

COVENANT CONNECTION



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nears, I want you to keep your eyes open for the "more" God desires for you. More for you individually. More for your family. More for our church. More for our nation. And more for our world.

PASTOR'S WORD

REV. DR. PATRICK L. DAYMOND, SENIOR PASTOR

Grace and Peace Church Family,

Summer has passed away, and the fall season is upon us, a sign that we are nearing the end of 2024. At the beginning of the year, I preached a sermon series to set the tone for this year entitled "Made for More."
In that series, my goal was to help us understand that God made us for more than we ever dreamed of. More than we ever hoped for. More than our parents believed possible. More than our enemies thought doable. More than our critics have surmised. And more than the things that have happened to us along the way. We were made for more!

But sometimes, when the temperature drops in our circumstances, it can cause us to believe that the conditions of our lives are not suitable for what we had hoped for. I want you to know that no matter how frigid the climate may become, our God can still do what God has promised. Therefore, as the end of 2024 nears, I want you to keep your eyes open for the "more" God desires for you. More for you individually. More for your family. More for our church. More for our community. More for our nation. And more for our world.

And please understand that we have a responsibility to actualize the promises



of God in our lives. Every day, we make decisions that literally affect the course of our lives and others. It's in whether we choose to love or hate, to serve or not serve, to vote or not vote. All of our choices are consequential.

God's desire is always for our best, but we play a role in ensuring we position ourselves to be blessed.

At Covenant UCC, we strive to ensure that we are putting disciples of every generation in a position to live into all the possibilities of God for their lives as we minister to the total person spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically, and mentally. By investing knowledge, wisdom, and resources into our community and every disciple of Covenant UCC, we are equipping the

saints to do works of ministry for the glory of God as together we walk into the "more" that God has for us. The array of ministry events from the last quarter is a testament to that work. I pray that this will inspire and encourage you to help us finish the year strong so that by the end of 2024, we can give all praise and glory to God and share our testimony with anyone who wants to know that "God Did It!"

Love U 2 Life,

Pastor Patrick L. Daymond

BWS FAMILY LIFE CENTER NEWS

REV. DR. TROY UNDERWOOD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



YOUTH ENRICHMENT SCHOLAR SUMMER CAMP

June 17, 2024— Felt the Heat but Kids Cooled off with STEAM-Powered Fun!

Forty-six boys and girls, representing 11 zip codes and 15 schools, spent a summer of discovery and fun, engaged in handson activities in science, engineering, arts, and mathematics. The youth enjoyed enriching field trips, from the Chicago Botanic Gardens to Urban Air, and even learned to make homemade ice cream in zip-lock bags. They unleashed their creativity on canvas, channeling their inner Romare Bearden, explored the world of entrepreneurship, and, most importantly, forged lifelong friendships along the way.



3RD QUARTER NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2024











EXPUNGEMENT INFORMATION SUMMIT



August 10, 2024—The 2024 Expungement Information Summit during the Justice Weekend was a great success. A distinguished panel, including law enforcement, alderpersons, lawyers, and judges, provided insights into what to expect in the courtroom.

The panel discussed the pivotal role judges play in the expungement process, including their decision-making, proper courtroom decorum, and how to present oneself regarding attire and attitude.



As we approach an important election year, the discussion also addressed the critical topic of voting rights for individuals

with criminal records. Panelists explained when re-registration is necessary if voting rights were lost due to a felony conviction.

We are very grateful to the dedicated lawyers and judges, including those from the Cook County Circuit Court, who guided attendees through the expungement process. Additionally, we extend our thanks to the mutual aid organizations that participated in our resource fair, including the Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court, Governors State University Legal Clinic, LIHEAP, Safer Foundation, South Suburban Action Conference, YWCA Chicago, Insurance Matters, and Cynthia Shane, the deputy registrar for voter registration.



AFRICAN AMERICAN VOTING RIGHTS



This article was crafted by research, artificial intelligence (A.I.), and fact checked to ensure accuracy. Footnote numbers correspond to number QR codes.

