

The Covenant Contact

October 2024

Sacrifice

The gospel of John has a long section during the Last Supper where Jesus does some of his most profound teaching. In some way, I almost view it like the Sermon on the Mount from the gospel of Matthew, but it's more private to his disciples. He takes this time, the last time they would all gather for a meal together - and no doubt, they'd had many over the years - to say the last things he wants to say. Some things they would be ready for, some they would not. Most certainly, some they would not understand, maybe, for many years to come.

That's how the human mind works, though, especially in adults. It takes a long time for some things to set in. We joke and blame our stubbornness, which is sometimes true, but we also need time and repetition because, the longer we live, the more information we've gathered in our minds.

In verse 13, Jesus says something they could not understand the profoundness of, because they did not know that their teacher - their rabbi - their Savior - would do that very thing the next day:

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. (John 15:13)

In this moment, Jesus moves his disciples from servants to friends, saying in verse 15,

"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."

Some people dislike calling Jesus a friend, saying it devalues his place as Lord and Savior, but, looking at this place in John 15, we see the context of Jesus

calling his disciples friends is him sharing what his next act on earth would be - to give up his life.

We call Jesus our **Lord** because he rose. We call him **Savior** because he died.

And he calls his disciples *friends* because now they know it all - he's shared with them the Father's plan for Jesus, his purpose for coming to earth. It wasn't just to teach us. It wasn't just to perform miracles. It was to give up his life.

Sacrificially.

When I try to wrap my brain around what sacrificing for others truly means, I automatically think about how sacrifice is so hard for me because I am a selfish person. I don't want to give up something because I like it. It means something to me. A small child doesn't want to share that toy because it's **his** . . . because he's enjoying playing with it and isn't ready to give it up. When we talk about sacrifice today, we think in terms of giving up something we have no desire to give up. That's why it's called a sacrifice, right?

Jesus had a desire bigger than what he would give up. He would give up his life, but even before that, he gave up the comfort and beauty of heaven all so that he could be with us. Not just on earth with us for a few decades, but with us forever in heaven.

Jesus didn't want to go through the physical agony of the cross (his prayer in the garden reveals that), but I do believe he wanted to be with us, so much so that he sacrificed what needed to be sacrificed for that to happen.

The call to sacrifice looks different for each one of us.

Sometimes, we are called by God to sacrifice something we have made an idol out of, something we have prioritized above him. In fact, I would say that is often the case. The

Sacrifice
An act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy.

question is, how passionately are we pursuing Jesus for the sacrifice to feel worth it.

When we haven't encountered the incredible power of knowing Christ – the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings – it's much easier to turn to the things in this world we love the most and decide they are worth more than Jesus is.

After his death on the cross, Jesus' second most important mission was to reorient our hearts to what they are meant to be centered on: Him.

Ask the Lord if there is any reorienting you need to do in your heart. Maybe some things need to be “re-ordered” – put in the *right* order – so that the sacrifices he calls you to make will be much easier. But one thing is sure: when our hearts are pointed in the right direction, we live the life God calls us to live.

In Christ, Pastor Stephanie

Women Ministries



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

- **Light Up the Town Crafts (Daytime Version)** Join us on Tuesdays at 9:00 am in the Potter's House as we make crafts for the Light Up the Town craft sale on November 30. All help is appreciated! Now through November (or come on Friday nights, 6:00-8:00).
- **Kitchen Detail:** Wednesday, October 2, 9:00 am
- **SOUPer Sunday Soup Making:** Friday, October 4, 9:00 am in the Kitchen.
- **Book Club** next meets on Wednesday, October 9, at 6:30 pm in the Potter's House. The book to read is *The Crate* by Deborah Vaddas Levison, available on Hoopla in ebook or audiobook format.

The book for November 13 is *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson.

- **SOUPer Sunday Soup Pickups:** Sunday, October 20, 11:30 am in the Kitchen.
- **The Salem Covenant Women's Conference:** Saturday, November 2, 9:00-2:00. Registration forms are at <https://www.salemcovenantchurch.com/womens-gathering> or on the WM bulletin board in the Potter's House, due by October 30. We can carpool: meet at 8:00 am the church on November 2, leaving by 8:15 latest. Sign up on the bulletin board to carpool.

