



COVENANT CONNECTION

3RD QUARTER NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2025



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PASTOR'S WORD

REV. DR. PATRICK L. DAYMOND, SENIOR PASTOR

Grace and Peace Family,

I pray that you are well and in good health in these trying days. It is no secret that a dark cloud hangs over our nation. In recent weeks, we have seen the deployment of I.C.E. agents into the Chicagoland area under the direction of President Donald Trump, whose sole mission has been to fabricate fanciful stories of crime-ridden cities on fire when crime is down in just about every targeted city. The truth is that there is no goodwill in this gesture. The president is playing out his revenge vendetta against his detractors and promoting a fascist agenda so that he can terrorize, create chaos, dismantle democracy, and enact authoritarian rule.

Just last month, Rev. David Black, a local Chicago minister, stood in front of a Chicago-area U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility and spread his arms wide. Adorned in all black and wearing a clerical collar, the pastor looked up at a group of masked, heavily armed I.C.E. agents on the roof and began to pray. But when Rev. Black began to lower his arms a few seconds later, the agents responded by firing pepper balls that caused eye irritation and respiratory distress. One struck Black in the head, exploding into a puff of white pepper smoke and forcing him to his knees. Meanwhile, I.C.E. agents stood by laughing.

The government has reached a moral low in its treatment not just of migrants but of U.S. citizens. Everything that has been said and done signals that the president is teeing up the invocation of the Insurrection Act, which would unfurl



extraordinary presidential power to use military force in American cities in a manner not used since the Civil Rights Movement. As a church, we cannot stand idly by and just watch chaos ensue. We must resist the Pharaoh of these times.

On November 1st 9am, we will be taking our first action steps by hosting a workshop on social justice ministry, which we are calling *Resisting Pharaoh: Standing for Justice in a Broken Nation*. We are opening this opportunity up to any church, ministry, or individual who is serious about resisting racism and protecting human rights. You'll learn all about the issues at stake and how we can organize and stand against the forces of spiritual darkness.

Now is the time we must put feet to faith. Will you join us? I pray that you will respond affirmatively to this call to action.

Love U 2 Life,

Pastor Patrick L. Daymond

BWS FAMILY LIFE CENTER NEWS

REV. DR. TROY UNDERWOOD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When Reverend **Dr. Martin Luther King** was incarcerated in Birmingham, Alabama, he penned a letter famously known as “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” His letter spoke to humanity’s moral responsibility to act against unjust laws and systems. One of the memorable statements read,

“INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE.”



One of the core responsibilities of the BWS Family Life Center is to advocate for our communities by providing programs and resources to support human flourishing and well-being.

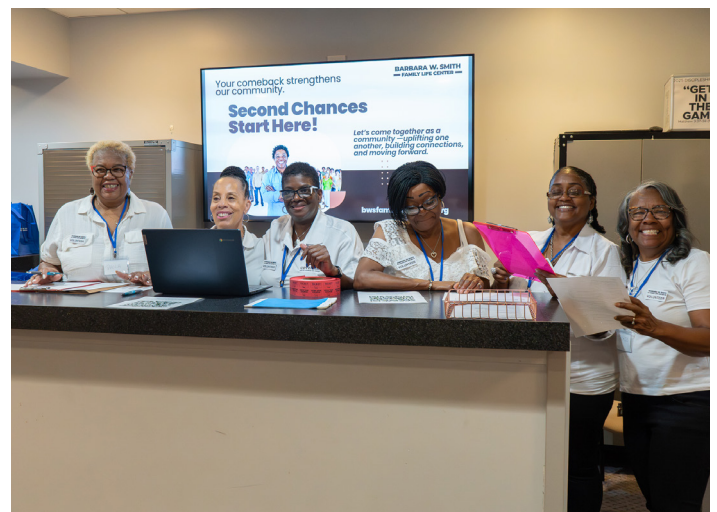


Through our **Food Pantry**, we fight to provide a table of welcome to those who are hungry and food insecure.

