



CONFIRMAND CLASS OF 2025

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

REV. DR. PATRICK L. DAYMOND, SENIOR PASTOR



Dear Church Family,

On July 3, the United States Congress passed into law a bill that has been labeled as "big" and "beautiful." Unfortunately, its core content contains some of the ugliest measures we have ever seen. In fact, there's nothing uglier than a country that will choose tax breaks over a sick person's next breath. The recent legislation brings about devastating cuts to healthcare, particularly for Medicaid recipients, as well as reductions to SNAP, which provides nourishment to struggling families. Further, higher education will become increasingly inaccessible due to limitations on federal student loans. These changes collectively paint a picture of moral decay and a loss of human decency that is both infuriating and heartbreaking.

This legislation is fundamentally at odds with the teachings of Jesus Christ. In the Gospels, Jesus consistently teaches that we must care for the least, the lost, the lonely, and the left out. In fact, he says in Matthew 25:45 that whatever we fail to do for the least of these, we have also done the same to Christ. As the wealthiest 1% reap the overwhelming benefits of this legislation, the marginalized and oppressed will bear the brunt of the burden. In this unjust system, it's disturbing to see the poor being sacrificed, and one

can't help but feel that, in the struggles of the vulnerable, Jesus is being crucified all over again. As the church of Jesus Christ, our faith calls us to action. It is not enough for us to feel compassion for those who suffer. We must make tangible efforts to support our brothers and sisters in need.

For this reason, we will continue to focus our ministry efforts at Covenant UCC on assisting those who may find themselves in a place of struggle. Additionally, we must put "boots on the ground." Cruelty has become the currency of today's politics. To overcome it, our protest must evolve to meet the moment. Not just marches. Not just hashtags. Our resistance must blend storytelling with action. Now is the time to speak up, call your representative, know your rights, and organize locally.

We must build solidarity across churches, barbershops, beauty salons, and book clubs. This isn't just a policy fight, it's a moral one. And the church must be in the game, front and center.

In the Game,

Pastor Patick L. Daymond



BWS FAMILY LIFE CENTER NEWS

REV. DR. TROY UNDERWOOD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Barbara W. Smith Family Life Center continues to make a meaningful impact across all areas of its programming. Here are some recent highlights and exciting things on the horizon.

BWS STEAM Summer Camp | Kids Building Skills and Friendships



On June 16, 2025, the BWS Family Life Center STEAM Summer Camp kicked off with its largest class ever. Seventy-five slots were filled from a pool of 160 applicants, reaching full capacity for an exciting eight weeks of reading and math enrichment, along with hands-on STEAM projects powered by LEGO® Education.

Campers are also enjoying engaging field trips to Navy Pier and the Chicago Children's Museum, the DuSable Museum of African American History, and Brookfield Zoo. Weekly assemblies feature special guests, including Emmy-nominated producer and award-winning educator Ernest Crim III, as well as educators from the Sandridge Nature Center.

A highlight of this year's program is the newest addition to the STEAM curriculum—daily performing arts workshops, where students explore the art of singing, dancing, and theater.

The funding for this camp is made possible by the Cook County Department of Public Health.



Lego Masters





A chess champion in the making, and amazing tower drops at Navy Pier. Our campers are fearless.



Green Team | Arbor Day Event

The Power of Trees: Creating Beauty and Enhancing Wellness, One Tree at a Time



The recent Plant A Tree - Meet and Greet was a huge success. In partnership with The Chicago Region Trees Initiative and the Morton Arboretum, the event featured sapling distribution, line dancing as a wellness activity, and a Hosta plant giveaway. For reference, a sapling is a young tree that has moved beyond the seedling stage but has not yet reached maturity, typically standing a few feet



tall with a slender, flexible trunk. Distributed species included American hornbeam, gray dogwood, tupelo, persimmon, swamp oak, and hill oak. All tree recipients received educational materials on proper planting, mulching, watering, and ongoing care for their saplings.



A big thank you and much appreciation to the tree adoptees, whose participation contributed to the event's success, as well as to our dedicated volunteers and media ministry for their invaluable support.

Good news: There will be one final sapling distribution event in September. Stay tuned for further details.

Let's continue to enhance our community by planting trees.





Housing Ministry Program | Homebuying Seminar

Homebuyer Seminar Empowers First-Time Buyers, Investors & Returning Homeowners



Covenant United Church of Christ's Housing Ministry proudly hosted a powerful and well-attended Homebuyer Seminar on May 31, 2025, at our South Holland campus. The event was open to firsttime buyers, real estate investors, and returning homeowners—all eager to

gain the tools and knowledge needed to succeed in today's housing market.