Voting matters. "The struggle for African American voting rights in the United States has been a long and arduous journey, shaped by racism, legal battles, and perseverance. After the Civil War, the 15th Amendment (1870) granted Black men the right to vote." However, racism, discriminatory practices, violence and intimidation by hate groups like the Klu Klux Klan, voter suppression tactics and laws¹ have continued to disenfranchise African Americans for decades. (https://www. brennancenter.org/our-work/analysisopinion/5-egregious-voter-suppressionlaws-2021)

"The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s was pivotal in challenging voter suppression. Activists like Martin Luther King Jr., Fannie Lou Hamer, and organizations such as the NAACP, SNCC, and SCLC led protests, voter registration drives, and marches, often facing violence

in return. The turning point came with the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which banned discriminatory practices and provided federal oversight in areas with histories of voter suppression."

But did you know the Voting Rights Act of 1965 has had its own material fight for sustainability? The enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law once, but the United States Congress has reauthorized and

extended the law five

1970 | 1975 | 1982 | 1992 | 2006

In 2006, Congress extended the law for 25 more years. In 2032, it will go through Congress once again.² (https://naacp.org/ resources/reauthorization-expiring-portionsvoting-rights-act-1965)

With multiple revisions and reauthorizations, imagine if the law did not get extended. Don't become a voice without a vote. Know and defend³ your rights that many others lived and died for our freedoms today and into our future. (https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/ voting-rights-act-what-expires-and-whatdoes-not)

Unless you have been living under a rock, you have an opportunity to vote in the next presidential election. Just a few tips:

- The registration period for the online voter registration system will close at 11:59 PM on 10/20/2024 and will reopen on 11/07/2024 (two days after election day).4 (https://ova.elections.il.gov/)
- If you think you may already be registered to vote, you can check by using the State Board of Election's Voter Registration Lookup.⁵ (https://ova.elections.il.gov/ RegistrationLookup.aspx)
- Update your registration.⁶ (https://ova. elections.il.gov/Step0.aspx)



Center

Registration



NAACP



Check Registration

Registration



2024 Election Information

EVENTS OF THE QUARTER

JAZZIN FOR JUSTICE CONCERT

REV. DR. RAMAH E. WRIGHT



PRAYER BREAKFAST 2024: DR. TERRY MASON

REV. DR. RAMAH E. WRIGHT



On Saturday, September 14, 2024, seventy-two men of Covenant UCC gathered in the Barbara Westbrooks Smith Family Life Center gym along with Pastor Patrick L. Daymond, to break bread together and to receive kernels of wisdom from Dr. Terry Mason. Dr. Mason is a former urologist and Chief Operating Officer of the Cook County Department of Health. Currently, Dr. Mason lectures on the benefits of a plant-based diet and is partnering in research studies with Chicago Rush and University of Illinois Hospitals.

The focus of Dr. Mason's presentation was adopted from Genesis 1:28-29, which states that God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the

birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I give you every seedbearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food."



Key points offered by Dr. Mason for the men of CUCC:

- Add more fruit and vegetables to our diet.
- Avoid dairy products.
- Be particular about the type of fish you consume. Some fish have coloring added to make the fish red, and some fish contain high levels of mercury.



THE SPIRIT OF REVIVAL 2024

During the month of September, the sweet spirit of revival filled our sanctuary every Tuesday at 7:00 P.M. Covenant members and visitors gathered to experience a powerful word of inspiration, encouragement, and enlightenment from three dynamic proclaimers of God's Word.



On the first night, we were blessed by a powerful word from Rev. Dr. Leslie D. Callahan, pastor of St. Paul's Baptist Church located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She preached on the subject of "What You're Looking For." Her scripture reference came from Mark 1: 4-11 (NRSV).



On the second night of revival, Rev. Dr. Charles E. Goodman, Jr., pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Augusta, Georgia delivered an impactful word entitled, "It Can't Get Any Clearer Than This!" His scripture was taken from Mark 8:22-26 (NLT).



The last night of revival was attended by more than 400 who gathered to hear an inspiring message from Rev. Dr. Marcus D. Cosby, pastor of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church of Houston, Texas. His message was entitled, "Speak Lord," and his scripture reference was taken from Luke 7:7b (NIV).