Through our **Housing program**, we provide outreach and education to ensure that individuals and families have reliable resources for safety and stability.

Our **Environmental program** seeks to care for the planet as given to us, whether through planting trees or finding ways to improve mental health through gardening.

In this issue, the spotlight is on our advocacy work and the call to “Get in the Game!” Whatever your interest, we want to hear from you.



THE SECOND CHANCE COLLABORATIVE

The Second Chance Collaborative is committed to raising awareness and uniting community voices to address the social conditions impacting vulnerable populations, **dismantling the stigma**, stereotypes, and injustices they face, and **offering meaningful second chances** for individuals to reclaim their lives and thrive.



Partner with the BWS Second Chance Collaborative. Take our interest **survey** using the **QR code** above.

BARBARA W. SMITH — FAMILY LIFE CENTER — **SECOND CHANCE COLLABORATIVE**



Barbara W. Smith Family Life Center
Covenant United Church of Christ
1130 East 154th, Street, South Holland, IL 60473

OUR GOALS

J.U.S.T.I.C.E.

J – Join Forces

Build and sustain partnerships with organizations, agencies, and community stakeholders to collectively address the needs of justice-involved individuals and underserved populations.

U – Utilize Resources

Identify, mobilize, and coordinate resources that support marginalized communities—creating pathways to opportunity and long-term success.

S – Support Communities

Provide outreach and wraparound services for communities facing barriers to equity, with focused support in housing, career development, behavioral health, and related needs.

T – Teach & Inform

Educate the public and community leaders about the systemic challenges facing justice-involved individuals, while promoting awareness and understanding of justice reform.

I – Inspire Change

Empower individuals and communities to advocate for equity, dignity, and second chances through civic engagement and leadership development.

C – Collaborate for Impact

Work across communities and organizations to create innovative solutions and policy advocacy that address root causes and promote lasting change.

E – Elevate Equity

Champion justice, fairness, and inclusion in all programming—ensuring that every individual has access to the support and opportunities they need to thrive.

ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONVENING



Join the Annual
Statewide Convening
OCTOBER 24TH & OCTOBER 25TH



Tickets Available on
Eventbrite

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

REV. DR. CARMIN FREDERICK-JAMES

ADOPT A FAMILY Covenant Cares

Help Us Adopt 150 Children This Holiday Season! Covenant has always been committed to serving and supporting our local community. This year, we are excited to announce that we are significantly expanding our annual “Adopt-A-Family” Holiday Program to help even more children experience the joy of Christmas! Our goal for 2025 is ambitious: we are aiming to adopt 150 children between the ages of birth and high school senior. We believe that, together, we can bring warmth and light to their holiday season.

How to Participate

Your support, whether through nominations or participation in the event, is vital to reaching this goal.



Nominate a Family: Do you know a local family in need of a blessing this Christmas? Nominations must be submitted by Friday, October 24th. Please submit your nominations promptly to allow us time to process and prepare.





ADOPT A FAMILY

Are you interested in nominating a family for the Adopt-A-Family Program? Nominations will be accepted from now until October 24, 2025

Please contact Rev. Carmin at revcfjames@covucc.org for any questions.

[COVUCC.ORG](https://covucc.org) |   [@COVUCC](https://www.facebook.com/covucc)

SCAN TO
NOMINATE
A FAMILY



Join us for our annual Adopt-A-Family Holiday Program on **Saturday, December 20, 2025, from 10 AM to 12 PM.** This is a wonderful opportunity for our church family to gather and share the spirit of giving! Let's come together to make a difference in the lives of our community's children this holiday season and ensure 150 families feel the love of Christ.

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Do You Worship Online? We Want to Recognize YOU!



Do you faithfully worship with us from your home, car, or another part of the world on Sundays? If so, we want to celebrate and honor you! Our Online Engagement Team is excited to announce plans for an Online Worshipper Recognition Sunday this November. The goal is simple: to make our digital congregation feel just as valued as those in person, and to finally connect faces with the names we see on screen every week! We are tentatively planning this special recognition for **Sunday, November 16th**. More details are coming soon.

