

# The Covenant Contact

November 2024

## *Living Evidence*

There are a lot of ways for the world to determine if Jesus is God. There is far too much proof that he walked this earth, so most people can't deny Jesus existed as a person. But there is far more skepticism that Jesus is who HE said he is: the Son of God, come to save the world

But to convince people of Jesus as that Savior, you need much more evidence than just proving that he rose again. What is needed is people recognizing humanity needs a Savior in the first place.

There are many people who determine their status before God by their character, based on what they do or don't do. "I'm not as bad as that guy, so I'm probably going to heaven,"

This is why it's more important for us to understand and teach that Christianity is not just a system of moral ethics, but to see Christianity as a transforming belief in the Son of God.

In other words, Christianity is not about what we do. It's about who Jesus is.

And that changes everything.

To go even further back to help people understand the invitation we have for them, we also have that pesky "human depravity" thing to work with. Depravity is the belief that we are born in sin. There are many verses confirming this truth. One example is Romans 3:10-11, "No one is righteous — not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God." (NLT)

This is where Christianity gets offensive to people. No one likes being labeled a sinner. They don't want their imperfection to define them. But it's also pretty hard to read the comment section on any area of social media and not

see that we have lost much of our humanity. It's easy to point to the world and say, "Look how sinful it is!" But it's harder for non-believers to look at themselves and say, "Look what a sinner I am!"

So we can start with that – the sinfulness of the world, then work our way up to helping people see they need a Savior, and then introduce Jesus to them as the one that fits the bill. But this also isn't a "step-by-step" process. All these things work simultaneously, in tandem, in order to be an effective witness for Christ. This, truly, is what it means to be "living evidence."

1 John 4:12-16 walks us through what testifying to the world looks like:

*Love One Another*

*No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.*

Our mission as a church is *to go and be living evidence of God's love by his transforming power and grace*. We live out the evidence of Jesus because Jesus is in us. It has to start there. His love is made complete in us when we love others.

Some questions for us to ponder:

**• How am I different this year than I was last year? 5 years ago, 10 years ago? What transformation do I see taking place in me?**

**What evidence do I see that Jesus is living in me? What evidence might others see that he is?** (Think beyond good works here - this isn't just about being a nice person. Lots of non-believers are nice.)

The invitation we have for people is not in what we want from them, but in what we want FOR them. And what we want FOR them is what we all should already have inside of us: Jesus Christ and his love for all.

*In Christ, Pastor Stephanie*

## ***Light Up the Town***

- **Cookie Walk and Craft Sale, November 30, 3:00-7:00:** Proceeds from the cookie sale go to the church's General Fund. Start baking now! Cookies with jelly, nuts, frosting and candy sell the best. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin boards so you can tell Lori Vigeant what cookies you will provide. We also provide free coffee and hot chocolate.



- **Set Up through Clean Up:** Help is needed on November 30, 2:00-8:00 pm to set up the cookies, help buyers (keep supplies full, weigh cookies and collect payment) maintain the free drinks area, and restore the Fellowship Room and Kitchen afterwards. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin boards.
- **Tables for Independent Crafters:** A few tables (three) are available in the Fellowship Room for a donation of \$25 to the church. Contact Lori Vigeant or email Ruth Johnson ([cmouse@covchurchthomaston.org](mailto:cmouse@covchurchthomaston.org)) to reserve a table.



## ***Women Ministries***



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

- **The Salem Covenant Women's Conference:** Saturday, November 2, 9:00-2:00. 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.
- **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, November 6, 9:00 am
- **Book Club** The book for November 13 is *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson. We will meet at 6:30 pm in the Potter's House.
- **Light Up the Town Setup:** We will be setting up tables and organizing for the craft and tag sale in the Potter's House all the last week of November (11/24-29). The sale is Saturday, November 30, 3:00-7:00 pm. Help also is needed for cleaning up right afterwards. Proceeds from the craft and tag sale benefit Women Ministries programs.

## ***Christian Education***

- **Family Harvest Hoedown:** Saturday, 5:00 pm on November 9 in the Potter's House. Fun for the whole family!
- **Trailblazers/Pathfinders:** Pathfinders and Trailblazers are combined this school year. Children in grades K – 6 will meet once a month on Sundays (dates below), 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:** 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.

### ***Summary: Quarterly Meeting of October 13***

Pastor Stephanie has been preaching on the church's Vision Statement: "Passionately Pursuing Jesus, Sacrificially Serving Our Neighbor." The church's mission statement is "To go and be living evidence of God's love by the transforming power of his forgiveness and grace." She is working with the Boards to help clarify how they support our mission, with the goal of unifying us. She anticipates finishing the core classes for her PhD by next summer.

General Fund offerings through 40 weeks were \$119,510.09, which is above budget by \$317.69. Currently we are at budget because we received a few large General Fund offerings early in the year. However, offerings since have been consistently under budget. All bills are up to date. The General Fund balance is \$20,417.20 as of October 1. The total, including restricted funds, is \$67,415.71.

The church has received an invitation from the Town to participate in Thomaston's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 28, 2025.\*

Inspecting the fire alarm system will cost \$300. There was discussion of coffee hour and of making the church building more inviting to the community.

Sunday school and youth groups have started. A fall family dance is planned for November. The Christmas program will be December 15 during worship.

The M & E Board will create a long-term evangelism training plan.

The ServantKeeper program, currently on the church laptop, is moving to the cloud and the local version will no longer be supported.