If you missed any of these dynamic sermons, they are all available on Covenant's website, or you can scan the QR code on each speaker's picture to view the entire service.



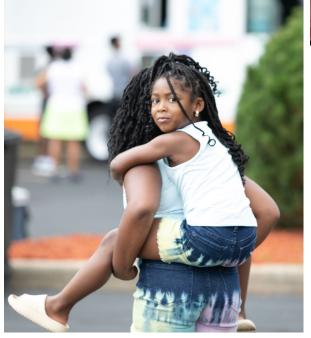
BACK TO SCHOOL FEST

DR. ANTONIA DAYMOND

Over the summer, we partnered with the Family Centered Educational Agency (FCEA) to host their annual Back-To-School Fest. Our amazing security team and our wonderful young adults welcomed our surrounding community with joy and excitement. Approximately 150 kids graced our campus and enjoyed music and funfilled activities. We distributed 150 bookbags to help students prepare for the new school year. High school students also had the opportunity to learn more about the financial aid process and start and complete their 2024-25 FAFSA. We also served 300 free meals from Harold's Chicken #55 and El Lienzo Taco Truck and 150 ice cream cones from Misti Ice Cream Truck. It was an impactful event where we were able to support our community in a significant way.









GIRLS ON THE RUN

REV. DR. CARMIN FREDERICK-JAMES



As our fourth season of Girls on the Run draws to a close on November 7th, we reflect on the incredible journey of our six 3rd-5th and three 6th-8th graders. We are deeply thankful to God for the positive impact this program has had on these young girls.

Through our coaches' guidance and support, these girls are developing essential life skills such as confidence, character, care, connections, competence, and contribution. These skills will undoubtedly serve them well as they navigate their personal and academic journeys.

Beyond the valuable lessons learned, Girls on the Run has also provided a space for our girls to build friendships, stay active, and reach their full potential. It's heartwarming to witness their growth and enthusiasm as they challenge themselves and celebrate their accomplishments.

To conclude this season, the Girls on the Run Program is excited to host an "End of the Season 5K" on Saturday, November 23rd, from 1-3 pm on our campus. As we celebrate the achievements and growth of our participants, we are also thrilled to announce the start of our 5th season, which will take place in the winter/spring of 2025.

We look forward to witnessing the continued impact of this transformative program and its positive influence on the lives of more young girls. Stay tuned for more details on the end of season 5K and the start of the winter/spring season!



COVENANT CARES

ADOPT-A-FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Spread the joy of Christmas with Covenant

Covenant has always been a pillar of support for our community. This year, we're expanding our annual "Adopt A Family" program to reach even more local children and ensure they have a truly magical Christmas. Our goal is to adopt 150 children, from newborns to high school seniors, and bring a little extra cheer to their holiday season.

How You Can Get Involved

Whether you're a generous donor, a dedicated volunteer, or simply someone who wants to make a difference, there's a role for you in our Adopt-A-Family program. Here's a breakdown of the timeline and how you can participate:

• Be an Angel Shopper: Help us fulfill the children's wishes by purchasing gifts from their lists. Shoppers will receive Angel Packets containing the child's information and gift preferences.

• Help us prepare Angel Shopper Packets: Join us on Tuesday, November 5th, through Saturday, November 8th, to help pack our Angel Shopper Packets.

 Distribute Angel Packets: Angel Packets will be distributed to shoppers between Sunday, November 10th and December 1st.

> Drop Off Gifts: Donate wrapped gifts to Covenant during the designated drop-off period, which is Sunday, December 8th through Wednesday, December 18th.

•Help with Sorting and Decorating: Lend a hand with sorting and repackaging gifts, as well as decorating our event space, on Wednesday, December 18th through Friday, December 20th.

• Attend the Adoption Event: Join us for our annual Adopt-A-Family Holiday Program on Saturday, December 21st, from 11 AM to 1 PM. Let's celebrate the joy of giving together!

Let's Make a Difference Together!

By participating in our Adopt-A-Family program, you can help create lasting memories for children in our community. Your generosity and support will make a significant impact on their lives. Let's come together to spread the joy of Christmas and make this holiday season truly unforgettable.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

REV. ETHEL SOUTHERN

USE YOUR VOICE TO END BREAST CANCER!