How to Be Recognized

To participate, we are asking our beloved online worshippers to take two simple steps: Submit your photo and contact information to onlineengagement@covucc.org- (Ideally, submit a photo of yourself in your regular worship space!) Answer three quick questions that we plan to share during the service:

- How long have you been worshipping online?
- I worship online because...
- I see God moving when I worship online when...

Join Us In Person! We also extend a special invitation to all recognized online worshippers to join us in person on the designated Sunday. We will reserve a special seating area in the sanctuary just for you! We hope you will partner with us to celebrate the powerful impact of our digital community. Submit your information today!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: EQUIP, CONNECT, AND GROW

What an amazing season of growth we've had in Christian Education! We are committed to equipping you for a dynamic relationship with Christ, and we've seen fantastic participation across our key programs: Connect Groups, Sunday School, and Noon Bible Study. Our primary prayer is that these experiences are helping you make the "DiscipleSHIFT" God desires for your life.

High Enrollment for New Curriculum!

Our new curriculum, "**The Mind of a Disciple**," has officially launched in our Connect Groups, and the response has been overwhelming!

With over 70 participants registered, we are seeing God move as people dive deeper into what it truly means to follow Jesus. For those who missed registration for this 6-week session, good news: we plan to offer "The Mind of a Disciple" again in the Spring of 2026!



GIRLS ON THE RUN 5K GRATITUDE WALK/RUN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2025
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
YOUTH CHURCH PARKING LOT

COVUCC.ORG |   **@COVUCC**

For more information,
email Rev. Carmin at
revcfjames@covucc.org

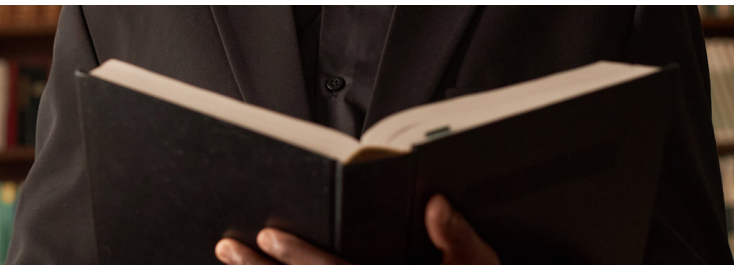


GIRLS ON THE RUN FALL SEASON IS UNDERWAY!

The energy is high! Our Girls on the Run program has officially kicked off its Fall Season, and we are so excited to have over 10 inspiring girls from 3rd through 8th grade participating. This program is truly transformative, helping our girls grow not only in fitness but also in fun, confidence, and friendship. We want to send a heartfelt thank you to the incredible women who are serving as coaches and mentors this season. Your dedication is invaluable as you guide and empower these young leaders! The girls are putting in the work now and will conclude their regular weekly sessions by the end of October. The season will culminate with an exciting celebratory **5K event on Saturday, November 22nd, from 1 to 3 p.m.** This is a wonderful opportunity for our entire church family to come out, cheer, and support our girls, coaches, and their families as they cross the finish line. Keep an eye on the bulletin and church announcements for more details!

INNOVATING FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

We are working hard behind the scenes to expand how you engage with **Christian Education**. In the coming year, we hope to introduce "On Demand" and self-paced learning material, designed specifically to fit your lifestyle and pace. Stay tuned for family fun! We are currently planning a Family Game Night and will share the date and details very soon.





SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY NEWS

DR. ANTONIA DAYMOND



This past July, we partnered with **Family Centered Educational Agency** to host a Freshman Bootcamp, a valuable workshop designed to help new college students transition smoothly into their institutions. The event covered essential topics like **financial aid, mental health, academic tips, dorm living, and college services**. Students and parents alike benefited from the opportunity to ask experts questions and gain insight into thriving in college. As we look to the future, we're blessed to host workshops that empower and support our students every step of the way.



