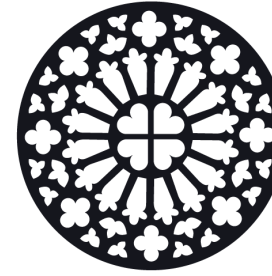


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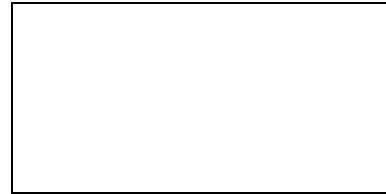
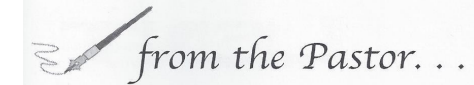


Newsletter of The Church of the Covenant

The Messenger

APRIL 2024

APRIL 2024



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Associate Pastor Emeritus

Dear Congregation of God,

By the time you receive this edition of the Messenger we will be entering into the agony of Good Friday, while readying our hearts for the glory of Easter morning. The Easter season signals not only the beginning of spring, but also marks the beginning of the springtime of the church. What a beautiful season! And what a beautiful time to be part of this place called The Church of the Covenant.

The season of Easter is actually seven Sundays long, each Lord's Day a "resurrection" opportunity to be seized for God's glory. Just look and listen in these following weeks, you may see and hear the sights and sounds of God's resurrection power erupting in the soul's spring--- renewing your life and others.

Renewal is a recurrent theme throughout Scripture. The apostle Paul tells us that our salvation not only begins through the *renewing* power of the Holy Spirit, but he also tells us that *renewing* process continues on inwardly every single day of our lives (Titus 3:5; II Corinthians 4:16). Therefore, at the very core of any genuine Christian, or even an entire church, God's work of renewal continues.

With renewal in mind, then, I would invite you to pray - for yourself and for your family, of course. But also pray for our church - its staff, its leaders - and its future. New ministry plans and ideas are presently being developed. Regularly, new faces are appearing in our fellowship and worship services. Just like spring bulbs bursting into flowers right before our eyes, God is transforming the very landscape of our life together, ensuring that The Church of the Covenant is a great place to belong.

Yes, I did say *belong*. In an age of loneliness, depression, disconnection and religious consumerism, Covenant is more than a good option - a place to attend. We are a people being renewed by almighty God, and that is something worth *belonging* to.

In the springtime of God's glory,

Billy

The Church of the Covenant

267 East Beau St.
Washington, PA 15301
724.222.0190

churchoftheco@comcast.net
www.churchofthecov.org

Worship Services
Sundays: 9:00 & 11:00 am
10:00 - 11:00 am

**Spiritual development time
for children and adults**
Church Office Hours
Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 3:00

NEWS FROM THE FAMILY OF FAITH



United With the Church Triumphant

FUNERALS

In Memory Of

MaryAnna McNeel

Memorial Barbara Collins

Connie Hornickel

Memorial Phil and Linda Weaver

Anna Belle Jeffries

Memorial Gina Johnston

Shirley Desmond

Memorial Carl and Evelyn Garrett

Memorial Barry and Denise Weaver\

Patty Murphy

Memorial John and Diane Welty

Memorial J. Daniel Brown

Memorial Barbara Collins

Memorial Kathleen A. Clark

On March 16, 2024, a joint memorial service was held for **Patty Murphy**, who joined the Church Triumphant on January 8, 2024 and her son, **David Murphy**, who passed away on January 30, 2024. The service was officiated by Rev. Dr. William Younger.

Long-time member **Anna Belle Jeffries** joined the Church Triumphant on February 24, 2024. A funeral service was held at Piatt and Barnhill Funeral Home, officiated by Rev. Dr. William Younger. Interment followed at Washington Cemetery.



Meet Ella Chandler
our new Children, Youth, and
Families Intern.

Ella is a Junior at Waynesburg
University and is studying Biblical
and Ministry Studies. Ella will be
helping with many of our
programs and activities related to
children and youth.

MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Save the Date

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of our family of faith, we will gather **Tuesday, April 2, at 6:30pm in the Parlor** to learn more about our church and what membership means. The group will be **received by the Session on Monday, April 8 at 6:30p.m., and by the congregation on Sunday, April 14.** To register, please contact Debi Nicolella: 724-222-0190 x 111 or churchoftheco@comcast.net.

**DEADLINE FOR THE MAY
MESSENGER is APRIL 15th.**

MORE YOUTH NEWS ~ TEEN EXTREME

Registration for Teen Extreme is now open! We are accepting students leaving 5 th grade and entering 9th grade. Teen Extreme is a Christian Adventure Camp for teens. Days are filled with fun activities, learning new skills, service projects, fun and field trips. Parents only pay for the cost of the field trip. We ask that teens attend all three days in each week. This allows them to experience learning and fellowship on day one, service and outreach on day two and a fun field trip on day three.

We only have a limited number of spaces. Please use the link below to register today. For more information, please contact Yvonne Gayle . Yvonnegayle20@gmail.com

THE CARNAHAN LIBRARY

Dedicated on 11/1/09 to the memory of Thomas Dorrington Carnahan II,
Thomas Dorrington Carnahan III, George Kirk Carnahan and to the glory of God.

The Carnahan Library is in Room 308, the first room on the right as you enter the third-floor hallway from the elevator. The card catalog will help you to locate a book by author, title, or subject. The Library Committee thanks the donors of the Library books.

*Indicates a new book.

The Oxford Companion to the Bible, edited by Bruce M. Metzger and Michael D. Coogan, was donated by **Rev. Dr. Renny Domske** in memory of **Kirby Domske**. This resource was written by more than 250 scholars and covers people, places, events, books, institutions, religious beliefs, and the secular influence of the Bible. The *Companion* contains: religious concepts such as immortality, sin, grace, baptism, ethics, and the Holy Spirit; modern issues such as homosexuality, marriage, and anti-Semitism; the influence of the Bible on western civilization; articles on the books of the Bible and other ancient texts; the identification of major biblical figures; and descriptions of the daily life of ancient Israel and the early Christian communities. There is a detailed index and 28 pages of full-color maps.

The following books were donated anonymously.

6 Rainier Drive by Debbie Macomber is part of the Cedar Cove series that follows the professional and personal life of Municipal Court Judge Olivia Lockhart and the surrounding townfolk of Cedar Cove, Washington. In this sixth book in the series, Seth and Justine lost their restaurant, The Lighthouse, to arson. The prime suspect is Anson Butler, who disappeared right after the fire. Cal, who works on Cliff Harding's ranch, has gone to rescue wild mustangs in Wyoming, to the dismay of his girlfriend. A new character is introduced, champion chess player Bobby Polgar. (*The Library has other books in this series.*)

The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards begins on a winter night in 1964 when a blizzard forces Dr. David Henry to deliver his own twins. His son, born first, is perfectly healthy, but the doctor immediately recognizes that his daughter has Down syndrome. For motives he tells himself are good, he makes a split-second decision that will haunt all their lives forever. He asks his nurse, Caroline, to take the baby away to an institution. Instead, Caroline disappears into another city to raise the child as her own. Kim Edwards has created a tale of regret and redemption, of characters haunted by their past.

The Residence: Inside the Private World of the White House by Kate Anderson Brower, a former White House correspondent, pulls back the curtain on the world's most famous address. From the mystique of the Kennedys to the tumult that surrounded Bill and Hillary Clinton to the tenure of Barack and Michelle Obama, each new administration brings a unique set of personalities and a new set of challenges to the White House residence staff. Kate Brower interviewed butlers, maids, chefs, florists, doormen, and others as well as three former first ladies and the children of four presidents.