The banners that used to be hung where the new TV monitors are installed will be hung in new places. Beth Campbell is coordinating training for people to operate the video system during worship. There was discussion on how to bring more people into the church.

*John Bedosky, Chair*

\*Editor's note: October 20, 2025, will be the church's 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### ***Youth Groups***

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



11/3 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. Watch the church bulletin for events.



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



## ***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 not in session). They currently are working in the book of Genesis.

## ***Banquet of Blessing***

- **Need:** canned chicken, canned fruit, tomato soup, snack bags, sandwich bags, gallon food storage bags, aluminum foil, paper towels, toilet paper.
- **No perishable foods. Check expiration dates.** We don't give away out of date food.
- **No canned 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

Covenant Church of Thomaston  
Giving Page QR Code



our website.

# November 2024

(Rev 10/29/2024)

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>* <b>Sundays:</b> 9:00 Sunday School; 10:00 am Worship; 11:15 Fellowship  <b>Sunday worship services</b> are recorded and posted on the church website (<a href="http://covchurchthomaston.org">covchurchthomaston.org</a>). Worship bulletins, which include the weekly announcements, also are posted on the church website.</p>					1	2 9:00-2:00 Salem Covenant Women's Conf.
<p><b>3*</b> DAYLIGHT SAVING            TIME ENDS            11:30 M&amp;E (Conference)            11:30 Trailblazers/            Pathfinders (Potter's)</p>	<p><b>4</b> 10:45 39ers Study (Fellowship)  6:30 Zumba (Potter's)</p>	<p><b>5</b> 9:00 Crafts (Potter's)            9:30 Women's Study (Conference.)  6:30 Prayer (Church Office)</p>	<p><b>6</b> 9:00 Kitchen Detail  6:30 NA (Fellowship)</p>	<p><b>7</b>  6:30 CE (Potter's)            7:30 NA Subcommittee (Gathering)</p>	<p><b>8</b>  6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)</p>	<p><b>9</b> 10:00 "Chosen" Group (Fellowship)  5:00 Family Harvest Hoedown (Potter's House)</p>
<p><b>10*</b> 11:30 Diaconate (Conference Room)</p>	<p><b>11</b> VETERAN'S DAY  6:30 Zumba (Potter's)</p>	<p><b>12</b> 9:00 Crafts (Potter's)            9:30 Women's Study (Conference)  6:30 Prayer (Church Office)</p>	<p><b>13</b>  6:00-8:30 NA (Fellowship)            6:30 WM Book Club (Potter's)</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b>  6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>
<p><b>17*</b> Ditty Bag items due            11:30 Evangelism Training (Gathering Room)            11:30 Trustees (Potter's House)</p>	<p><b>18</b> 10:45 39ers Study (Fellowship)            WM Packing Ditty Bags  6:30 Tres Dias Secretariat (Fellowship)            6:30 Zumba (Potter's)</p>	<p><b>19</b> 9:00 Crafts (Potter's)            9:30 Women's Study (Conference)  6:30 Prayer (Church Office)</p>	<p><b>20</b>  6:30 NA (Fellowship)</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b>  6:00 Crafty Fridays (Potter's House)</p>	<p><b>23</b> 9:30 "Chosen" Group (Esme's &amp; Ruby's)</p>
<p><b>24*</b>  Setup for Light Up the Town Sale (Potter's House, Fellowship Room)</p>	<p><b>25</b> 10:45 39ers Study (Fellowship)  Setup (Potter's, Fellowship)  6:30 Zumba (Location TBD)</p>	<p><b>26</b> 9:30 Women's Study (Conference)  Setup (Potter's, Fellowship)  6:30 Prayer (Church Office)</p>	<p><b>27</b>  Setup (Potter's, Fellowship)  6:30 NA (Gathering)</p>	<p><b>28</b> THANKSGIVING</p>	<p><b>29</b>  Setup (Potter's, Fellowship)</p>	<p><b>30</b> 2:00-8:00 Setup/Cleanup Cookie Sale (Fellowship)  3:00-7:00 Craft &amp; Tag Sale, Cookie Sale (Potter's, Fellowship)</p>



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

Coffee Fellowship sponsored by: Diaconate \*\*

**\*\*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:		
11/3	Lori Vigeant	12/1	11/3	Communion - none	11/3	Peggy Schwetz	11/10	Dawn Roaix
11/10	Courtney Ayer	12/8	11/10	Nancy Stancavage	11/17	Dave McClay	11/17	Dave McClay
11/17	Cathy Fredlund Haley Morton	12/15	11/24	Nancy Stancavage	11/24	Jessica Bedosky	12/1	Gina Whaley
11/24	Patricia Vigeant Megan Campbell	12/22	12/1	Communion – none	12/8	Ted Ryan	12/8	Ted Ryan
		12/29	12/15		12/15	Liz Montambault	12/15	Liz Montambault
			12/22		12/22	Peggy Schwetz	12/22	Peggy Schwetz
			12/29		12/29	Dawn Roaix	12/29	Dawn Roaix

**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

**November Birthdays and Anniversaries**

<b>Birthdays</b> 18 John Bedosky 19 Sandra Dunn 20 Sarah Poletti 20 Dan Stancavage 21 Jeff Dunn	23 Adrianna Rodriguez 26 James Bothroyd 28 Maria Montijo	<b>Anniversaries</b> 20 Nancy & Matt Stancavage
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**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