The seminar featured a panel of industry professionals. each offering expert insight and guidance:

- Mortgage Lenders Shared financing options and tips for loan pre-approval
- Credit Repair Specialists Provided strategies to boost credit scores
- **Realtors** Explained the buying process and market trends
- Real Estate Attorneys Outlined legal protections and contracts
- Home Inspectors Covered what to expect during inspections
- Insurance Agents Discussed how to protect your property investment

A Wealth of Information, All Under One Roof

Attendees left with a clear roadmap to homeownership, along with practical tools to:

- Improve credit and qualify for better financing
- Understand every step of the buying process
- Avoid common pitfalls through legal and professional support
- Learn the value of working with licensed experts from start to finish

In addition to the presentations, attendees enjoyed resource tables filled with brochures, giveaways, and one-on-one conversations with speakers and vendors. Many expressed appreciation for the warm welcoming environment, and said they felt more prepared and motivated to take the next steps toward homeownership.

Why This Seminar Matters

"This was more than just a seminar-it was a mission to educate and empower our community to build generational wealth through homeownership," said Brenda Morgan, Chairperson of the Housing Ministry. "We are so grateful to all who attended and to our amazing panel of professionals who poured into our community."



The Housing Ministry plans to host additional educational events throughout the year. If you or someone you know would benefit from future sessions, we encourage you to stay connected!

Contact:

Housing Ministry

Website:

BWSFamilyLifeCenter.org

Email:

Housing@covucc.org











Second Chance | Expungement Summit

Second Chances Start Here

Following what promises to be an amazing Jazzin' for Justice weekend—where music becomes ministry and harmony echoes heaven—we are reminded that praise without purpose is incomplete. The concert is not just entertainment; it is an invitation as the Spirit of jazz stirs our hearts toward action.



On Saturday, August 9, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Second Chance will host its annual Expungement and Legal Resources

Summit. This is where healing meets hope. In addition to those seeking to have their criminal records expunged or sealed, the summit will offer information and support for the entire family. Register today on Eventbrite using the QR code. Together, let's be the hands and feet of justice. Second chances start here.







9:00 AM **EXPUNGEMENT** & LEGAL SUMMIT

Hear from judges on legal topics:

- Custody & Visitation Rights
- Child Endangerment Divorce Guidance
- Child Support Information

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM **EXPUNGEMENT** AND RECORD RELIEF SERVICES

Register for a private appointment to speak with a lawyer about your options. Learn if you qualify ve your record cleared or sealed

se note: Attendees seeking expungement sealing of records must have the following:

- Illinois State Police criminal history transcript/criminal record* State-issued photo ID Email address

INTERESTED? SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER



COVENANT SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

DR. ANTONIA DAYMOND

Scholarship Sunday Awards Many Covenant Students

This past June, our congregation came together on Scholarship Sunday to support the academic futures of our students, a truly inspiring moment. We are thrilled to announce that \$58,500 in scholarships has been awarded to our deserving students, helping to pave the way for their pursuit of goals and aspirations at esteemed institutions such as Morehouse College and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

These scholarships support both new college students embarking on their academic journeys and renewal recipients continuing to excel in their studies.

The generosity of our congregation has made this possible, and we extend our gratitude for your investments in the futures of these students. Your contributions will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on their lives. empowering them to reach their full potential and make a positive impact in the world. Building on this foundation of support, the Scholarship Committee's work is instrumental

in ensuring the success of our students. In addition to awarding scholarships, the committee provides invaluable support through financial aid seminars, writing workshops, and Freshman Bootcamp. Moreover, the committee shows ongoing care by sending college care packages to our students during their time away at school, reminding them that they are loved, supported, and not forgotten.

Notable Scholarship Highlight

One exciting development is the introduction of the Stewart HBCU Scholarship, a new scholarship established by siblings Lauren, Elijah, and Andrew Stewart.

As former recipients of the church's scholarships, the Stewart siblings exemplify the impact of these awards and demonstrate a heart of gratitude by paying it forward. Their generosity will provide support to a student attending a Historical Black College or University (HBCU).







As we look to the future, we pray that God will bless and guide our students as they pursue their passions and dreams. We are proud to support their endeavors and look forward to witnessing the remarkable things they will achieve. Thank you again to our congregation for your unwavering support and investment in the futures of our students.









CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

REV. DR. CARMIN FREDERICK-JAMES Growing in Faith Together: A Q2 Look Back & What's Ahead!

Greetings, Covenant Family!

It's been an incredible journey of "DiscipleSHIFT" with all of you this past quarter! As your Associate Pastor of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation, my heart is full seeing us actively engaging with the Holy Spirit. Together, we're living out our mission of "connecting the disconnected to Christ and equipping the connected to be like Christ" and what a vibrant Q2 2025 it's been!

