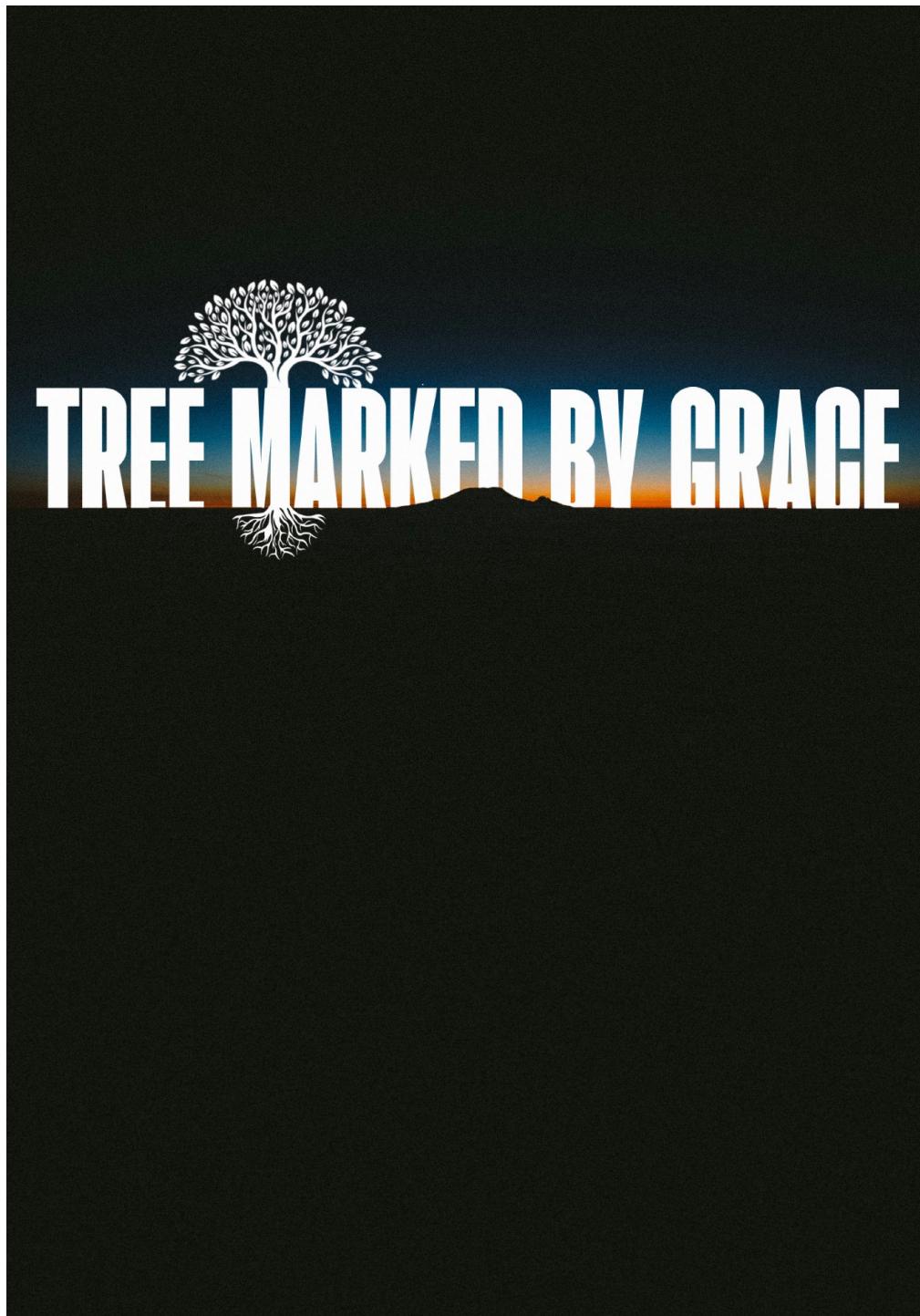




December 17, 2023



"Our promise to you, born out of His promise to us"





SUNDAYS

8:30a Children's Church
(except 1st Sunday and Holidays)

11:00a Children's Church
(except 1st Sunday and Holidays)

*Nursery available on Sunday
mornings and Wednesday evenings
(birth - 3 years).*

The Children's Ministry is staffed by loving volunteers that have been carefully screened with a background check for our children's safety. We welcome your children to our ministry.

Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it. Proverbs 22:6

PRESCHOOL—GRADE 5

WEDNESDAYS



Kids Praise Team -
5:00 - 6:00p



Royal Rangers -
6:30p for boys



Mpact Clubs -
6:30p for girls

C STUDENTS



"To the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8

SEE WEEKLY CALENDAR IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR ALL STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Sunday Evening, December 17th / Covenant Student Christmas Party 6-8PM

Join us at the Covenant Students Christmas Party tonight! Embrace the holiday spirit by wearing your ugliest Christmas sweater and get ready for a great time. We've got Carole-Oke with a chance to win cash prizes, delicious Christmas snacks and drinks, and a lineup of great games. Don't keep the joy to yourself – bring your friends! See you there!

Wednesday, December 20th / JV / Varsity Groups 6:30 - 7:30PM

Students will meet in the gym at 6:30 and will split into MS and HS groups from there!

Note: Upperclassmen (11th - 12th graders) and parents are meeting in rm 206 (right beside the youth rm in the FLC) at 10:30 this morning to discuss our summer cruise. This will be a short, yet very informative meeting. Pastor Aaron will be there and will give a plan moving forward to make everything manageable for those considering going with us!

Want to keep up with everything Covenant Students is doing? Make sure to sign-up for our text thread by texting "covenantstudents" to (844) 619-1539!

