



COVENANT MATTERS!

The Newsletter of the Saints at
Covenant Presbyterian Church

May 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Events.....	3
Book Club.....	5
Holy Week.....	8
Youth.....	3
Mission.....	4

STAFF

Rev. Becky Schwandt

Pastor

bschwandt@covpcfm.com

Dr. Warren Apple

Director of Music/Organist

rwa10@hotmail.com

Juan Pablo Oliva

Co-Youth Director

Worship Band Leader

jpablo606@gmail.com

Barbara Sheets

Co-Youth Director

bsheets@covpcfm.com

Deanna Gordon

Administrative Assistant

Membership Coordinator

dgordon@covpcfm.com

Gary Brothers

Facilities Coordinator

gbrothers@covpcfm.com

Mary Callaway

Finance Secretary

callcallaway2@yahoo.com

Barbara Thrasher

Jayson Ford

Custodians

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART:

Everyday Resurrection

As we move beyond Easter Sunday, it can be tempting to tuck away the celebration along with the lilies and pastel decorations. Yet Easter is not simply a day — it is a way of life. Christ's resurrection is not a moment we commemorate once a year but a living reality that shapes who we are every day. As Easter people, we are called to live in the light of the empty tomb, bearing witness to the hope and victory that Jesus has secured.

The resurrection of Jesus changes everything. It is the cornerstone of our faith, the assurance that sin and death have been conquered. Because Christ lives, we too have the promise of new life. This promise invites us to see the world differently — not as a place overcome by darkness and despair, but as a place where God's redemptive power is always at work.

Living as Easter people means living with hope, even when the world gives us every reason to despair. It means trusting that God's love is stronger than hatred, that light is stronger than darkness, and that life is stronger than death. In a culture often marked by fear, cynicism, and division, Easter people are called to be joyful witnesses to the Good News.

Hope is not passive. It is not sitting back and waiting for things to get better on their own. Hope is active. Easter people are called to embody the resurrection by the way we love, serve, and forgive. We are called to be agents of reconciliation, builders of peace, and bearers of joy. Every act of kindness, every word of encouragement, every moment of mercy is a testimony to the risen Christ alive in us.

The early Christians lived this way, often at great cost. They gathered in joy, shared their possessions, cared for the poor, and extended hospitality to strangers. They lived with the constant awareness that the resurrection power of Jesus was not confined to the past but was alive and moving through them. Their lives shone with a light that could not be extinguished, even in the face of persecution.

Today, we are invited to continue this practice. Being Easter people means that we carry resurrection hope into our families, our workplaces, and our communities. It means forgiving even when it is hard, believing in new beginnings when situations seem broken beyond repair, and choosing love when it would be easier to walk away.

This Easter season, let us ask ourselves everyday: How is the resurrection shaping the way I live? How am I embodying the hope of Christ

May Birthdays

- 01 Angelette Arias
- 03 Kathy Engler
- 04 Ellen Moore
Caroline Palmenberg
- 05 Aldin (Al) King
Margie Willis
- 10 Julian Martinez
- 11 Doris Harlacher
Shirley Wagenseil
- 12 Emily Jesswein
- 15 Barb Chapin
Hank Sawyer
- 16 Diane Means
- 17 Ron Bailer
Becky Garrison
- 18 Nancy Kendall
Marylee Grace Mann
- 21 Darci Hillyer
- 22 Ed Christenbury
Sarah Jane Essebagggers
Reed Kaserman
- 25 Juan Pablo Oliva
- 26 Marcia Lopata
- 27 Lois Lee Currie



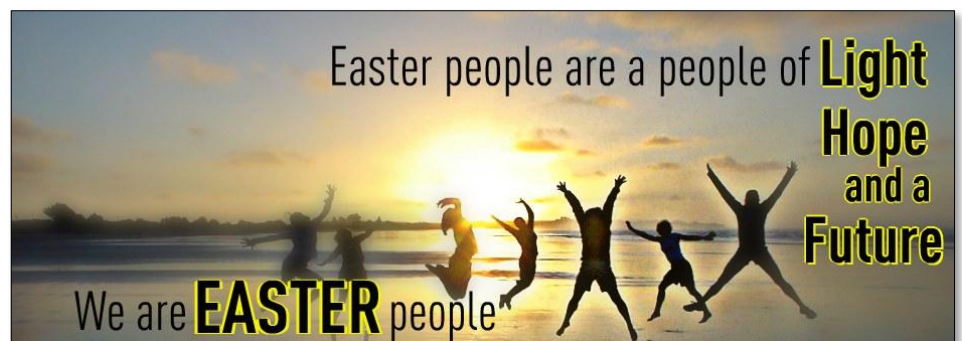
FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART continued:

in my daily actions? Am I allowing the light of Easter morning to shine through me into a world that still needs to see and hear the Good News?

