

Covenant Church Newsletter
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A Christ centered covenant community;

Loving God,
Loving people,
Making disciples

May 2021

Pastor's Ponderings

Looking at the month of May, it seems there might be an emerging theme about giving birth!

It all begins on May 9th, as we will once again honor mothers, but really the day celebrates any and all who provide nurture and care in our lives. The biblical ideal of motherhood includes not only those who give birth, but those who, like Ruth, care for those around them in maternal, self-giving ways. Biblically speaking, mothers come in all sorts: Sarah (who waited patiently), Hagar (who patiently endured), Rebekah (who broke the rules to do what she thought best for Jacob), Samson's mother (who scrupulously kept the rules), Elizabeth (who had to wait a long time to become a mother), and Mary (who got pregnant while she was waiting to get married). Not all of these women were model mothers, and a number of these families showed what we today would call serious dysfunction. But what all of these women have in common is that they gave sacrificially of themselves for someone else, and that is what we celebrate on Mother's Day.

Then, on May 13th, we will give birth to the Newcomers and Neighbors Club of Casa Grande. At 5:30 on that Thursday evening, members of Covenant Church will gather in the room where we worship to launch our ambitious community service and outreach project. As I said in my sermon a couple of weeks ago, the hope is that every one of our Covenant partners will become part of the Newcomers and Neighbors Club, and find a place to participate. And don't forget: you have a free membership for life!

Finally, on May 23rd we will gather to celebrate the birth of the Church. Pentecost is the day the church was born, as we read in Acts 2. Following the ascension of Jesus, the disciples were gathered in the Upper Room, praying and wondering what to do, waiting for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit (while probably not at all sure what that would mean!). Suddenly the Spirit came, and with a blazing energy, the disciples went out into their community, where they all began to talk about Jesus, using every language represented by the many pilgrims gathered in Jerusalem that day. As a result, 3000 people were baptized, and the church was born.

Covenant Church is also going to “be born” on Pentecost this year. On that day we will move from being a church plant to a fully constituted church of the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians. Most of us are not aware that we have been a “church plant” this whole time, and in terms of our week-to-week experience, nothing really will change. But in many respects, this is what the past six years have been about. And so, on May 23rd, a commission representing Hope Presbytery will attend worship with us to do two things: they will officially charter Covenant, and they will officially install me as Pastor (my status in the Presbytery has been “church planter”). Again, while nothing really will change for us, this is a pretty big deal for our Presbytery, and really for all of ECO, because church planting is a really important priority of our denomination. Hey, look at us, we’re a success story!! Don’t miss this day of celebration (and cake)!

How fitting, and how timely, as we launch ourselves into ministry and mission in Casa Grande in a new and exciting way, seeking to present Jesus Christ through ordinary acts of kindness and friendship, and in time, through ordinary conversations with new friends. May God bless as we seek to be faithful into our future!

In Christ,

Brant

From the Clerk

The Hope Presbytery has officially accepted Covenant Church as a chartered member! We were accepted in 2015 as an ECO plant, but now it is time to move forward again. Pastor Brant will be officially installed as our Pastor during our worship service on Sunday, May 23rd. We hope everyone will be there for this exciting move forward with our amazing Pastor!

Missions, especially local ones, have been such a big part of who we are at Covenant. For Habitat for Humanity, we donated another \$556 from our special Lent offering and \$790 was given in memory of our dear friend and founding member of Covenant, Wiley Smith.

We are planning to donate our 5th Sunday offering for May to our local Home of Hope which has changed the lives of so many young women and their children. Covenant also donated to Central Church in New York to help them with legal expenses as they seek to separate from PCUSA and join ECO.

Don’t miss Elder Rex Little’s next amazing lesson immediately after worship on May 16. A reminder will be sent out a few days ahead.

Covid had a way of interfering with so many things, including our Small Groups. Some groups had to disband while others took a little break. Small groups are so important in our ministry here at Covenant. If you are not currently meeting with a small group, we hope you are ready

to jump in! Let Elder Rex Little or Pastor Brant know so you can be a part of one of those important communities.

National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 6
6:00 PM

This year Casa Grande will again be having a car procession from the Promenade Mall of Casa Grande. You can also join in with prayer and signs along the route. See Elder Everett Greenwood or check out seedsofhopeaz.com for more information.

Men's Bible Study

The Men of the church meet each Thursday at 11:30am, all men are welcome, and you can bring a sack lunch if you like. Wearing a mask is optional. If you would like to be part of the Bible study, please call Brant for more information (520-876- 2888 or 480-458- 7628).

Neighborhood Help Team

The Neighborhood Help Team is continuing a service for those who could use a little bit of help. We would like to help you in replacing A/C filters or with some landscape trimming on the 4th Saturday of each month. Contact Nelson Moore in person or call him @ 520-483-0461.

May Calendar

- 2 Communion
- 6 National Day of Prayer
- 9 Mother's Day
- 12 Prayers at the flagpole at McCartney Ranch Elementary, 9:00am.
- 12 Prayer Night at Carol Smith's at 6:30pm.
- 13 Worship Team meeting, 1:00pm.
- 13 Newcomers and Neighbors Club begins at 5:30pm.
- 16 Adult Sunday School, lesson title "Evangelism for Everyone"
- 20 Session meeting, 6:00pm.
- 23 Pentecost; Pastor Brant's Installation
- 26 Prayer Night at Carol Smith's at 6:30pm.
- 30 5th Sunday, a special collection will be taken for missions.

May Birthdays

- 4 Derek Moore
- 6 Gracelyn Moore
- 8 Jasper Croll
- 21 Jerry Polito
- 23 Mary K. Myers

May Anniversaries

No anniversaries