Peril by Bob Woodward and Robert Costa. The authors interviewed more than 200 people on the transition from the Trump presidency to the Biden presidency. The study takes the readers deep inside the Trump White House, the Biden White House, the 2020 campaign, and the Pentagon and Congress.

After Abel and Other Stories by Michal Lemberger gives voice to silent, oft-marginalized biblical women: their ambitions, their struggles, their values, and their challenges as mothers. She is able to enter and inhabit characters who exist for us today only as stray lines of text in the Bible, and she allows us to see the biblical landscape through their eyes. Lemberger has chosen the most intriguing women of the Bible to write about: Eve, Lot's wife, Jochebed (Moses' mother), Hagar, Zeresh (wife of Haman), Yael (wife of Heber the Kenite), Hannah (wife of Elkanah), Michal (Saul's daughter), Achsah (Caleb's daughter), and Ruth.

The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton. A tiny girl is abandoned on a ship headed for Australia in 1913. She arrives completely alone with nothing but a small suitcase containing some clothing, a few books and a beautiful volume of fairy tales. She is taken in by the dockmaster and his wife and raised as their own. On her twenty-first birthday, they tell her the truth. "Nell" sets out to trace her real identity. But it is not until her granddaughter, Cassandra, takes up the search after Nell's death that all the pieces of the puzzle are assembled.

Magic by Danielle Steel. It starts on a summer evening with the kind of magic found only in Paris. Once a year, a lavish dinner takes place outside a spectacular landmark — the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Notre Dame — a new setting each time. Selected by secret invitation, the guests arrive dressed in white and are seated to an elegant dinner with white linens, flowers, fine china, and sparkling crystal. When the night is over, hundreds of white paper lanterns, each with a flame within and bearing someone's fervent wishes, are released into the sky. Amid the White Dinner, a group of close friends stands at the cusp of change. Spanning the globe, this breathtaking novel follows six indelible characters through a transformative year of successes and heartbreaks until the next White Dinner.

(*The Library has other books by Danielle Steel.*)

MARCH PREACHING AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 7, 2024
"The Gospel Experience"
 I Thessalonians 1:1-10
 Rev. Dr. Younger

April 14:
"The Gospel Pastor"
 I Thessalonians 2:1-13; 17-20
 Rev. Dr. Younger

April 21, 2024:
"The Gospel and Sexuality"
 I Thessalonians 4:1-8
 Rev. Dr. Younger

April 28, 2024:
"The Gospel and Death"
 I Thessalonians 4:13-18
 Rev. Dr. Younger

May 5, 2024:
"The Gospel and the End"
 I Thessalonians 5:1-11
 Rev. Dr. Younger

May 12, 2024
 Renny Preaching

May 19, 2024
"The Gospel Community"
 I Thessalonians 5:12-15

May 26, 2024
"The Gospel and Worship"
 I Thessalonians 5:16-28
 Rev. Dr. Younger

THE CHURCH OF THE COVENANT WEBSITE

Check it out at www.churchofthecov.org

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

PARISH NURSE CORNER

Good News for stroke victims and their caregivers. There is an After Stroke Support Group on the 4th Tuesday of every month at Faith UP Church, 900 E. Beau St from 6-7:30pm. Please call Shelly Anderson for more details at 724-470-9187. A reminder that there are many different types of medical equipment available free to anyone in need of useful aids for activities of daily living (wheelchair, walker, raised toilet seat, etc.). Please contact me at 724-777-9240 or stop by Room 302 on Sunday mornings from 10-10:45am. Good Health to all- Linda Grimm, RN, 724-777-9240.



FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

For prayer support or to join this ministry, call the church office. Please contact the Fellowship of Concern to give the names of those who are in need of prayer for health or other reasons. The names will then be called or emailed to the church members who pray daily for others. Prayer request forms are available in each pew. Completed forms may be placed in the offering basket.

PLEASE HELP US CELEBRATE OUR GRADUATES!