FAMILY
CENTERED
EDUCATIONAL
AGENCY



THE EVOLUTION OF JAZZIN' 4 JUSTICE

REV. DR. RAMAH E. WRIGHT

We are living in a time when it has become important to preserve and record the historical facts about the life and ministry of Covenant UCC. Consequently, I thought it would be helpful to share the evolution of the Jazzin' 4 Justice concert for newer members of CUCC and for those who may not be aware of it. I asked my good friend and colleague, Rev. Myra, to document the history so that it could be shared with our church family.

THE BACKSTORY

In 2015, Jazzin' 4 Justice was founded by **Rev. Dr. Myra Taylor** (Justice and Witness Minister at the time) with a vision that God placed on her heart—a vision of unity, empowerment, social justice awareness, and transformation through the power of music and faith. With the blessing and encouragement of our Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Ozzie E. Smith Jr., this vision became a reality, bringing people together to celebrate justice and community through Jazz and other genres of music.

Once Rev. Myra assembled a committee of five, the free concert on Friday evening evolved into an entire weekend of social justice events. Justice Saturday was born and became a day filled with information and knowledge, which we entitled a “**Know Your Rights**” session. Rev. Myra and the committee organized mock traffic stops as a way to inform individuals on how to respond to law enforcement following the publicly televised, humiliating traffic stop and murder of community activist **Sandra Bland**. The committee also reached out to State's Attorney Kim Foxx's office, and in collaboration, Covenant hosted its first Expungement Summit in 2018. To seal this amazing weekend, Sunday was crowned as

“**Justice Sunday**” as the church welcomed advocating justice preachers, such as Rev. Traci Blackmon, Rev. Dr. Reggie Williams, and Rev. Dr. Joann Terrell, just to name a few.

In 2019, the J4J committee reached out to the **Chicago Bail Bonds** (as suggested by Rev. Dr. Patrick L. Daymond) as an additional way to implement social justice in action. As a result of the partnership, for the first time, **\$15,000.00 was raised** to provide bail for non-violent low misdemeanor cases.

From 2015 to 2019, Jazzin' 4 Justice grew into a phenomenal success, with each event drawing more attendees and fostering a deeper connection among those who gathered. The pinnacle of our journey came in 2019 when we welcomed our largest audience yet—**600 people**—who joined in an unforgettable evening of music, inspiration, fellowship, and advocacy.

However, like many other events and organizations, Jazzin' 4 Justice faced an unexpected challenge with the arrival of COVID-19. The pandemic brought a temporary pause to our momentum, but the spirit and mission of Jazzin' 4 Justice remain alive.

Rev. Myra is currently serving as the founding pastor of **New Hope UCC of Phoenix, Arizona**. This month, she is celebrating her second pastoral anniversary and hosting their church's first J4J in Phoenix, Arizona.



2022 - PRESENT

As CUCC attempted to recover from the challenging impact of the pandemic, the baton (to revive J4J) was passed on to me by Pastor Daymond. Rev. Myra provided the guidelines and helpful tips I needed to move forward to present J4J 2023. With the support of the J4J committee, Andrew Johnson and the CUCC Security Ministry, Mrs. Seena Brown and the phenomenal CUCC Maintenance Staff, Atty. Cathe E. Williams, and our incredible Media Department, by the grace of God, J4J 2023 – J4J 2025 have honored and fulfilled the vision bestowed upon Rev. Myra.

For the past three years, we have been blessed with sunny skies, soulful and stellar entertainment, recreational line dancing, a variety of food and merchandise vendors, free raffle prizes, and the largest attendance this year of approximately **900 participants**. We were blessed to receive donations from two CUCC vendors to support this free community event.

To God Be the Glory!



COVENANT YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

MINISTER KEVON CARTER

Young Adults are in the Game!
Our church theme for 2025 is “Get In The Game,” and our Young Adults are doing exactly that!