May we never grow tired of proclaiming, in word and in deed: "Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!" And may our lives, lived in the light of the resurrection, be a reflection of the boundless, omnipotent love of God.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Becky

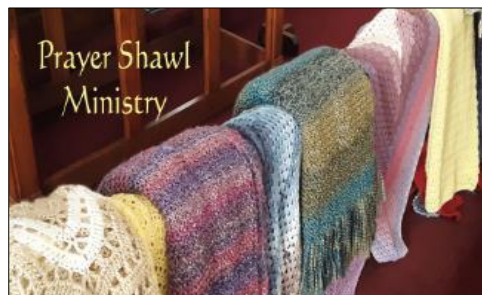


NEEDED!

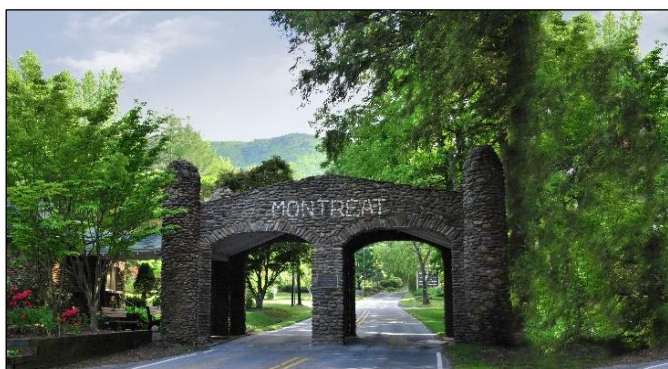
We have several systems around the church that can be run on a cell phone app. Lights and AC units and such. We are in search of a smart phone that one of you might have shoved in the back of a (junk) drawer. It only has to be wi-fi capable. It does not need to be able to make or receive calls. So if you have such a phone laying around you might like to part with for a good cause, please let Pastor Becky or the office know. The best practice is to do a factory reset on it to make sure your photos or information doesn't stay on the phone. If you need help with this, there are a few in the office that can help with that as well.

Thanks so much!





The Prayer Shawl meeting
will be Tuesday, May 27,
2025 at 10AM in room F207.
We encourage any knitters
or crocheters to join us.
We look forward to
seeing you.



The Montreat Youth Conference
July 27-August 2, 2025
Black Mountain, NC

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

May 11	Mother's Day
May 17	All Church Work Day
June 8	Pentecost
June 15	Father's Day
Summer	Summer camp at Cedarkirk
June 23-27	Vacation Bible School!!
July 26-8/2	Montreat Youth Conference

SAVE THE DATE!
FOR VBS~
JUNE 23 ~ 27, 2025



This year's VBS Marketplace will
be held June 23-27, in the evening.
Mark your calendar and sign up at
church to volunteer. Please spread
the word about our VBS.
All kids are welcome!

COME JOIN THE FUN!!

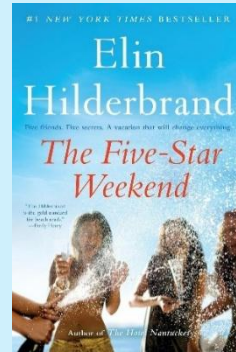
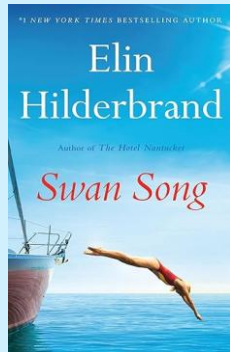
On Friday, April 25th Covenant provided 11 volunteers to help pack food and diapers for distribution at Mision Peniel in Immokalee. Our own Pastor Becky provided transportation by driving the church van! And a number of our members stayed to eat lunch at a local Mexican restaurant. Our next volunteer opportunity in Immokalee will be on May 23rd. Come and join us.



