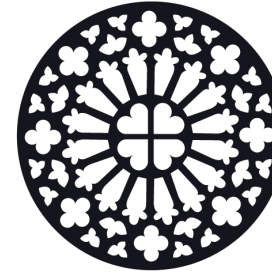


The Messenger  
c/o The Church of the Covenant  
267 East Beau Street  
Washington, PA 15301  
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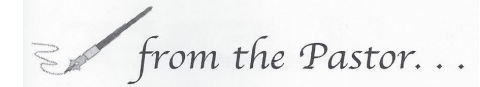
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Newsletter of The Church of the Covenant

# The Messenger

March 2024



## "First Death, Then Victory"

Dear Congregation of God,

To paraphrase C.S. Lewis' famous statement, "All the wars and all the plagues in history have never increased the death toll an iota--- it has always been, and always will be, one per person." One death per person. Well, we don't want to think about our own mortality, and we do many things to pretend that it's not approaching. We dye our graying hair. We cover our age spots with makeup. We get cosmetic surgery to preserve the image of youth. Rarely do we seriously think about our own death. But despite our death-denying tendencies life is rushing on.

Therefore, as we approach Easter we should take time to remind ourselves of the Bible's teaching about death, suffering, and its aftermath. On the one hand, Psalm 90:12 tells us to "number our days aright, that we may get a heart of wisdom." We are not being asked to literally discern the exact number of our days, of course, but to recognize that we have a finite number of them. Psalm 139:16 says of God beholding the baby as it develops inside its mother: "Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

But God, in his mercy, has turned even the inevitability and terror of death into one of his mercies. Job's friend Elihu, (The one who isn't rebuked for giving bad counsel) suggests that God uses the pains of approaching death to "terrify them with warnings, to turn man away from wrongdoing and keep him from pride, to preserve his soul from the pit." Elihu goes on to say, however, that these "scare'em into the Kingdom" tactics would be useless unless there is an angel on his side as a mediator, one out of a thousand,...to say "Spare him from going down to the pit; I have found a ransom for him!" (v.23).

Jesus IS our mediator, our ransom, the one who saves us from going down into the pit. We can therefore face death and suffering knowing that He is by our side, that in fact He has been there before us and leads us through to the resurrection. We can battle pain, suffering, and disease because Jesus did so first and told us to follow and imitate Him. "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" It is gone, swallowed up in life so that we may have confidence whether our lives be long or short, easy or painful, He will be with us and bring us through.

Rejoicing with you in Christ's victory over death,

Billy

March 2024

### STAFF

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Associate Pastor Emeritus

### The Church of the Covenant

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**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**

**Betty Lou Engle**

Memorial Rick and Janet Nevin

**Shirley Desmond**

Memorial George and Mary Alice Jones  
Christian Education George and Linda Comstock

**Anna Belle Jeffries**

Hands & Hearts Bob and Mary Wichterman

**Anonymous**

Memorial Anonymous

On February 6, 2024, **Shirley Desmond** passed away. She is the sister of Betty Crompton. Funeral arrangements were handled by William G. Neal Funeral Home.

On February 8, 2024, **Jean Hanas** joined the Church Triumphant. There was no public viewing or service. Arrangements were handled by William G. Neal Funeral Home.

**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](mailto:churchoftheco@comcast.net).

**THANK YOU NOTE**

Dear Hands & Hearts Committee and all of my dear friends at the Church of the Covenant,

Thank you for remembering me with all of the beautiful cards and well wishes. I enjoyed reading each of them and they provided me with strength for my recovery. More than anything, I appreciate and can feel your prayers for my healing. I miss all of you tremendously and with continued prayers and God's grace, I will be worshipping with you again soon.

Your Friend in Christ, Jean Piatt

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

**THANK YOU NOTE**

From Laboratory Presbyterian Church, for Love in a Basket.

We want to thank you for all the beautiful baskets you supplied us with in the past year. We made and delivered 50 baskets (2023).

As we start another year, your continued support is greatly appreciated.

