

THE CURRENT

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CAPE COD COVENANT CHURCH

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#DiveIntoTheCape

THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS...

BY PASTOR JOHNNY

Most of us are familiar with and know the words by heart...

***We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love***

I recently listened to a podcast where they interviewed a number of students on a college campus, asking them to answer the question: "what do you think about Jesus?" The answers were varied. Some confessed Jesus as Savior and Lord, some doubted his claims, some simply said "I don't." But one answer struck me: "He's nothing like his followers. Jesus was love. Christians aren't."

I don't believe this to be true. I see examples of Christians demonstrating love all the time. But, I also understand where this feeling comes from. Too often today many Christians are more interested in politics, finger-pointing, protecting the status quo and their own self-interest, than they are love. If we truly wish to lead people to the good news of Jesus by our example, then there's one way to do it: we need to love. Love them. Love each other. Love our enemies. Love. For they will know we are followers of Jesus by our love.

WWW.CAPECODCOVENANTCHURCH.COM



MINISTRY UPDATES

SUNDAY WORSHIP

We gather on Sunday mornings at 10:30am for worship, celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion the first Sunday of the month. At this time, we ask everyone regardless of vaccination status to wear a mask during worship.

THURSDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

Each Thursday morning a group of men gather here at the church from 9:00am - 10:00am for conversation and fellowship. They'd love to have you join them!

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Each month we highlight a different organization or mission that is working for God's glory and neighbor's good, inviting you to join in by supporting it through prayer, financial gifts and possibly volunteering. October's Mission of the Month is the Andrea Holden Foundation.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

There have been a number of address and phone updates recently, so please contact the church office if you're having difficulty getting ahold of a fellow church member. We will update our directory early 2022.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All women of the church are invited to participate in the Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study here in the Fellowship Hall of the church from 10:00am-11:30am. Whether you're a Bible study veteran or you've never participated in one before, you are welcome! Come and dive into God's Word!

SANCTUARY CHOIR

Our Sanctuary Choir, under the direction of our Director of Music Ministries, Mary Avellar, rehearses on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm. It's been a long time since the choir has been together, and new members are always welcome to participate. Come and join a great group of people!

HANDS OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY

Please remember to bring your donations of non-perishable food items with you each Sunday morning and place them in the coat room off of the narthex.

WEEKLY WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

All women of the church are invited to Thursday morning breakfast at 9:00am at the Olympia Restaurant (1341 MA-28) in South Yarmouth for food and fellowship.

voices from the post- pandemic pews

The following testimony was shared by Sheryl Stone on September 19th during worship:

Good Morning!

I know by now we were all hoping to share the warm smiles of greeting that are a trademark of this welcoming community. Soon, right?

My journey over these past 18 months, like yours I'm sure, began with uncertainty and fear. One counter in our laundry room was covered in masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes and spray, a thermometer and even an oximeter.

Concern was constant for children, grandchildren, family members and friends we could only visit with phone calls and FaceTime as we all managed new routines in every aspect of our lives.

Who was ever afraid to walk into the grocery store?

Bill and I read and listened to everything we could hoping for answers no one had.

As time passed I fell into new routines. My 93-year-old Mom and I began daily 9:30 am phone calls. I thought it would be an encouragement for her while she was in lockdown in her retirement community but, as you can probably guess, I looked forward to our daily chat and found the time just as comforting.

In the same way, reaching out to the Worship and Music Commission to keep us all in touch, at least by email, brought calls and messages back that always brought a smile to my face and lifted my spirits. Although our Wednesday night women's book group is now described as the Bookless Book Group, our occasional Zoom hour reminded us how much we look forward to being together and hopefully provided some measure of support through these challenging days.

Tuning in for YouTube worship at my kitchen counter, imagining you all doing the same, was a tremendous comfort and a reminder how important our time sharing this faith journey together is.

One of the many lessons of COVID for me is the need to respect where each individual is with patience, kindness and encouragement as we each figure out our "new normal".

Interestingly enough, this is the simple lesson of my faith journey – and I imagine yours. These are the fruits of the spirit and in recognizing them we realize our many blessings.