Youth Groups

Trailbalzers/Pathfinders is for students in Grades K-6. Leaders are Brenda Tousignant, Lori Vigeant, and Haley Morton. They meet once a month



10/20 Regular meeting, Potter's House

D/C (Discipleship/Confirmation) is for students in grades 7-8, a two-year journey, exploring who God is and what God means in our life. All junior high students are welcome to attend. Leaders are Pastor Stephanie and Jessica Bedosky. They meet on Sundays at the 9:00 am Sunday School time.

CHYG (Covenant High Youth Group) is for all students in grades 7-12. The leaders are Beth Campbell and Sue Sundell. See the calendar.



Liturgical Dance is for girls in grades 1-8. The leader is Jessica Bedosky. Practice times vary and are in the Sanctuary.



"Chosen" Group

- **The group** viewing "The Chosen" episodes meets on Saturday mornings at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Room (except for breakfast at Esme's & Ruby's the fourth Saturday of the month). All are invited. Tea will be available!

39ers Study

- **The 39ers** meet at 10:45 am in the Fellowship Room on Mondays when Thomaston Schools are in session (no meeting when school is canceled). They currently are working in the book of Genesis.

Quarterly Meeting Change

- The Quarterly meeting of the congregation will be October 13, 11:30 after worship in the Sanctuary.

Christian Education

- **Zumba Mondays**, 6:30 pm, in the Potter's House.
 - **Fall Family Dance Party**: Saturday, November 9. Watch for details to come!
 - **Trailblazers/Pathfinders**: Pathfinders and Trailblazers are combined this school year. Children in grades K – 6 will meet once a month on Sundays (dates below) after church from 11:30 - 1:00, except for the last meeting. Suggestions for a new group name are welcome; the group will vote. Contacts: Brenda Tousignant or Lori Vigeant. **Sessions include** story time, crafts, music, and snacks. Friends are welcome! Helpers are also welcome!
- Dates:** 10/20/2024; 11/3; 12/1; 1/12/2025; 2/23; 3/23; 4/6. The last meeting in May will be Saturday, 5/10, at the Thomaston Bowling Lanes (time TBD). If dates change; we will notify parents.

Banquet of Blessing

- **Need:** jelly, crackers, granola bars/other snacks, canned fruit (not peaches), gallon food storage bags, paper towels, toilet paper.
- **No perishable foods. Check expiration dates.** We don't give away out of date food.
- **No canned green beans, mixed vegetables or vegetarian vegetable soup right now.**

Prayer Chain

Contact Prayer Coordinator Mary Butkevich for prayer concerns and rejoicings.

Meal Coordinator

Providing a meal to someone during a difficult time is one way to show how much we care. If you know someone who might benefit, contact Sandy Dunn.

Crafty Fridays

In the Potter's House, 6:00-8:00 pm. If you have a craft to do, bring it. If you don't have a craft but would like to visit and chat, that's okay! Contact: Ruth Johnson.

Giving Made Easy

- Give online in just two minutes. You can opt for one time, weekly or monthly donations. Just open the camera app on your phone and scan the QR Code. You will then be taken right to the Giving Page on our website.

Covenant Church of Thomaston

Giving Page QR Code



October 2024

(Rev 10/2/2024)