With Thanks,  
Kathy & Gene McDaniel

**THANK YOU NOTE**

(Dawn Herron, the pack leader of a Tiger Scout troop, had the Scouts make Valentine Cards. The hand-made cards were given to our Homebound members by the Deacons.)

I want to thank the Cub Scouts for bringing me a Valentine Card. I truly appreciate your bringing it to me. If you saw all the Valentine things in my apartment they came from my Care Giver. She decorated my door for Christmas and she won first prize.

Thanks again,  
Sally Corwin

**SCHEDULE OF LENTEN EVENTS**

3/3/2024 Third Sunday of Lent ~ Communion

3/10/2024 Fourth Sunday of Lent

3/15/2024 Deacons Fish Fry, 5-7 PM

3/17/2024 Fifth Sunday of Lent

3/22/2024 Deacons Fish Fry, 5-7 PM

3/24/2024 Palm Sunday

3/28/2024 Maundy Thursday, service at 7:00 PM

3/29/2024 Good Friday, service at the foot of the cross, 12:00 Noon in the Commons

3/31/2024 Easter Sunday, services at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

**LILIES TO ADORN THE SANCTUARY**

It's time to order gorgeous White Easter Lilies to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. Only \$10 each! Orders due to Church Office by **March 22**; make checks payable to "The Church of the Covenant" with "Lily" in the memo please

**In Memory / Honor of** (please circle one): Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

**Number Ordered** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount Enclosed (\$10 each)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ordered by** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick mine up after Easter  I would like mine delivered to a shut-in

**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.

\***Resurrection Walk** (A Lincoln Lawyer Novel) by Michael Connelly was purchased with library funds. Defense Attorney Mickey Haller takes the long-shot cases where the chances of winning are one in a million. He asks his half-brother, retired LAPD detective Harry Bosch, to weed through letters from incarcerated people claiming innocence, knowing that most claims will be false. Bosch pulls a needle from the haystack: a woman in prison for five years for killing her husband, a sheriff's deputy, though all along, she has maintained that she didn't do it. Bosch reviews the case and sees elements that don't add up. Haller has an uphill battle in court, a David fighting Goliath scenario, to vindicate his client. The path for both lawyer and investigator is fraught with danger from those who don't want the case reopened and will stop at nothing to keep the Haller-Bosch team from finding the truth. *(There are other books by Michael Connelly in the Library.)*

**The Book of Charlie** by David Von Drehle was donated by Linda Pitner and is the inspiring story of a 109-year-old man's journey through a century of upheaval. When a veteran Washington journalist, David Von Drehle, moved to the Midwest, he met a new neighbor who was more than a century old, Charlie White. Little did he know that he was beginning a long friendship and a profound lesson in the meaning of life. Charlie White was no ordinary neighbor. When a shocking tragedy interrupted his idyllic childhood, Charlie mastered survival strategies that reflected thousands of years of human wisdom. Thus armored, Charlie's sense of adventure carried him on an epic journey across the continent, from swinging to Jazz Age bands, racing aboard ambulances through gangster wars, improvising techniques for early open-heart surgery, and cruising the Amazon as a guest of Peru's president. Charlie's resilience and willingness to grow made him a master in thriving through times of dramatic change. As a gift to his children, David Von Drehle set out to tell Charlie's secrets in this book.

The following three books were donated by Barb Knight.

**The Secret** (A Jack Reacher Novel) by Lee Child and Andrew Child. In 1992, all across the United States respectable, upstanding citizens are showing up dead. These deaths could be accidents, and they don't appear to be connected until a fatal fall from a high-floor window attracts some unexpected attention from the Secretary of Defense. All of a sudden, he wants an interagency task force to investigate; and he wants Jack Reacher as the Army's representative. If Reacher gets a result, great. If not, he's a convenient fall guy. Office politics aren't Reacher's strong point. Three questions quickly emerge: who's with him, who's against him, and will the justice he dispenses be the official kind...or his own kind? *(The Library has other books by Lee Child.)*

**Death Without Company** by Craig Johnson is from the Netflix original series *Longmire*. When Mari Baroja is found poisoned at the Durant Home for Assisted Living, Sheriff Walter Longmire is drawn into the investigation that reaches back fifty years into the mysterious woman's past. Her connections to Wyoming's Basque community, the lucrative coal-bed methane industry, and the personal life of the previous sheriff, Lucian Connally, lead to a complex web of half-truths and assumed alliances. Aided by his friend, Henry Standing Bear (the Bear), Deputy Victoria (Vic) Moretti and newcomer Santiago (Sancho) Saizarbitoria, Sheriff Longmire must connect events of the past to the present to find the killer.