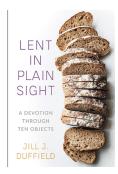


"Space for God" Connect **Group:** We launched a fantastic 6-week Connect Group session, specifically for our New Members, centered on making "Space for God" using Don Postema's inspiring work. The participation and shared experiences were so enriching that we're excited to announce "Space for God Part 2" will be continuing this Fall!

Highlights from an Impactful Second Quarter!

This past quarter was packed with opportunities for growth and deeper connection:

Lenten Journey of Prayer & Fasting: We concluded our 40 days of prayer and fasting during the Lenten Season, guided by the insightful book "Lent in Plain Sight" by Jill Duffield. It was a powerful time of reflection and spiritual discipline.



"Jesus Life Coach" Book Study: Our second session of "Jesus Life Coach: Learn from the Best" continued to enlighten us! We discovered profound truths about authentic balance with Jesus as our ultimate coach. For those who joined, it was truly amazing to consider Jesus in this transformative light. If you missed out, it's not

too late! You can still sign up at https://bit.ly/ jesuslifecoachbookstudy2025 and join us for the upcoming 5th Sunday sessions on August 31st and November 30th!

Preparing for a Strong Finish to 2025!

June marked the start of our vital host training sessions, setting the stage for robust Christian Education programming that will help us finish the year strong. We're thrilled to introduce a new opportunity to connect with the sermon, "The Mind of a Disciple." which will continue to coach us on what it truly means to make a "DiscipleSHIFT" as we choose to wholeheartedly follow Jesus.

Looking Ahead: More Opportunities for Connection & Growth!

Get ready for even more! Starting in October, we'll be rolling out additional Connect Group

opportunities. For those interested in becoming a host, we have one final training session on September 13th from 9 to **11 a.m.** If you feel called to serve in this way, please reach out to me directly at revcfiames@ covucc.org.



Our Ongoing Christian Education and Spiritual Formation Offerings

We're committed to meeting the diverse needs of our community, both in-person and online. We warmly invite you to take advantage of these transformative opportunities:

- "Word Therapy": Following the August and September break, tune in live every Tuesday at 7 p.m. (and On-Demand) on our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UC9isQopQVMLis80i24oWsuA
- "If My People Prayer Call": Join us Wednesdays at 7:14 a.m. via prayer line: 1-760-548-9759
- Noon Bible Study: Wednesdays at 12 p.m. available both online (Facebook and our website) and in-person! Remember: We are on break during the month of August.
- Connect Groups: Engaging six-week sessions held at least twice a year.
- Liturgical Season Connect Groups: Special focused sessions during sacred seasons like Lent and Advent.
- Sunday School: Currently held in-person each Sunday at 8 a.m. for our Summer Schedule.
 The regular schedule resumes 9/7.

We sincerely hope you'll "Get in the Game" with at least one of our Christian Education and Spiritual Formation experiences at Covenant United Church of Christ. But most importantly, we pray that you will "Get in the Game" for Jesus!

P.S. Did you know that you can watch our prior worship services FREE by visiting our website and checking out our comprehensive sermon library? Here are the steps to do so:

- 1. Visit our church website: covucc.org
- 2. Navigate to the "Watch" tab or section located in the center of the home page.
- 3. Scroll down such that you can see the tabs below what you are watching, which include:
- Archived sermons (Sermons dating back to 2015)
- Recent sermons (Sermons from late 2024 to the present)
- Our Pastor
- Giving





PHOTOS OF THE QUARTER

































GIRLS RUN

REV. DR. CARMIN FREDERICK-JAMES

Girls on the Run: Celebrating a Strong Finish & Looking to Fall!

What an inspiring Spring Session it was for our Girls on the Run program! We are thrilled to share that over 15 incredible girls, supported by their dedicated buddies and amazing coaches, triumphantly completed a 5K at Grant Park on May 10th, 2025.



Girls on the Run coaches them to recognize and utilize their unique "star power" in every aspect of their lives – whether they're pushing through a 5K, completing their school year, or developing strong, positive relationships with their peers.

Join Us for the Fall Season!

Are you passionate about empowering young girls? We are actively seeking dedicated volunteers to join our team for the upcoming Fall Season!



Volunteer Coaches & Junior Coaches (16-18 years of age): Your guidance and encouragement can make a lasting difference. Registration is open now: https://www.gotrchicago.org/coach

Do you know a girl in third through eighth grade who would benefit from this empowering program? Please encourage them to join us!

Girls in third-fifth grade: Find program details and registration here: https://www.gotrchicago.org/3rd-5th-grade-program-details

Girls in sixth-eighth grade: Registration information is available here: https://www.gotrchicago.org/6th-8th-grade-program-details

The Fall Season officially kicks off Tuesday, September 2. We encourage you to register today so that we can plan accordingly for another fantastic season of growth, empowerment, and fun!