“Graduate Recognition Sunday” will take place on Sunday, May 19th. If you have a graduating senior, please send their name, school, a picture if possible, and information on future plans to yvonnegayle20@gmail.com so that we can honor their achievements. To our Church family, please save the date for this special day and help us provide a meaningful send-off to our impressive graduates! More details to follow.



COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY ~ SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS

Community Circle food pantry is in need of canned goods. Especially needed: Egg noodles, tuna, canned chicken and green beans. Always- needed: peanut butter, jelly, mac 'n cheese, corn, green beans, spaghetti sauce and pasta. When you do your grocery shopping, please buy one item (or more) for the Pantry, and place your donated items in the bin in the Commons.

There has been an increase in families coming to the pantry, with a lot of them utilizing us now on a weekly basis to meet their food insecurities. Community Circle Food Pantry is open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9 a.m. till noon and is located at 70 E. Beau Street, Washington, with the entrance in the alley behind the First Methodist Church. Volunteers are always needed to pack orders, sort donations and help on truck delivery days. If you'd like to help out, contact Melanie Wolfe at mwolfe15301@outlook.com.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY-THEFT ATTEND THE SEMINAR ON MAY 30TH

Hands and Hearts will host an Identity Theft/Protection Seminar sponsored by State Rep. Tim O’Neal’s office on Thursday, May 30th at 10am in the church dining room. PA State Trooper Rocco Gagliardi will discuss identity theft, scams, how to protect your personal information, and steps to take if you suspect your information has been compromised. This program is open to the public and registration is required by May 20th. Please contact Linda Grimm by phone or text at 724-777-9240 or Rep. O’Neal’s office at 724-223-4541. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided. Learn how to keep you and your family safe from cyber criminals!

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR APRIL

Monday, April 1
Exod. 12:14-27
1 Cor. 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8
Tuesday, April 2
Exod. 12:28-39
1 Cor. 15:12-28
Mark 16:9-20
Wednesday, April 3
Exod. 12:40-51
1 Cor. 15:(29) 30-41
Matt. 28:1-16
Thursday, April 4
Exod. 13:3-10
1 Cor. 15:41-50
Matt. 28:16-20
Friday, April 5
Exod. 13:1-2, 11-16
1 Cor. 15:51-58
Luke 24:1-12
Saturday, April 6
Exod. 13:17-14:4
2 Cor. 4:16-5:10
Mark 12:18-27
Sunday, April 7
Exod. 14:5-22
1 John 1:1-7
John 14:1-7
Monday, April 8
Exod. 14:21-31
1 Pet. 1:1-12
John 14:(1-7) 8-17

Tuesday, April 9
Exod. 15:1-21
1 Pet. 1:13-25
John 14:18-31
Wednesday, April 10
Exod. 15:22-16:10
1 Pet. 2:1-10
John 15:1-11
Thursday, April 11
Exod. 16:10-22
1 Pet. 2:11-3:12
John 15:12-27
Friday, April 12
Exod. 16:23-36
1 Pet. 3:13-4:6
John 16:1-15
1 Pet. 4:7-19
John 16:16-33
Mark 16:9-20
Saturday, April 13
Exod. 17:1-16
1 Pet. 4:7-19
John 16:16-33
Sunday, April 14
Exod. 18:1-12
1 John 2:7-17
Mark 16:9-20
Monday, April 15
Exod. 18:13-27
1 Pet. 5:1-14
Matt. (1:1-17) 3:1-6

Tuesday, April 16
Exod. 19:1-16
Col. 1:1-14
Matt. 3:7-12
Wednesday, April 17
Exod. 19:16-25
Col. 1:15-23
Matt. 3:13-17
Thursday, April 18
Exod. 20:1-21
Col. 1:24-2:7
Matt. 4:1-11
Friday, April 19
Exod. 24:1-18
Col. 2:8-23
Matt. 4:12-17
Saturday, April 20
Exod. 25:1-22
Col. 3:1-17
Matt. 4:18-25
Sunday, April 21
Exod. 28:1-4, 30-38
1 John 2:18-29
Mark 6:30-44
Monday, April 22
Exod. 32:1-20
Col. 3:18-4:6 (7-18)
Matt. 5:1-10
Tuesday, April 23
Exod. 32:21-34
1 Thess. 1:1-10
Matt. 5:11-16