**The Journey from War** by Diane Moody is the fourth book in her War Series. In the spring of 1957, Jacob Versteeg graduated from high school at the top of his class. Quite an accomplishment for a guy who spent his young childhood in a German concentration camp. When the war ended, he was adopted by Huub Versteeg, a kind, fellow POW at Bergen-Belsen who had taken him under his wing. For ten years, Jacob grew up in Chicago surrounded by the love of his new family. Jacob always wondered why his German parents abandoned him. After his first year at Wheaton College, Jacob joins a summer study course in West Germany. There, he realizes he must gather his courage to overcome his past if he's ever to complete his long journey from war. *(The Library has Books 1-4 of the War Series.)*

The following books were anonymously donated to the Library.

**Lady in Waiting: My Extraordinary Life in the Shadow of the Crown** by Anne Glenconner who spent her life as a friend of the Royal family. She served as a Maid of Honor at Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation and a Lady in Waiting to Princess Margaret until her death in 2002. The eldest child of the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Leicester, Anne was brought up at one of the grandest estates in England, next door to the Royal Family's country retreat, Sandringham. The Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret were her frequent playmates. Despite Lady Glenconner's status as the first-born child, she was deemed "the greatest disappointment" as a daughter, and thus unable to inherit. She shares intimate royal stories from her time as Princess Margaret's closest confidante as well as her own battle for survival: her broken first engagement on the basis of her "mad blood"; her fifty-four-year marriage to the volatile, unfaithful Colin Tennant (Lord Glenconner) who left his fortune to his manservant; the death of two sons in adulthood; and a third son she nursed back from a horrific motorcycle accident. Through it all, Lady Glenconner carried on as a unique witness to landmark moments in royal history.

**Shadow Garden** by Alexandra Burt. After an accident, a rich doctor's wife is recuperating at a condo, set on the grounds of a lovely estate in Texas, but troubles arise when she starts asking questions. As the novel opens, Donna Pryor is trying to settle in at Shadow Garden, where her physician husband, Edward, has settled her along with a housekeeper. "The truth is our marriage is over and Shadow Garden is my consolation prize," she thinks. But why is the housekeeper sometimes distant, and why won't Donna's adult daughter, Penelope, return her calls? The story goes back in time, told from the viewpoints of Donna, Edward, and Penelope. Along with being a portrait of a marriage, it is the story of parents who can't or won't admit to problems with their only child. Why do children get hurt around Penelope? When she stabbed a classmate in the arm with a fork in the school lunchroom, Donna told Edward, "She was in a mood, all those kids and the noise." Aren't they being good parents by explaining, excusing, and covering up her actions? But when something happens that should never be covered up, events spin out of control. The author creates tension, but as actions are told, retold, refuted, and analyzed, the novel becomes one long waiting game.

**MARCH PREACHING AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

March 3: **"Jesus Loves Me This I Know"**  
Romans 5:5-11  
Rev. Dr. Younger

March 10: **"Relentless Grace"**  
Matthew 12:38-50  
Rev. Dr. Younger

March 17: **"Follow the King"**  
Matthew 16:21-28  
Rev. Dr. Younger

March 24: Palm Sunday  
**"Look the Whole World is Going After Him"**  
John 12:12-19  
Rev. Dr. Younger

March 28: Maundy Thursday (7:00pm)  
**"Greatness"**  
Matthew 20:17-28  
Rev. Dr. Younger

March 29: Good Friday (noon in the Commons)  
**"Our Last Words to Jesus"**  
Rev. Dr. Renny Domske

March 31 Easter  
**"The Truth — Straight Up!"**  
Luke 24:1-12, 36-49  
Rev. Dr. Younger

**HIGHLIGHTS OF ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

The Presbyterian Women held their annual Ash Wednesday Communion Service on February 14th. The service was held in the Rusch Chapel, with 33 people in attendance. The PW invited Sarah Angelo, the Director of Resurrection Power to give the Ash Wednesday Meditation. Communion was served by four of the PW members.