COVENANT YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

REV. KEVON CARTER

Youth Day Recap: A Day to Remember



Our annual Youth Day took place a couple of weeks ago, but every time I reflect on it, I'm still filled with joy. From start to finish, it was a powerful reminder of what God is doing through the young people of Covenant.

The youth/teen choir kicked off the service with "Love Theory" by Kirk Franklin. There was some hesitation about starting the service with a song that's not your typical Sunday morning opener. But all that faded the moment I looked out and saw the congregation standing, clapping, and singing about their love for God! God's Little Angels were, as always, on point. They blessed us with two of my favorite selections: "Come and Go with Me" & "I Am a Promise."



We were also proud to see Josiah and Emmanuel, two of our newly ordained junior deacons, lead the Call to Worship and the Offering Prayer with confidence and grace.

Our youth dancers gave an incredible presentation that was skillfully and thoughtfully put together. I would be wrong if I didn't shout out our media ministry, who did a wonderful job putting together our youth church promo video.

The video was so well put together that it had me wanting to visit youth church, and I'm the youth pastor! Special thanks as well to all those who took part in the "Youth Slang Challenge" video. June 22ND was also our Scholarship Sunday. We took time to honor our graduates and present scholarships. It **NEVER** gets old seeing our church not only clap and cheer for our young people but also give generously to support their future.



I can't overstate what a blessing it is to see love in action, and don't get me started on how awesome it is to be on the receiving end of a scholarship. But please don't underestimate the blessing it is to give. There's something powerful about knowing you played a role in helping someone else. The truth is, we all can play a role by supporting the Scholarship Ministry. I genuinely believe that when we're generous toward others, we position ourselves to receive God's generosity in return. Whether it comes through a scholarship, an unexpected blessing, or simply the joy of knowing you made a difference, God always honors a generous heart.

And finally, I had the honor and privilege of bringing the Word on Youth Day. Thank you for not booing me off the pulpit!

But seriously, it's truly an honor to serve here at Covenant UCC, and I'm so excited about what God is doing in and through our youth.

Let's keep cheering them on, not just on Youth Day, but every day.





COVENANT HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEWS

REV. ETHEL SOUTHERN

Menopause? THINGS MY MOTHER DIDN'T TELL ME!!



Women of all ages gathered to discuss the effects and misinformation surrounding menopause. The panel included Dr. Dewanzer Jones (Psychiatrist), Dr. Toni Scott-Terry (GYN), Tiphne Sharpe (Nursing, NP), and Felicia Houston (LCPC). These experts dispelled myths about menopause, particularly for women of color.



The atmosphere was warm and inviting, with tables set with hot tea and teapots to encourage calm and sacred conversations. A beautiful catered breakfast was served. and the

discussions began. Elder women shared their experiences and the lack of information they had received about menopause, often only hearing about "the change" from their mothers.



The event provided a safe space for women to learn the truth about their feelings and realize they were not alone. The day was filled with laughter, tears, and healing stories from the community of faith. The women expressed a desire for a follow-up event, including their spouses and significant others, which the committee agreed to organize in the fall.





MORE PICTURES FROM THE QUARTER



































CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS



ICAGO GOSPEL **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH** 8:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.



SATURDAY, SEPT. 20TH | 8 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

3C 0005



YOGA CLASSES

SATURDAYS (CHECK SCHEDULE) 9:30 - 10:30 A.M.



EXERCISE / LINE DANCE

ON BREAK IN AUGUST **RESUMES SEPTEMBER 3RD EVERY 2ND, 3RD, & 4TH WEDNESDAY** 5-6PM / 6PM-7:30PM



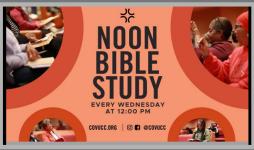
WALKING

MONDAY - THURSDAY 6:00 A.M. - 8:30 A.M.



WORD THERAPY

ON BREAK IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER RESUMES OCTOBER 7TH EVERY TUESDAY AT 7:00 P.M. **EXCLUSIVELY ON YOUTUBE**



NOON BIBLE STUDY

ON BREAK IN AUGUST **RESUMES SEPTEMBER 10TH WEDNESDAYS AT NOON**



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

JOIN US VIRTUALLY AND IN PERSON

WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Summer Schedule: 9 a.m.

Regular Schedule Resumes: 9/7

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

On Break Aug. & Sept.; Returns 10/7

Tuesday at 7 p.m. Exclusively on YouTube

BIBLE STUDY

On Break August; Returns 9/10

Wednesday at 12 P.M.

RADIO BROADCAST

Friday at 12:30 P.M. - WYCA 102.3

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

https://bit.lv/

CUCCSouthHollandYouTube

CHECK US OUT ON TIKTOK

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

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Youth Representative

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Financial Oversight Committee

KAY GILES-SLAUGHTER

Member at Large

SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