Of course, this gentleness of spirit is easier said than done. We are impatient and as many of you have heard me say, we've used up all our "cope". But at the end of those days when I've run out of "cope" I take a moment to take a breath, actually breathe in praying, "Be with me" and exhale praying "Lord Jesus" – a breath prayer I taught my church school classes – and before I know it peace comes with much needed rest and renewal for the day ahead.

Thank you all for keeping my faith alive during this challenging time in ways I am only beginning to fully appreciate!

Interested in sharing your story? Contact Pastor Johnny at pastorjohnnya@gmail.com



SUNDAY SCHOOL

After consultations with some of our parents, we've come up with the following plan for our kids on Sunday mornings:

- The 1st Sunday of the each month, the kids (Pre-K through 5th grade) will be dismissed from worship to head downstairs for Sunday School. We are grateful to Barbara Burnett for once again heading up our monthly Sunday School.
- The other Sundays of the month, Pastor Johnny will share a Children's Message (there may be a few Sundays where this doesn't happen due to other events happening within worship) during worship AND we will have kid's activity bags available on the hooks in the coat room that will include Bible lesson sheets and crayons, crafts and activities for kids to use during worship.
- As always, our Young Readers Lighthouse Library is filled with age appropriate bibles...including the amazing comic book bible...kids are welcome to grab one on their way into worship to use during the service.
- Sunday School for the month of October will be on October 3rd. In November, November 7th.

YOUTH GROUPS

We have had a great start to our two youth groups!

Senior High Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings from 6:00pm-7:30pm for kids in grades 8-12. Friends are always welcome! We gather for some fun games and a time of sharing and prayer. No youth group on October 10th due to Columbus Day weekend.

CLUB 47 meets twice a month for kids in grades 4-7 on Friday evening from 6:00pm-7:30pm. We had a wonderful turnout at our first gathering with lots of friends coming along for the first time. In the month of October, CLUB 47 will meet on October 8th and October 22nd.

Special thanks to Annie Poirier (Senior High) and Ann Agurkis (CLUB 47) who faithfully volunteer their time with our kids at youth group.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

When the pandemic hit, we had a great group of teens in our Confirmation class that were looking forward to Confirmation Sunday. That was put on hold, but our plan is to re-gather those students and have an official Confirmation Sunday later this year to celebrate them and their growing faith.

A new class for younger students will tentatively begin after the 1st of the new year.



OCTOBER'S MISSION OF THE MONTH

THE ANDREA HOLDEN FOUNDATION

Our October Mission of the Month is very near and dear to our hearts: the [Andrea Holden Foundation](http://www.andreaholden.org). This incredible foundation, in memory of Andrea Holden (a beloved child of our congregation who died suddenly on November 27, 1990 at the age of 7), hosts a Thanksgiving weekend 5K road race/walk in Dennis, and distributes all funds to benefit the health and wellness of kids here in the mid-Cape area. Many of us have run, walked or volunteered over the years at this wonderful and fun event. It is an honor for our church to continue to partner with the Andrea Holden Foundation and its good work.

Please plan on registering to run or walk in the race, scheduled for Saturday, November 27th at 10:00am:
www.andreaholden.org

Additionally, each Sunday during October, we invite you to financially support AHF through your donations and gifts. Checks can be placed into the offering plate made out to Cape Cod Covenant Church with "mission of the month" or "AHF" in the memo section. You can also make a donation securely online through our church website at www.capecodcovenantchurch.com.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21st

Due to the COVID pandemic, we have been operating under emergency protocols, with a frozen church budget and Council leadership team. As we now come out of that period of time, please plan on attending an informational congregational meeting on 11/21 following worship.

COVENANT HOME ALTAR

Many of us enjoy using the COVENANT HOME ALTAR as a daily devotional. Written by Covenanters across our denomination, these daily reflections are a gift to many of us in our faith journey. While we await the arrival of the next quarterly edition (it is behind delivery schedule), you can access them online at www.covenantcompanion.com/home-altar

COVENANT COMPANION

Our denomination's award winning monthly magazine, the COVENANT COMPANION, is moving to an online monthly format beginning in January 2022, with a biannual (winter and spring) print edition.

More information and subscriptions are available at: www.covenantcompanion.com/subscribe