Our terrific volunteer crew managed to serve 124 families with canned goods, pasta, vegetables, bread, ham, and other meats. ***Another great day at Pine Manor!***

Pictured are Dorothy Mae, Anna Lee, Patricia, Madeleine, Juan Pablo, Darci, Barb, Kathy, Allen, Linda, Verona and Chris. Also present but stepped out momentarily, Ellen Moore. The group, representing mission committee members and mission volunteers, met for lunch and fellowship at Burntwood Tavern on April 11th. Thanks to Patricia for organizing this event.

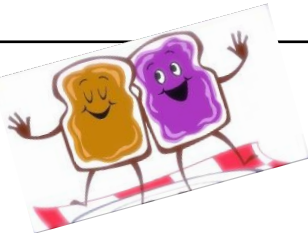




Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.: "The Five Star Weekend" (2023) or "Swan Song" (2024) by Elin Hilderbrand

Overview. *Swan Song* (2024), by popular American writer Elin Hilderbrand, which takes place over one summer in the rarified environs of Nantucket Island, Massachusetts. The reader follows what happens when a wealthy, flamboyant new couple comes to the island and causes chaos and scandal! This book is the last "(#31) Nantucket" book by the author, so it is also her "swan song!" You are invited to join us if you have enjoyed any book in the series!

- **No Book Club Meetings in June, July, or August!!**



Thanks so much to everyone who donated Peanut Butter and Jelly for the Community Cooperative's Drive here in Fort Myers. It will be used to help children who might face food shortages over the summer while they're out of school. Thanks also to the Kaserman family, Rick, Louise and Reed, for delivering our donation to the Cooperative. Our contribution weighed in at 414 pounds! That's a lot of peanut butter!

A BIG THANK YOU! Our church office kitchen has been in need of a new or gently used refrigerator for quite some time. We received a wonderful "Angel Gift" this past week of a gently used refrigerator that is in perfect shape. Now, we will have a refrigerator for receptions and activities held in the courtyard, as well as our volunteers and staff. Thank you to Roz and Wilson Wheeler!

We need your help!

Our sister church in Cuba, El Fuerte, has shared an idea for a new project and has asked for our help. They would like to make clothing for children and others, sell it to community members for a fair price, and raise some funds for the work of their church. Because there are very few consumer goods and supplies available in Cuba, they have asked if we would gather fabric and other sewing supplies to bring or send to them.

Session has given their support to this idea, and we will now be collecting fabric, zippers, thread, etc. throughout the summer months. If you have fabric that might be suitable, please bring it to church. Your abandoned quilt or cast-off sewing project might help make life just a little better for our brothers and sisters in Cardenas. Thank you!



JOIN OUR DRUM CIRCLE! Our brand-new Drum Circle meets the **2nd and 4th Tuesday at 1PM** in room F207. **No experience required!** Just come and enjoy yourselves. Contact Juan Pablo Oliva at jpablo606@gmail.com for more information.



Please remember
Covenant
Presbyterian
Church in
your estate
planning!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER? Summer is rapidly approaching, and camp is just around the corner! Another exciting summer of ministry is about to begin, and we want you to be part of the fun. Camp programs offer a wide variety of activities and adventures: swimming, archery, canoeing, games, high ropes, climbing the rock wall, and building new friendships. All of that, combined with energetic worships and engaging Bible studies make for a meaningful and life-changing week. There is still time to register for a summer you'll always remember. Head over to www.cedarkirk.org/summer for parent information and online registration. We can't wait to welcome you into our community this summer!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.....

All Church Workday

Come join a group of volunteers for a workday at our church.

Let's spruce up the place!

There will be many different activities for different levels of ability.

Join us on Saturday, May 17 at 9:00 AM.



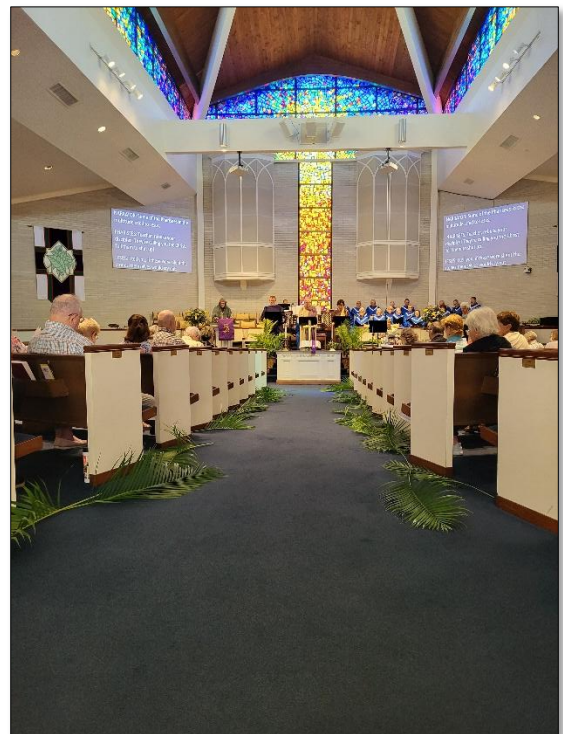
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED... FOUND ONE!