Wednesday, April 24
Exod. 33:1-23
1 Thess. 2:1-12
Matt. 5:17-20
Thursday, April 25
Exod. 34:1-17
1 Thess. 2:13-20
Matt. 5:21-26
Friday, April 26
Exod. 34:18-35
1 Thess. 3:1-13
Matt. 5:27-37
Saturday, April 27
Exod. 40:18-38
1 Thess. 4:1-12
Matt. 5:38-48
Sunday, April 28
Lev. 8:1-13, 30-36
Heb. 12:1-14
Luke 4:16-30
Monday, April 29
Lev. 16:1-19
1 Thess. 4:13-18
Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18
Tuesday, April 30
Lev. 16:20-34
1 Thess. 5:1-11
Matt. 6:7-15



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Table listing April Birthdays with names and dates. Columns include names and dates for the first two weeks of the month.



MORE MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

SEVEN WEEKS TO BETTER HEALTH

Spring is the time of new beginnings. God’s beautiful world comes alive with colorful landscapes and the freshness of new life in nature. **Seven Weeks to Better Health** is an opportunity to experience new beginnings with your health, based on Biblical references. It is a chance to take charge of your health, commit to change, have confidence, chart your course, be creative, find encouragement and celebrate your progress. This spring, begin your journey. A brochure titled **Seven Weeks to Better Health** with supporting Bible verses and steps to guide you will be available in the Commons during the month of April. I will be available to be your prayer partner and cheerleader! Questions? I can be reached at 724-777-9240

–Linda Grimm, RN

NEW REGISTERED NURSING STUDENT FUND

Anonymous generous donors have recently created a Fund in the church’s endowment to financially help a church member(s) who has been accepted into a Registered Nursing education program which is hospital-affiliated, and typically in the range of 18 months duration. If you or any member you know is considering this educational path toward licensure by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a Registered Nurse, financial resources may be available and they should contact the Church Office for additional information.

TUESDAY SPEAKER SERIES CONCLUDES IN APRIL

Our Spring Lenten Bible series on the **Acts of the Apostles** has been so well attended. Over 60 were present at the last class, and with zoom attenders there may be close to 80 students of God's Word gathering each week to learn and study **Acts**. The class is taught by our own Pastoral Associate, Dr. Renny Domske.

There are 2 more class gathering in April—Tuesday, April 2nd and Tuesday, April 9th. at 7:00 PM. You are still encouraged to join this group of disciples growing in their understanding of God. “Your Word have I hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You, O God.” (Psalm 119:11)

CHEER BUCKET UPDATE

Items needed for Cheer Buckets!

If you would like to spread some love and provide a bit of joy to kids who are admitted to Washington Hospital, please consider donating items. We are in need of colored pencils, markers, crayons, coloring books, small toys or craft projects. Basically anything a child can do sitting down. We have received texts and letters from Washington Hospital expressing their appreciation and how helpful the items have been. You may give items to Yvonne Gayle or leave in the office.

Thank you for your continued support!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

TUESDAY EVENING SPEAKER SERIES

The Tuesday Speaker Series is back, with our own Renny Domske!
After The Gospels Comes The ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

The series continues on Tuesdays (April 2, and 9), Dr. Renny Domske is leading us through the **Acts of the Apostles**. We will see how we can follow in the steps of the original apostles. Plan on being with us each Tuesday at 7:00pm to learn more about God in **Acts**. **To sign up to participate in the Tuesday speaker series, please go to**

<https://tinyurl.com/cotcspeakerseries> or contact the church office.