Following the service, there was a brunch served in the church Dining Room. Most of the people who attended the service took advantage of the opportunity to stay and visit with church friends. A huge "Thank You" to the PW for coordinating this service, and to Sarah Angelo for delivering the message.





**MISCELLANEOUS NEWS**

**SAVE THE DATES! THE FISH FRY IS BACK!**



The Deacons are excited to announce that we will be hosting our annual fish fry again this year! We look forward to serving you on **March 15<sup>th</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5 pm – 7 pm. Eat in or Take-out.** We will be offering fish sandwiches, fish on a dish, French fries, mac and cheese, and several other side dishes, as well as dessert. Fish will be \$10 and sides \$3. Desserts will be \$2 and beverages \$1. **This is a cash only event.** We utilize any profit from this Fish Fry to support the needs of our church and surrounding community. So, bring your appetite and come ready to enjoy the company of fellow brothers and sisters in Christ!

**PARISH NURSE CORNER**

March is National Nutrition Month. With a focus on healthy eating, here are a few things you can do to optimize your healthy lifestyle:

- 1.) Lose some extra weight.  
Any weight loss is helpful.
- 2.) Get active, moving for at least 30 minutes every other day.
- 3.) Consume fiber-rich foods such as vegetables, nuts, seeds, grains, beans.
- 4.) Limit refined carbs such as added sugars, white flour, white rice.
- 5.) Stay hydrated.
- 6.) Choose lean proteins, low fat or fat free dairy.

Any questions? Stop by Room 302 on Sunday mornings for blood pressure screenings or health information.

-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.

*Washington Presbytery cordially invites you to a*

**RETIREMENT CELEBRATION & DINNER**

HONORING

**Rev. Craig A. Kephart**

Saturday | March 23 | 5 Pm  
Faith U.P. Church  
900 East Beau Street, Washington

RSVP by March 18th  
**REGISTER ONLINE HERE**  
or by contacting the Presbytery Office  
at 724.222.1500 or  
office@washingtonpresbytery.org  
(Space is limited)

