and September.				

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

Coffee Fellowship sponsored by: Missions and Evangelism Board\*\*

**\*\*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:	
9/1	Sandy Miller Cece Ewers	10/6	9/1	Communion – none	9/1	Peggy Steinis
9/8	Patricia Vigeant Aubrey Jackson	10/13	9/8	Liz Butler, in memory of her mother, Patricia St. Germain	9/8	Gina Whaley
9/15	Melanie Dobos Kiersten Sundell	10/20	9/15		9/15	Jessica Bedosky
9/22	Susan Abbott Lauren Whaley	10/27	9/22		9/22	Antoinette Krasnowski
9/29	Sarah Jackson Emily Jackson		9/29	Liz Montambault, in memory of David Montambault, 8 years	9/29	Jane Stoddard
			10/6	Communion – none	10/6	
			10/13		10/13	
			10/20		10/20	
			10/27		10/27	

**Sunday School Staff**

Pre-K – K Cindy Olbrys, Melissa Fay	3 – 4 Linda Hansen, Brenda Tousignant	7 – 12 Lisa Sundell Olsen, Liz Branch	Adults (Library) Ken Semeraro
1 – 2 Jane Stoddard, Peggy Steinis	5 – 6 Dave McClay, Gary Butler	Substitutes: Janet Ryan, Dave Olbrys, Dan Whitney, Lori Vigeant, Kim Duffany, Becky Carr	

**Youth Staff**

CHYG: Lisa Sundell Olsen, Nick Samela	D/C: Pastor Tim, Jessica Bedosky (Vic Whaley, sub)	Trailblazers: Rachel Ewers, Christy Grabherr	Pathfinders: Brenda Tousignant, Linda Hansen
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**September Birthdays & Anniversaries**

Birthdays				Anniversaries	
7 Eddie Hanley	15 Nancy Stange	23 Gunnar Saghafi	28 Chloe Weisman	8 Mary & John Butkevich	
10 Brian Dayton	17 Art Piel	24 Gary Kingsbury	29 Ryan Bergamo	16 Celeste & Mike Bergamo	
11 Peighton Giambra	18 Liz Whitney	26 Ed Hanley	29 Josh Roaix	16 Cheryl & Craig Morton	
14 Christie Grabherr	20 Kurt Bengston	27 Jay Herbert	30 Becky Morton	26 Sandy & Joe Berkeley	
14 Sharon Orloski	21 Brenda Tousignant	28 Guinevere Ewers		28 Cathy & Jay Fredlund	
				30 Dawn & Dave Roaix	

**Connections:**

- Senior Pastor Tim Olsen:  
pastor@covchurchthomaston.org  
(Study: 860 283-9146; Home 860 283-7434)
- Congregational Care Pastor: Gary Freimuth (860 283-4540  
or ggfreimuth@optonline.net)
- Outreach Pastor: Ann Carr (860 567-9178 or  
aecann@optimum.net)
- Discipleship Pastor: Elizabeth Whitney (860 921-3118 or  
eamwhitney@yahoo.com)
- 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 or 860 605-8040  
(Office: 860 283-5071; Home: 860 605-8040)
- Prayer Chain Coordinator: Pastor Ann Carr; 860 567-9178 or aecann@optimum.net
- Meal Coordinator: Sandra Dunn; 860 483-2015 or daytondunn@mac.com