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:4-5

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>*Sundays: 9:00 Sunday School; 10:00 am Worship; 11:15 Fellowship Sunday worship services are recorded and posted on the church website (covchurchthomaston.org). Worship bulletins, which include the weekly announcements, also are posted on the church website.</p>		<p>1 9:00 Crafts (Potter's 9:30 Women's Study (Conference) 6:30 Prayer (Church Office)</p>	<p>2 9:00 Kitchen Detail 6:30 NA (Fellowship)</p>	<p>3 7:30 NA Subcommittee (Gathering Room)</p>	<p>4 9:00 WM Soup Making (Kitchen) 6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)</p>	<p>5 10:00 "Chosen" Group (Fellowship)</p>
<p>6* 11:30 Evangelism Debriefing (Gathering)</p>	<p>7 10:45 39ers Study (Fellowship) 6:30 Zumba (Potter's)</p>	<p>8 9:00 Crafts (Potter's 9:30 Women's Study (Conference.) 6:00 Diaconate (Conference) 6:30 Prayer (Church Office)</p>	<p>9 6:30 WM Book Club (Potter's) 6:30 NA (Fellowship)</p>	<p>10 6:30 CE Board (Potter's House)</p>	<p>11 6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)</p>	<p>12 10:00 "Chosen" Group (Fellowship)</p>
<p>13* 11:30 Quarterly Business Meeting (Sanctuary) 3:30 Youth Group Outing</p>	<p>14 COLUMBUS DAY 6:30 Zumba (Potter's)</p>	<p>15 9:00 Crafts (Potter's 9:30 Women's Study (Conference) 6:30 Prayer (Church Office)</p>	<p>16 6:30 NA (Fellowship)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)</p>	<p>19 10:00 "Chosen" Group (Fellowship) 4:00 Youth Group</p>
<p>20* 11:30 Pickup WM Soups (Kitchen) 11:30 Trailblazers/Pathfinders Group (Potter's)</p>	<p>21 10:45 39ers Study (Fellowship) 6:30 Tres Dias Secretariat (Fellowship) 6:30 Zumba (Potter's)</p>	<p>22 9:00 Crafts (Potter's 9:30 Women's Study (Conference) 6:30 Prayer (Church Office)</p>	<p>23 6:30 NA (Fellowship)</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House) 6:30 Tres Dias Secuela (Fellowship)</p>	<p>26 9:30 "Chosen" Group (Esme's & Ruby's)</p>
<p>27* 11:30 Trustees (Conference Room) 4:00 Youth Group</p>	<p>28 10:45 39ers Study (Fellowship) 6:30 Zumba (Potter's)</p>	<p>29 9:00 Crafts (Potter's 9:30 Women's Study (Conference) 6:30 Prayer (Church Office)</p>	<p>30 6:30 NA (Fellowship)</p>	<p>31</p>		

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

Coffee Fellowship sponsored by: Trustees 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				ALTAR FLOWERS		LAY READERS:	
10/6	Patricia Vigeant Megan Campbell	11/3	Lori Vigeant	10/6	Communion – none	10/6	Jessica Bedosky
		11/10	Courtney Ayer	10/13		10/13	Gina Whaley
10/13	Gina Whaley Lauren Whaley	11/17	Cathy Fredlund Haley Morton	10/ 20		10/20	Ted Ryan
				10/27		10/27	Liz Montambault
10/20	Sue Sundell			11/3	Communion - none	11/3	Peggy Schwetz
		11/24	Patricia Vigeant	11/10	Nancy Stancavage	11/10	Dawn Roaix
10/27	Christy Barrett Savannah Acevedo		Megan Campbell	11/17	Nancy Stancavage	11/17	Dave McClay
				11/24	Nancy Stancavage	11/24	Jessica Bedosky

Sunday School Staff

K &-Pre-K Grace Duke	3-4 Mary Butkevich	7-8 (D/C) Pastor Stephanie
1-2 Lori Vigeant	5-6 Ruth Hopkins	Class Helpers: Christy Barrett, Drew Gomes, Patricia Vigeant, Haley Morton

Youth Staff

CHYG (Grades 7-12) Beth Campbell Sue Sundell	Trailblazers/Pathfinders (Grades K-6) Brenda Tousignant, Lori Vigeant, Haley Morton
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Liturgical Dance (Girls, grades 1-8) Jessica Bedosky, Peggy Schwetz, Britta Saghafi

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays			Anniversaries		
2 Tyler Bond	25 Elsa Hurlbert (84)*	*Elsa Hurlbert, 52 Babbitt Road, Thomaston 06787	8 Sarah & Tim Jackson		
9 Tricia Oporto	28 Dawn Johnson		26 Trish & Lou Oporto		
20 Janet Cappelletti			30 Amy & Doug Bond		
20 Ken Hopkins			31 Deb & Manuel Gomes		
22 Tim Jackson					
23 Emily Whaley					

Connections:

- Pastor: Stephanie Nelson: pastor@covchurchthomaston.org or 860-283-9146 (study)
- Church Chair: John Bedosky: jbedosky@outlook.com or 203-770-5304
- Diaconate Chair: Cathy Fredlund: cbfredl@optonline.net or 203-841-7239
- Treasurer: Ken Hopkins: khopkins195@yahoo.com or 860-283-5031
- Office "Churchmouse" Ruth Johnson: cmouse@covchurchthomaston.org or 860-605-8040
Office/Kitchen: 860-283-5071
- Meal Coordinator: Sandra Dunn; 860-483-2015 or daytondunn@mac.com
- Prayer Coordinator: Mary Butkevich; 860-514-4343 or marybutkevich@gmail.com