**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MARCH**

**Friday, March 1**  
Gen. 43:1-15  
1 Cor. 7:1-9  
Mark 4:35-41

**Saturday, March 2**  
Gen. 43:16-34  
1 Cor. 7:10-24  
Mark 5:1-20

**Sunday, March 3**  
Gen. 44:1-17  
Rom. 8:1-10  
John 5:25-29

**Monday, March 4**  
Gen. 44:18-34  
1 Cor. 7:25-31  
Mark 5:21-43

**Tuesday, March 5**  
Gen. 45:1-15  
1 Cor. 7:32-40  
Mark 6:1-13

**Wednesday, March 6**  
Gen. 45:16-28  
1 Cor. 8:1-13  
Mark 6:13-29

**Thursday, March 7**  
Gen. 46:1-7, 28-34  
1 Cor. 9:1-15  
Mark 6:30-46

**Friday, March 8**  
Gen. 47:1-26  
1 Cor. 9:16-27  
Mark 6:47-56

**Saturday, March 9**  
Gen. 47:27-48:7  
1 Cor. 10:1-13  
Mark 7:1-23

**Sunday, March 10**  
Gen. 48:8-22  
Rom. 8:11-25  
John 6:27-40

**Monday, March 11**  
Gen. 49:1-28  
1 Cor. 10:14-11:1  
Mark 7:24-37

**Tuesday, March 12**  
Gen. 49:29-50:14  
1 Cor. 11:2-34  
Mark 8:1-10

**Wednesday, March 13**  
Gen. 50:15-26  
1 Cor. 12:1-11  
Mark 8:11-26

**Thursday, March 14**  
Exod. 1:6-22  
1 Cor. 12:12-26  
Mark 8:27-9:1

**Friday, March 15**  
Exod. 2:1-22  
1 Cor. 12:27-13:3  
Mark 9:2-13

**Saturday, March 16**  
Exod. 2:23-3:15  
1 Cor. 13:1-13  
Mark 9:14-29

**Sunday, March 17**  
Exod. 3:16-4:12  
Rom. 12:1-21  
John 8:46-59

**Monday, March 18**  
Exod. 4:10-20 (21-26) 27-31  
1 Cor. 14:1-19  
Mark 9:30-41

**Tuesday, March 19**  
Exod. 5:1-6:1  
1 Cor. 14:20-33a, 39-40  
Mark 9:42-50

**Wednesday, March 20**  
Exod. 7:8-24  
2 Cor. 2:14-3:6  
Mark 10:1-16

**Thursday, March 21**  
Exod. 7:25-8:19  
2 Cor. 3:7-18  
Mark 10:17-31

**Friday, March 22**  
Exod. 9:13-35  
2 Cor. 4:1-12  
Mark 10:32-45

**Saturday, March 23**  
Exod. 10:21-11:8  
2 Cor. 4:13-18  
Mark 10:46-52

**Sunday, March 24**  
**Palm/Passion Sunday**  
Zech. 9:9-12  
1 Tim. 6:12-16 or Zech. 12:9-11; 13:1, 7-9

Luke 19:41-48

**Monday, March 25**  
Lam. 1:1-2, 6-12  
2 Cor. 1:1-7  
Mark 11:12-25

**Tuesday, March 26**  
Lam. 1:17-22  
2 Cor. 1:8-22  
Mark 11:27-33

**Wednesday, March 27**  
Lam. 2:1-9  
2 Cor. 1:23-2:11  
Mark 12:1-11

**Thursday, March 28**  
**Maundy Thursday**  
Lam. 2:10-18  
1 Cor. 10:14-17; 11:27-32

Mark 14:12-25  
**Friday, March 29**  
**Good Friday**  
Lam. 3:1-9, 19-33

1 Pet. 1:10-20  
John 13:36-38  
or John 19:38-42

**Saturday, March 30**  
Lam. 3:37-58  
Heb. 4:1-16  
Rom. 8:1-11

**Sunday, March 31**  
**Easter**  
Exod. 12:1-14  
John 1:1-18 or Isa. 51:9-11

Luke 24:13-35  
or John 20:19-23



Renee Dickson	3/3
Ryan Kepler	3/3
Doug Hodinko	3/4
Alec Osbourne	3/4
Barry Blöse	3/5
Craig Myers	3/5
Travion Blunt	3/6
Janet Nevin	3/6
Linda Weaver	3/6
Thomas Day III	3/7
Carrie Justice	3/7
Terrie Myers	3/10
Clarissa Lucas	3/10
Colleen Benard	3/11

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

Gloria Lesnock	3/11
David McCabe	3/11
Maureen Breitigan	3/14
Joyce Hough	3/14
Kelly Proudfit	3/14
Dr. Will Sharpnack	3/14
Clint Watson	3/14
Allison Ewbank	3/15
Fred Simpson	3/15
Gay Vroble	3/16
Jeffrey Goddard	3/17
Kay Thompson	3/18
Jennifer King	3/19
Kirk Spiegel	3/19



Brian Dessart	3/20
George Linck	3/21
Bonnie Densmore	3/22
Aaron Kojundic	3/22
Morgan Namie	3/22
Casey Key	3/23
Bonnie Saffell	3/25
Amy Wagner	3/26
Christopher Edwards	3/27
Margaret McIlvaine	3/27
Joan McCrory	3/31

**MISSION MATTERS**

**PANCAKE SUPPER FUNDRAISER**

The Mission Committee held a Shrove Tuesday, All-You-Can-Eat Pancake and Sausage dinner on February 13th. The Covenant Center tables were set up and ready for people to bring their appetites. The food was delicious; pancakes and a choice of turkey or pork sausage, fruit cup, with extras like chocolate chips/sprinkles and fruit topping for the pancakes. They thought of everything to make the event special.