In September, we launched **College Connect**, a program designed to keep our college students spiritually and relationally connected while they are away at school. Through casual conversation, encouragement, and a short devotional, students get to reconnect with one another and receive spiritual nourishment. Our next College Connect will be **Saturday, October 26, at 7:00 PM.**

On the fifth Sunday in August, our **Young Adult Vocal Ensemble** made their official debut, and the Lord used them powerfully. Their ministry in song not only blessed the congregation but also marked the beginning of a new chapter for our young adult community.



The Young Adults are on the move! If you are ready to grow, serve, and connect, what are you waiting for?

**GET IN THE
GAME AND
JOIN US!**



THE POWER OF EXPOSURE

“When our youth see it, they believe they can be it.”

Exposure is powerful. It can shape how we think, what we believe, and who we become. I’ve seen it work both ways in my own life, for better and unfortunately for worse, which is why we must be vigilant about what we expose our young people to. The right exposure can change the entire trajectory of a life.

One of our teens and recently ordained **Junior Deacons, Sarah Perry**, expressed an interest in entrepreneurship. She shared her dream of one day owning her own bakery or bookstore. Through our youth initiative Exposed, we were able to connect Sarah with successful entrepreneur **Eliot Mosby**. Exposed connects our youth with mentors and professionals who are living out the very dreams our young people hope to pursue one day.

Mr. Mosby is the **owner of Harold’s Chicken & Ice Bar in North Carolina and the Montclair Diner in New Jersey**. He has been featured on both The Tamron Hall Show and The View. Through Exposed, Sarah had the opportunity to interview Mr. Mosby, who graciously shared wisdom on topics such as choosing a college major, building a strong business foundation, and understanding the importance of the business side of ownership.



We thank Mr. Mosby for taking the time to pour into our youth, and we are expecting great things from Sarah in the future.

If you have a child between the ages of 13 and 18 who would like to be exposed, please let us know so we can get the process started!

We are also thrilled to introduce our new Bible Study, The Bridge. The Bridge is a space where **we connect life to Christ**. The Bridge will be an open and honest environment for young adults to grow in faith, ask questions, and strengthen their walk with God together.



COVENANT HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEWS

REV. ETHEL SOUTHERN

UNITED IN HEALTH 2025

A Community United in the Fight Against Cancer

This year, Covenant United Church of Christ joined forces with BWS Family Life Center, the American Cancer Society, and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society—now collectively known as United in Blood—to host a powerful and uplifting cancer awareness event. This alliance was formed with a shared mission: to educate, support, and empower our community through the latest advancements in cancer research, blood cancer awareness, and cancer prevention for all.

The event welcomed over one hundred community members, including patients, survivors, and caregivers, all gathered to hear heartfelt testimonies and share in a spirit of unity and hope. Attendees were reminded that their presence matters and that no one walks this journey alone.



**TOGETHER, WE
CONTINUE TO
STAND UNITED
LIFTING UP
VOICES, SHARING
KNOWLEDGE,
AND BUILDING
A COMMUNITY
OF CARE AND
RESILIENCE.**