FINANCIAL UPDATE	December 10, 2023	Year To Date
Undesignated Giving	\$30,555.18	\$1,471,669.03
Budget Needs	\$23,769.23	\$1,188,461.50
Over (Under) Budget	\$6,785.95	\$283,207.53
Building Fund Giving	\$310.00	\$26,698.00
School Fund Giving	\$40.00	\$233,200.84
Other Designated Giving	\$2,949.00	\$124,635.55
Total Giving	\$33,854.18	\$1,856,203.42
Building Fund To Date	\$142,489.27	
		\$365,666.84



STAY UPDATED WITH EVERYTHING AT COVENANT!

FOR COVENANT KIDS INFO:

Text @covenantki to
the number "81010"

FOR COVENANT MISSIONS

Text @missioncc to
the number "81010"

FOR COVENANT PRAYER MEETINGS

Text @prayercc to
the number "81010"

FOR ALL COVENANT INFO

Text "covenant" to
the number "704-735-1559"

MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY SERVICE:

Security Team December 17

Captain—Robbie Walls

Garry Blankenship, Jake Rhodes,
John Deason, Nolan Wilson,
Shawn Kniceley, Tim Cloer, Mark Painter

Security Team December 24

Captain—Phil Eastin

Bonner Pittman, Carl Beam,
Chris Osborn, Joe Johnson,
Ronnie Mercer, Tony Little, Tony Milholland

Nursery on December 17

Babies Joe and Sandy Roseman

Toddlers Iliana Gonzalez, Rebecca Cespedes

2s & 3s Cameron and Brooke Kincaid

Nursery on December 24

Babies Peter and Amy Stump

Toddlers Iliana Gonzalez, Rebecca Cespedes

2s & 3s Chris and Wendy Casey

Wednesdays At Covenant

12.20 Wednesday Night Bible Study

12.27 No Services

1.3 No Services

Mark your Calendar

12.17 Special Christmas Service

12.20 Party In A Manger

12.21 Church Office Closes @ 1p.

12.22&25 Church Office Closed

12.24 Christmas Eve Services /
8:30 & 11a—No Sunday Connect

12.27 No Services

1.1 Church Offices Closed

1.3 No Services

1.7 Vision Sunday

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 17

- 7:15a..... Worship Team
8:30a..... Children's Church
8:30a..... Early Morning Worship
10:00a..... Connections for Prospective New Members
10:00a..... Intercessory Prayer
10:00a..... Sunday Connect
11:00a..... Children's Church
11:00a..... Worship Service
6:00p..... Covenant Students' Party

Tuesday, December 19

- 10:00a..... Ladies' Prayer Group

Wednesday, December 20

- 5:00p..... Kids' Praise Team
6:30p..... Party In A Manger
6:30p..... Covenant Students—Activity Night
6:30p..... Wednesday Night Bible Study

Thursday, December 21

- 1:00p..... Church Office Closes at 1pm

Friday, December 22

Church Office Closed



CONNECTIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS

Connections for Prospective New Members is an ongoing seminar for prospective members and others who just want to know how our church body believes and operates. The class may be joined at any time. Facilitated by David Creech, the class meets on Sunday mornings at 10a in Room 118. Also, available on Wednesday nights upon request by calling the church office at 704.735.1559.

If you are currently attending another Sunday School class, you may request CDs and a workbook to complete on your own prior to becoming a member.

A publication of:

Covenant Church
2168 Gastonia Highway/P.O. Box 654; Lincolnton, NC 28092
Phone: 704.735.1559; Fax: 704.732.6187

From Our Pastor

A Grace Genealogy!

Matthew 1:1-17 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: ² Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers... ¹⁶ And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. ¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.

One of the traps of reading the Word is that it is often easy to miss something very important. This happens when we think we are too familiar with the Word of God. So every year, as Christmas approaches, I intentionally ask the Lord to cause me to see His Word in a new light. I ask Him to show me something I've not seen before. This year was no different. To my surprise, I thought I heard Him asking me to read through the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1. I have probably read through this a hundred times. If I am honest, I must admit that the last 99 were just rote reading where I doubtfully even paid attention to all the names. This time was different.

As I began reading through it slowly, God began to show me some amazing things. I saw the three fourteen-year intervals highlights in a new way. Instead of seeing them as three sets of fourteen, I saw them as six sets of seven years. This means that Jesus represents the beginning of the 7th set of seven generations. He celebrated the completion of what came before Him and represented a "New" beginning with His life on earth. Jesus truly is a new start for all of us. I also noticed that Matthew listed five women in the genealogy. This was certainly not the norm. On top of that, three of the five weren't even Jewish. They were like all of us, grafted in. Finally, I noticed that he listed some unsavory characters. This was certainly not the norm in that culture. It was more common for those listing family trees back then to only focus on the "good" examples on their family tree. The fact that Matthew lists even the bad apples of the tree reminds us that we all have hope in Jesus. In other words, on our family "spiritual" tree, we are all bad apples. Through Jesus, we can come to Him anyway. That's some amazing news.

Michael E. Devine

Pastoral Staff:

Michael E. Devine, Senior Pastor (mikedevine@covenantchurch.church) ext. 250
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Todd Bryant, Worship Pastor (btoddbryant@icloud.com) ext. 252
Rick Landers, Care Pastor (ricklanders@covenantchurch.church)
Adam Hilpert, Student Pastor (adamhilpert@covenantchurch.church) ext. 241
Grace Botkins, Children's Pastor (gracebotkins@covenantchurch.church) ext. 235

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Danae Curl, Media Assistant ext. 221
Jay Lambert, Facility Manager, ext 230
Edgar Armstrong, Assistant Custodian ext. 230

Church website: www.covenantchurch.church

Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday, 8:30a—5:00p; Friday, 8:30a—11:30a