Covenant United Church of Christ has been a longtime champion of offering opportunities for members of the congregation, community partners, and caregivers for those lives impacted by cancer. On October 12, 2024, we had our first Breast Cancer Symposium. The focus was on the research of African American women and men with breast cancer, healthcare disparities, and shedding light on equality versus equity.

According to Jessica Saenz, these are five things you need to know about breast cancer:

- 1. Breast cancer screening is the best defense against breast cancer.
- 2. Genetic testing can expose your inherited risk factors.
- 3. Black women are more likely to have an aggressive form of breast cancer
- 4. If you have dense breasts, you might need additional screening tests.
- 5. Second opinions are important and should be encouraged.

Your VOICE is the key to changing lives forever.

VOICES of Black Women, a groundbreaking initiative led by the American Cancer Society, calls on black women from all walks of life to join the movement. This isn't just a study; it's a collective commitment to understanding and improving the health of black women across the nation. **And that change starts with you.**



SPOTLIGHT ON AMILA ADAMS

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Please help us welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Amila (like Pamela without the "P"). She assists Seena in the church office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

She comes to us with many years of experience, and we look forward to her contribution in making our office even better!

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

REV. KIM GRICE



"Prepare God's people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up." Ephesians 4:12

The Membership Ministry is excited about the new things that God is doing in the life of the CUCC community. This past quarter, we welcomed nine individuals for Baptism and 25 for the Right Hand of Fellowship! In addition, we welcomed four new members to the Membership Ministry Teams as a result of the Ministry Expo.

With a shared vision, the Membership Ministry continues to work to provide a sense of community and

unity through commitment and communication and a strong connection between members and church leadership. We offer encouragement and support as new members navigate space to learn, grow, serve, and spread the love of Jesus while growing the church. New Members classes are held once a month, on-line and in-person. Thank you to everyone for your tireless efforts and sacrifices and for showing up to do the work and live out the vision our pastor, Rev. Dr. Patrick L. Daymond, leads with and demonstrates through integrity and humility.



INVITATION TO JOIN REHEARSALS FOR A JOYFUL NOISE 2024

BRIAN SMITH, MINISTER OF MUSIC

Calling all singers! It's time to start rehearsing for our annual Christmas Concert. If you are interested in joining the choir, take note of the information below. Individuals with prior choral experience, high energy, and love for worship and praise are welcome to attend Wednesday rehearsals between October and December in preparation for "A Joyful Noise 2024." Rehearsals begin Wednesday, October 23rd at 7:30 P.M.





FINANCIAL NEWS

ISAAC GREENE

NEW CHURCH MANAGEMENT SYSTEM COMING TO COVENANT!



Dear Covenant Family

We are making exciting changes to our church's online community, where we will be changing from Powerchurch to Realm! Our new site on Realm will make it easier for you to give and provide you with more ways to minister to each other online.

Q&A

What is Realm? Realm is a real ministry tool.

Realm is an online ministry tool designed for real-time connection. It helps our church connect with you, and you connect with us. Realm allows you to manage your personal information and who is allowed to see it, control your giving, and keep in touch with the groups that matter to you.

Why use Realm? Realm strengthens church connections.

Through Realm, everyone can be connected from anywhere at any time, from our mobile devices. It engages everyone in the life of our church by supporting the healthy relationships essential to our church's mission. We'll stay organized, and you'll stay informed about all of the opportunities for fellowship. When we share life together, we will grow together.

What about my privacy? Realm is safe, private, and secure.

Your privacy is one of our greatest concerns. Realm is only made up of the people at CUCC; it's not like a social network that's open to everyone. Realm keeps your data safe and gives you control over what information you share and who can see it.

What about giving? Realm gives you control over your giving.

Giving should be easy, and Realm places giving right in the palm of your hands. You may set up recurring gifts, view your giving history, and make changes at any time. While this allows new features and functionality for our church, it will require that recurring gifts be re-scheduled.

You should have already received an invite to create an account in our new Realm online community.

