

Covenant Church Newsletter

408 N Sacaton St, Suite K

Casa Grande, AZ 85122-4437

520-876-2888

www.covenantprescg.org

email: office@covnantprescg.org

A Christ centered covenant community;

Loving God,

Loving People,

Making disciples

September 2021

Pastor's Ponderings

It's not something that the person in the pew thinks about very often, but our church does not stand alone, isolated and independent. In fact, we believe in the importance of being *connectional* and interdependent, which is why we are part of the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians, ECO.

This connection came into focus last spring, when we were officially chartered (or constituted) as a church. As we joked at the time, many of us never knew that we weren't already a church (we were, in fact, a *church plant*). But by being chartered into ECO we secured and celebrated our connection with the other ECO churches in Arizona (through Hope Presbytery) and of course with the national organization.

It's easy, perhaps, to be suspicious of larger institutions—their demands, their rules, their requests for money—but beyond that is what we gain. Institutions do have their place, and I for one am happy to be part of something as vital as ECO. Rich relationships in shared ministry and mission, access to resources we don't have on our own, and help when it is needed. Covenant Church benefited from these things through our friends Bob Simmons and Bill Good, who on behalf of Hope Presbytery helped our church through a difficult time. And, as some of you are aware, I currently serve as the Ministry Partnership Team chair, a group charged with helping churches in the Presbytery thrive, and providing assistance when they have their own difficult times. As you may also be aware, Bob Simmons is due to come on as Moderator of Hope Presbytery at the turn of the year (following the two good years of leadership from Laurie Johnson, who in turn replaced Bill Good). Ours is a small but close-knit family here in Arizona!

Speaking of which, one of our Hope Presbytery pastors, Luke Parker, has just been brought on to the *national* staff of ECO as the Church Planting Director. I was in seminary with Luke's parents back in the 80s, and about ten years ago Luke came to be staff of the church I served

in downtown Mesa. Following that he worked with his parents at a church plant in Tempe (The Spring, where Bob Simmons is now the transitional pastor), and then planted a church in midtown Phoenix (where Caleb Shocklie is being mentored as a church planter). Luke will help ECO churches and Presbyteries all across the nation that are being called to plant new churches, as we ourselves once were.

So, while you might not think about it too much, isn't it good to know that we are connected to a larger expression of the Kingdom of God, and that good things are happening through our relationships and shared passion to see more and more people come to know the name of Jesus!

In Christ,

Brant

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. If you would like to be part of the Bible study, please just show up or if you have questions, you can call Pastor Brant (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.

September Calendar

- 1 We've Got Game, 2:00pm at Carol Smith's
- 2 Session, 6:00 pm
- 4 Spinners, 6:00am, meet at L'Grande Cafe
- 5 Communion
- 7 Books Are Best, 2:30pm at IHOP
- 8 Prayers at the flagpole at McCartney Ranch Elementary, 9:00am
- 8 Prayer Night, 6:30pm at Carol Smith's
- 9 Worship Team, 1:00pm
- 9 Newcomer & Neighbor's Club, 5:30pm at the church
- 11 Click A Pic, 8:00am, meet at the Neon Park
- 15 Crazy Crafts, 2:00pm, Downtown Library, Room 1
- 16 Ladies Luncheon, Thursday, Sept. 16, 12:30 at Hong Kong Kitchen
- 18 Neighbor Helping Neighbor, 6:00am, meet at L'Grande Cafe
- 19 Adult Sunday School, after service 11:15am – Noon. Title "Doctrines of Demons" part 2
- 22 Prayer Night, 6:30pm at Carol Smith's
- 25 World Problem Solvers, 8:30am, L'Grande Café
- 30 Session, 6:00pm

September Birthdays

- 8 Everett Greenwood
- 9 Yesima Villanueva
- 19 Kai Chuang
- 23 Brayden Moore

September Anniversaries

- 1 Ken & Shirley Hodson
- 16 Kai Chuang & Ming Li