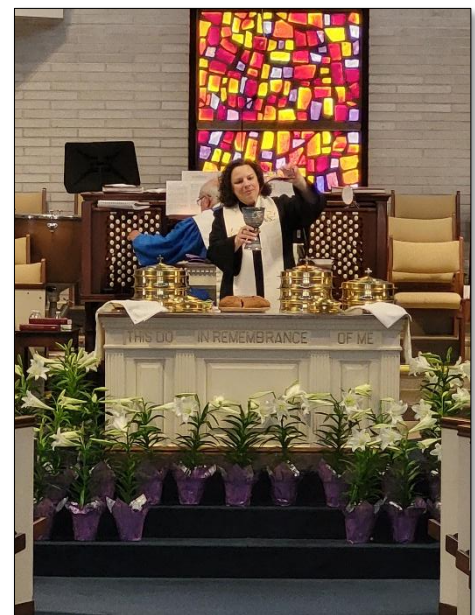


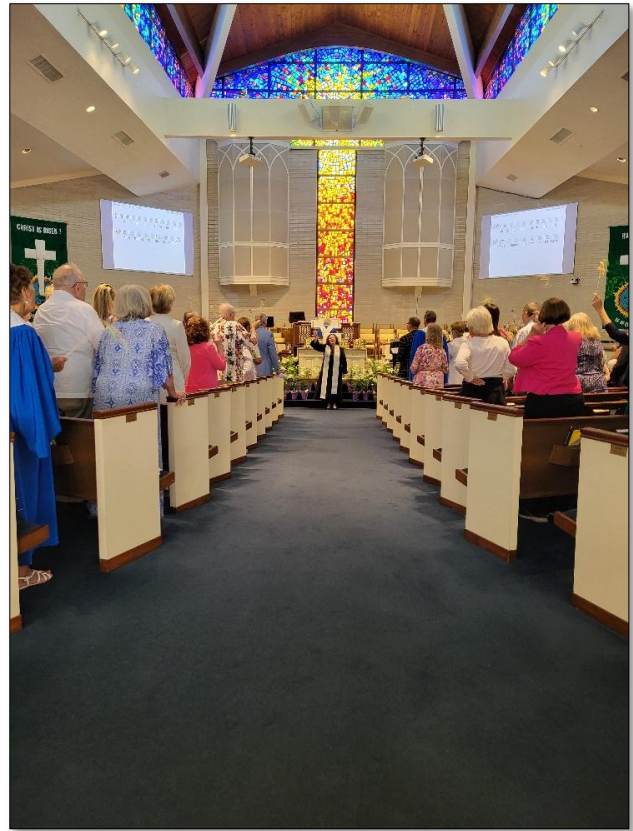
While on vacation, Pastor Becky had the chance to *finally* see and hold a baby alligator.
The big question is: Did she kiss it, too?



Holy Week







Special Recognition to Bev Beardsley for her devotion of over 15 years to the Usher Team and leading the group. *Thank you, Bev!*





Luncheon hosted by the Human Resource Committee in April



In 2015, nearly every country in the world (195 in total) committed to the Paris Agreement. The goal of the Paris Agreement is to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees C, and ideally below 1.5 degrees C, compared to pre-industrial levels. The world is not on track to meet these goals. There is a vast gap between the promises governments have made and the actions they have taken. Many emissions - such as those from international transport and shipping, as well as many of those associated with the military - go unrecorded or are unaccounted for. The Climate Book



MEMORIAL DAY

R E M E M B E R A N D H O N O R



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2439 McGregor Blvd.
Ft. Myers, FL 33901
Phone: 239-334-8937
Website: www.covpcfm.com
Email: info@covpcfm.com