There were many comments like, “We should do this more often” and “It’s wonderful to have a meal that was prepared here, instead of having it catered.”



**A THANK YOU FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE**

The Mission Committee and the Fundraising subcommittee want to take this opportunity to say “Thank You” to those members of the congregation, staff and friends who supported us with your purchase of tickets for, and attendance at the Shrove Tuesday All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Supper. It achieved our goals both financially and in seeing our friends gathered together in Christian fellowship. It was a joy to hear loud talking and laughter. Your support will enable the Mission Team to continue our work. Thank you also to those who volunteered to help. The Supper would not have been possible without you.

Thank you to our chefs, [Karl Knoneberg](#), [Yone Gayle](#) and [Rebecca Aizupitis](#). A special thank you to the members of the subcommittee, who gave of themselves in making this happen: [Kathy Nassar](#), [Lynn Sylvis](#), [Kim Lemons](#), [Deb Evans](#) and [Chairperson Pat Boyer](#).

Stay tuned for next year!

**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!



**TUESDAY EVENING SPEAKER SERIES RESUMES**

The Tuesday Speaker Series is back, with our own Renny Domske!

After The Gospels Comes  
The ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

*I am the church  
You are the church  
We are the church together.*



Maybe you remember singing that little chorus when you were younger. It reaffirms what the Church is. We . . . . are the Church . . . . together.

How did the Church begin? We spent last Spring during Lent studying the 4 Gospels, the Bible books that share the words and actions of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. We know from those 4 gospels that after three years of ministry Jesus was crucified by the Romans, at the urging of the Jewish religious leaders, and we know that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Day Jesus rose again from the dead. The Bible tells us that Jesus spent 40 days on earth after He arose, roaming between Galilee and Jerusalem, meeting with different groups of people, especially His 12 disciples. And then He ascended to heaven right in front of their eyes. Where did that leave Jesus' disciples, family, and friends?

The **Acts of the Apostles** picks up the story, telling what happened after Jesus ascended to heaven and how the Church was formed and grew. **Acts** tells how the disciples responded to Jesus' instructions. The disciples stand with no fear as they face some of the very people who had had Jesus put to death. We read of the growth in faith of those who believed in Jesus. We learn how the disciples of Jesus were mistreated and some even killed for their faith. We read how deacons were formed to take care of those in need. We see miraculous things still being done in the name of Jesus Christ.

The **Acts of the Apostles** is the longest book of the New Testament. **Acts** tells of the growth of Peter's ministry. **Acts** tells us of the introduction of Paul to the Church. Where first Paul tried to destroy the Church, he later became its greatest planter. There was no television or radio at this time, no phones, no internet. People became followers of Christ and proponents of the Church only face to face, one to one, person to person. And yet, despite the persecution and all the inconveniences to spread the good news of the gospel, the Church became the instrument of God in the world to others.

**During this Lenten Season, for 5 Tuesdays {March 5, 12, 19, April 2, and 9}, Dr. Renny Domske will be teaching us the depth of the Acts of the Apostles. We will see how we can follow in the steps of the original apostles.**

We had such unique and joyous experiences last year during Lent. We had around 65 in the class at times, studying the words and actions of Jesus. Now we get to study the words and actions of His followers as they spread His story all over the world and formed the Church. Plan on being with us each Tuesday at 7:00 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.

**THE CHURCH OF THE COVENANT WEBSITE**  
Check it out at [www.churchofthecov.org](http://www.churchofthecov.org)



**GRADUATE RECOGNITION**

**PLEASE HELP US CELEBRATE OUR GRADUATES!**

“Graduate Recognition Sunday” will take place on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. If you have a graduating senior, please send their name, school, a picture if possible, and information on future plans to [yvonnegayle20@gmail.com](mailto: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.**



**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS**

**FX FAMILY EXPERIENCE & EGG HUNT**

Join us on March 17th 5 to 7 pm to watch Bible stories come to life.