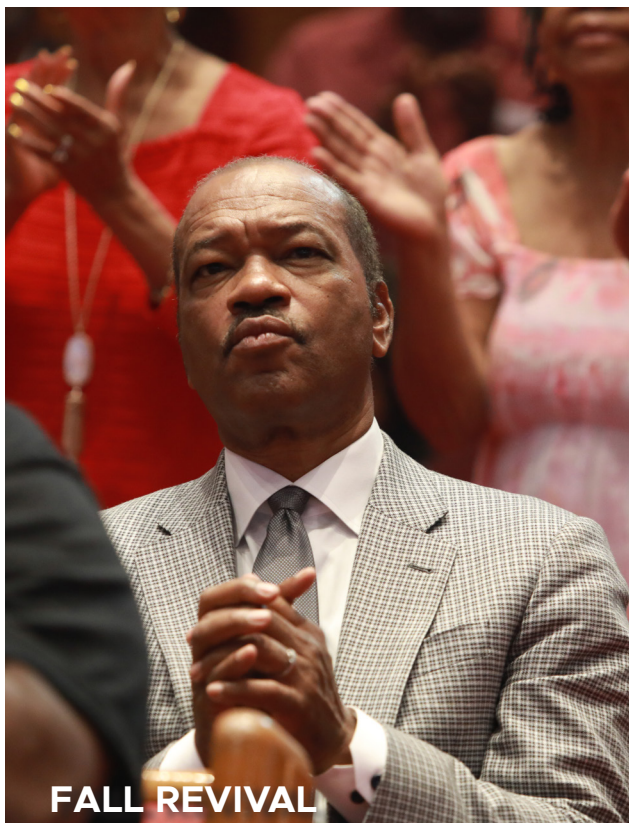
This year's program introduced two new and impactful sessions:

- **Financial Preparedness for Medical Crises:** A knowledgeable speaker guided participants through practical steps to prepare for unexpected medical expenses, offering tools and insights that were both enlightening and empowering.
- **A Sacred Space for Men:** In a safe and supportive environment, men came together to share their personal experiences with prostate and other cancers. This fellowship provided an opportunity for healing, learning, and mutual encouragement.



PHOTOS OF THE QUARTER





A collage of Thanksgiving food items including a roasted turkey, gravy, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, green beans, and pumpkin pie, decorated with autumn leaves and pinecones.

THANKSGIVING BASKET GIVEAWAY

Donations will be accepted through November 16, 2025

Families can be nominated for baskets until November 12, 2025

Volunteers are needed on the day of our giveaway, Monday, November 24th. If interested, we're asking volunteers to arrive at the church at 8am.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY MISSION LIST

Thanksgiving Baskets:

As we prepare to distribute Thanksgiving baskets for the Thanksgiving season you may now begin to bring non-perishable food items as we do each year. We have a list of requested items you may bring in a bag.

- o 2 cans of Corn
- o 2 cans of Green Beans
- o 2 Boxes of Jiffy Mix
- o 2 cans of Cranberry Sauce
- o 1 Box of Stuffing
- o 1 box of Cake Mix
- o 2 cans of candy yams

Food can be dropped off from 8:00AM - 1:00PM, Tuesday through Saturday and Sundays before or after worship services. The deadline for donations is Sunday, November 16th.

We're also offering the option of supplementing the cost of a Thanksgiving basket in the amount of \$50.00. Donors should indicate Thanksgiving Baskets on your envelopes in the other section or in the memo line of some of our electronic means of giving such as cash app and Zelle. PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT ACCEPT EXPIRED ITEMS - PLEASE DO NOT BRING ITEMS THAT ARE NOT ON THE LIST.



CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS



TRUNK OR TREAT
Saturday, October 25, 2025
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

We encourage youth and adults to wear costumes if they choose.

COVUCC.ORG | @COVUCC
FREE TO THE COMMUNITY

TRUNK OR TREAT
OCTOBER 25, 1:00 - 3:00 P.M.



RESISTING PHARAOH:
STANDING FOR JUSTICE IN A BROKEN NATION

SATURDAY NOV. 1ST
9:00AM - 12:30PM

The time we're living in demands a response from people of faith. **Covenant United Church of Christ** and **The People's Lobby Faith Liberation Movement** invite you to a training on how to develop/reinvigorate your social justice ministry to meet the demands of our current time. This workshop will provide strategies for people of faith to organize & stand up against:

- + Federal funding cutbacks to local communities
- + Harsh criminal justice policies
- + Increasing threats to labor rights
- + Federal crackdown on vulnerable migrant populations and
- + The rise of authoritarianism at the federal level