Please use the link in that email and follow the steps to create a password. Once you have an account, you can sign in and set up your scheduled donation on REALM.

To ensure that your gifts continue as you intend and you aren't doubling your donation, you'll need to do the following: Delete your scheduled gifts with our old online giving system by going to our website and stopping scheduled donations.

Please complete these steps by **November 1, 2024,** as we hope to transfer completely off our old system soon. Your generous support is vital to our ministry.

Thank you for taking a few moments to update your giving information. If you have any questions, please contact me at IGreene@covucc.org.

In Christ,

Isaac B. Greene Director of Finance



SCAN HERE TO DOWNLOAD REALM

YOUTH CHURCH

MINISTER KEVON CARTER

A RESOURCE FOR PARENTS AND YOUTH



With such easy access to technology at the fingertips of the younger generation, parents are presented with unprecedented challenges in emphasizing the importance of Christian values to their children. As Covenant United Church of Christ's Youth Church, our mission as God's servants is to bridge the gap between parent and child.

Values such as gratitude, responsibility, and social awareness, which were expected of us when we were kids, may not come as naturally to our children. Children of this era have learned to adapt to a virtual platform and may feel more connected to the screen than to the physical world. Therefore, they need a little more patience and understanding

as they learn to make sense of their journey through life.

At Youth Church, we aim to meet these challenges head-on with a wide array of programming and subject matter to emphasize interpersonal engagement. With the exploration of the Bible, we hope that our young people see The Word of God as indispensable to their well-being as their devices.

We offer Confirmation classes and Youth Church Services to reinforce the Christian values you want instilled in your children. We are here as a resource, a support system, and a part of your village.





PICTURES FROM THE QUARTER















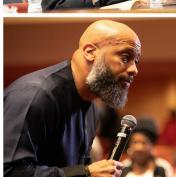












CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.



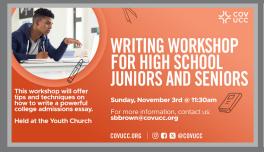
BASKET DISTRIBUTION

1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.



YOUNG ADULT JOYFUL HOUR **BIBLE STUDY**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD AT 11:30 A.M.



WRITING WORKSHOP FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ALZHEIMER'S INFORMATIONAL EVENT SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9th 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH FOLLOWING 11:00 A.M. SERVICE



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024 AT 11:00 A.M.



WORD THERAP' EVERY TUESDAY AT 7:00 P.M. EXCLUSIVELY ON YOUTUBE



EVERY WEDNESDAY AT NOON



MY PEOPLE PRAYER CA EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 7:14 A.M. With Rev. Dr. Patrick L. Daymond Dial: 760-548-9759



FOOD GIVEAWAY
SATURDAYS 9:30 A.M. - 12 P.M. | CUCC WEST
1102 EAST 154TH STREET
SOUTH HOLLAND, IL 60473

JOIN US VIRTUALLY AND IN PERSON

WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday Worship 7:30 A.M. and 11 A.M. Sunday School 9:30 A.M.

SOCIAL MEDIA

FB, Instagram & X: @covucc

EMAIL

Info@covucc.org

WORD THERAPY

Tuesday at 7 p.m. Exclusively on YouTube

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday at 12 P.M.

RADIO BROADCAST

Friday at 12:30 P.M. – WYCA 102.3

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

https://bit.ly/ CUCCSouthHollandYouTube

CHECK US OUT ON TIKTOK

https://www.tiktok.com/@covucc

FACEBOOK LIVE

Covenant United Church of Christ

WEBSITE

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REV. DR. OZZIE E. SMITH, JR.

Pastor Emeritus

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Online Engagement and Community
Outreach

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BOARD / COMMITTEE / COUNCIL CHAIRS

DARLENE WASHINGTON

Deacon Board

SHIRLEY HALL

Pastoral Relations Committee

JOSHUA TEFERA

Youth Representative

DAN WILLIAMS

Trustee Board

ALLAN ARMSTRONG

Ministry Council

CONNIE LINDSEY

Financial Oversight Committee

KAY GILES-SLAUGHTER

Member at Large

SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