All are welcome!  
Please RSVP to [Yvonnegayle20@gmail.com](mailto:Yvonnegayle20@gmail.com)



**IMPACT YOUTH NEWS**

In January, our students painted for The Empty Bowls Program. This program helps raise money for food pantries and those who are food insecure.

Impact Youth enjoyed a weekend at Jumonville from February 9 through 11. Their focus was "Serving Others." They also enjoyed some team-building exercises in the Adventure Center. A special guest, Eric Meyers, spoke to the teens about his mission and service experience. The teens appreciated his message, and it made a strong impression.

Our youth will also teach a Sunday School Lesson in the Parent Gathering on February 25 and George and Andy's class on March 3rd. The topic will be "How Big is Your Influence."

**COVENANT KIDS NEWS**

The kids have been practicing songs for Palm Sunday. They will perform at the 9 and 11 o'clock services on March 24th. This will also include the Palm Parade and Krystal Bells. Music practice is held each Sunday (except Communion Sundays) at 9:20 to 10 am in room 212.

Pre-K and Grades K through 5 classes will meet on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday at their regular scheduled time of 10 am.

**TREASURED VBS: DISCOVERING YOU ARE PRICELESS TO GOD**

July 15-19, 2024 9:00AM - 12:00PM  
(Online Registration is Now Open!)

Get ready to embark on an epic quest and discover God’s greatest treasure! Church of the Covenant families have early access to registration BEFORE it opens to the community on March 15th! [Reserve your spot today](https://www.churchofthecov.org/post/vbs2024) - spots tend to fill up fast! <https://www.churchofthecov.org/post/vbs2024>



**PRESCHOOL NEWS**

Preschool's March Madness

We have so many interesting things going on for the month of March. We have a nutrition week unit that the kids learn about the good foods we SHOULD eat. Then Eating Of The Greens--for St. Patrick's Day. All the children will bring in a green fruits or veggies for the classroom snack and we provide the yummy dip.



So I think we have taken care of our bodies this month. We will welcome our unit on Easter and Noah’s Ark teachings into April.

Want to know something else that was cool in February? Who doesn't like to get "happy mail"? We love it here and the T class challenged all families from past to present to reach out to other relatives to send the preschoolers happy mail from all over the United States. What a happy outcome! We have received mail from Hawaii, Oregon, California, Florida and so many other states. The kids are then "pinning" a map as to where these letters and cards are coming from. So exciting and the letters are continuing to come to the preschoolers.

So it is a "March Madness" going on in our church Preschool.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!  
Camille

**FROM THE DIRECTOR:**

*There are quotes that may come to mind or words that we have heard when a person has come to crossroads and decisions need to be made for what comes next. I have come to those crossroads.*

*My time here has been such a fulfilled career and a heartfelt mission of this church and community. I have experienced much more than just being a Preschool Director. When I first accepted this position honestly I didn't know what I was in for! Really! I just felt that people had faith in me that I would be the right person for the job. So I went with that. I was in my early thirties with two boys who went through this Preschool while I was involved on the Board then employed. I have very deep roots in this Preschool. I truly evolved with the position. The Preschool grew over the years. I couldn't have done that just myself. It does and did take a village of faithful teachers, and faithful Board members just like there are now who have deep roots as well on the Preschool.*

*I can go on and on in expressing my love for this Preschool but it is time for me to step down and have a fresh pair of eyes and a big heart to continue this Preschool’s mission. This person too will touch many hearts, listen to many stories, have enormous amount of laughs and plenty of ups and downs but the most fulfilling is experiencing the gratification of watching children learn and discover and be happy to be little children of God.*

*I have deep trust in our teaching staff that they will continue their love of teaching and this Board and other future Boards will continue to instill and believe in the philosophy of the Preschool.*

*So at the end of this 2024 school year, I will be stepping down as the Preschool Director. Thanks to all of you for your never-ending support you have shown to me over the years. I wish all of you and your families much love and happiness.”*

Love and Sincerely,  
Camille