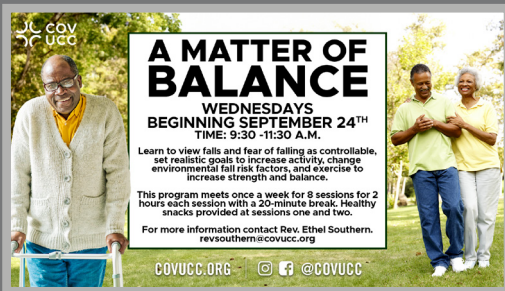
Light breakfast will be provided

Registration required
 Scan QR code to register

Covenant UCC
 1130 E. 154th Street
 South Holland, IL 60473

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RESISTING PHARAOH
NOV 1ST 9:00 - 12:30 P.M.
SCAN TO ACCESS



A MATTER OF BALANCE
WEDNESDAYS
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 24TH
TIME: 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.

Learn to view falls and fear of falling as controllable, set realistic goals to increase activity, change environmental fall risk factors, and exercise to increase strength and balance.

This program meets once a week for 8 sessions for 2 hours each session with a 20-minute break. Healthy snacks provided at sessions one and two.

For more information contact Rev. Ethel Southern.
 revsouthern@covucc.org

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A MATTER OF BALANCE
WEDNESDAYS
9:30 - 11:30 A.M.



M.G.M.
MOTION, GARDENING & MUSIC FOR SENIORS

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 23RD
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
AT 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.

Participants will enjoy:

- Motion with Tai Chi instructor Brian
- Gardening with individual containers
- Music of yesteryear & some of the greatest big bands and jazz musicians of the past and present!

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M.G.M.
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
9:30 - 11:30 A.M.



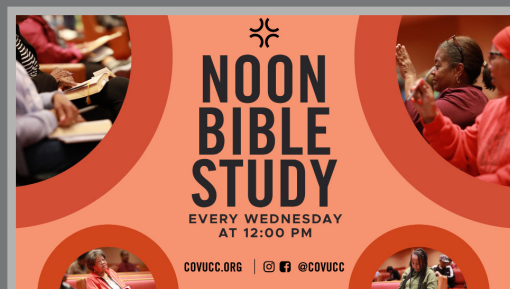
JOIN US FOR THE NEXT MONTHLY COLLEGE CONNECT ZOOM CHECK-IN
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26
AT 7:00 PM

It's just a chance to catch up, share how you're doing, and be encouraged!

Scan QR Code to Access Zoom Meeting
 Meeting ID: 839 7383 6454
 Passcode: 839070

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COLLEGE CONNECT ZOOM
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 7:00 P.M.
SCAN TO ACCESS



NOON BIBLE STUDY
EVERY WEDNESDAY
AT 12:00 PM

COVUCC.ORG | @COVUCC

NOON BIBLE STUDY
EVERY WEDNESDAY AT NOON



IF MY PEOPLE PRAYER CALL
WITH PASTOR PATRICK L. DAYMOND
EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 7:14AM

Dial: (760) 548-9759

COVUCC.ORG | @COVUCC

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



WORD THERAPY
 with Patrick L. Daymond

SEASON 5

MORE WORD. MORE THERAPY. MORE INSIGHT.

Find us on YouTube
 /WordTherapy

New Season starts October 7th

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

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 & TikTok: @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](https://bit.ly/CUCCSouthHollandYouTube)

CHECK US OUT ON TIKTOK

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

FACEBOOK LIVE

Covenant United
Church of Christ

WEBSITE

covucc.org

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South Holland IL 60473
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CHURCH LEADERSHIP & STAFF RESOURCES

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REV. DR. OZZIE E. SMITH, JR.

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BOARD / COMMITTEE / COUNCIL CHAIRS

NIASA HOLLINS-WATSON

Deacon Board

SHIRLEY HALL

Pastoral Relations Committee

JORDAN JONES

Youth Representative

SHANNON STATON

Trustee Board

CONNIE LINDSEY

Financial Oversight Committee

KAY GILES-SLAUGHTER

Member at Large

SCAN TO VISIT
OUR WEBSITE