YOUTH NEWS

PINE SPRINGS CAMP "CAMBERSHIP" AVAILABLE

The Christian Education committee has scholarship funds available to support the cost of summer camp for Church of the Covenant campers. All church families are encouraged to apply. Contact Yvonne Gayle, yvonnegayle20@gmail.com, for more information.

PINE SPRINGS SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

What are you doing this summer? Pine Springs Camp is currently accepting camper registrations for the summer 2024 camping season. Camps are available for a variety of ages and interests and campers get to experience the Pine Springs mission of every camper having a vital encounter with Jesus Christ.

For more information and to register visit <https://www.pinesprings.org/registration-and-forms>



THE ADVENTURE BEGINS!
Treasured VBS: Discovering You are Priceless to God

VBS PROMO DAY
APRIL 14 9:00am - 12:30pm

Join us in the Commons to DISCOVER more about this year’s exciting theme, new schedule and sessions, BIG surprises, and the many opportunities for volunteers to create a PRICELESS VBS experience! SEEK out snacks and fun prizes too!

Questions? Reach out to Amy Dille at churchofcov.vbs@gmail.com
(Treasured VBS will take place on July 15-19 from 9am-12pm)

FX ~ FAMILY EXPERIENCE

FX is Growing!

We are thrilled to share that FX - Family Experience is experiencing significant growth, all thanks to the unwavering support of our dedicated families and talented volunteers. We are excited to announce that we will be relocating to the Covenant Center in April, a move that will enable us to accommodate more families and create an even more immersive experience for all.

Our FX evenings are an absolute blast, filled with funny games, entertaining skits, and a delicious dinner that everyone enjoys. What makes our program truly unique, however, is the incredible dedication of our volunteers who bring the Bible stories to life in a way that is engaging, interactive, and downright silly.

We have been incredibly fortunate to have a group of amazing families who have been with us from the start and have played a key role in making this program the success it is today. We are grateful for their unwavering support and look forward to welcoming even more families into our FX community.



Here's a look at some of the goings-on at FX.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Preschool Countdown!!

The children will begin their unit about Noah's Ark. We are looking forward to teaching this Bible unit. We have such little time left of this crazy school year but we reflect back on it all and how wonderfully blessed we are to teach our little ones since September. We are beginning to practice for our Spring programs on May 15th and 16th. You are all invited! The kids are always excited to perform for their family. The songs they will sing and bells to ring all center around Noah's Ark unit!



Are we counting down? Yes we are, but with the realization that the children growing and moving on to kindergarten and the 3-yr-olds coming back for their next year and new families joining us is filled with excitement. Our last day of Preschool is May 16th, so we intend to always finish the school year with plenty of energy and looking forward to summer fun.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!!!

ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SALE

The Mission Committee will hold their annual flower sale fundraiser on Thursday, May 9th from 12-3 pm. Flats will be \$26 and hanging baskets \$26. You can pre-order your flowers by completing the form by the display in the Commons Area or contacting Kathy Nassar at 724-350-5000. Forms and checks can be placed in the envelope on the display. Pre-orders must be made by April 21st. Flower order pick-up times will be Thursday, May 11th from 12:00-3:00. Please make checks payable to "Church of the Covenant" and write "Flower Sale" on the memo line. Money is due at the time of the order. All proceeds will go directly to support Church sponsored mission trips.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER LUNCHEON

Women and girls of all ages are invited to the Mother-Daughter Luncheon on Saturday, May 4th at 12:00 p.m. in the Covenant Center. Alterio's Catering will be preparing a delicious meal which consists of chicken breasts, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, salad and rolls. Dessert will also be provided and the kids meal includes chicken tenders, macaroni & cheese and fruit salad. There will be entertainments, prizes, baskets to raffle off. All proceeds will go directly to support Church sponsored mission trips. Adult tickets are \$24 and children from 5-12 are \$12. Children 4 and under are free. Please purchase your tickets by April 21st. Look for someone selling tickets between Church services in the Commons, or contact Kathy Nassar at 724-350-5000.