

Love God and Neighbor

Luke 10:27



FIRST COVENANT
CHURCH of Omaha
Celebrating 140 Years

November 18, 2022



FIRST COVENANT
CHURCH of Omaha
Celebrating 140 Years

WORSHIP

EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:45 A.M.

[VIEW LIVE STREAM](#)

First Covenant Church MEMBERSHIP CLASS



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GOD &
NEIGHBOR



Membership Class

**Sunday, December 4th
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.**

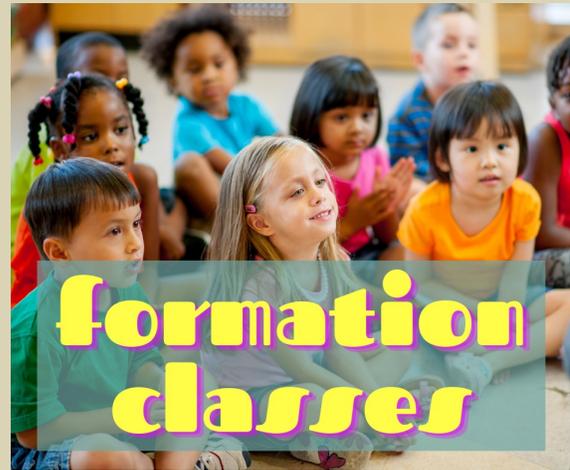
Considering membership at First Covenant Church? There is a Membership class on Sunday, December 4th at 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Come learn more about our church.

Formation Classes

This Sunday, **November 20th** there will be **NO** formation classes at 9:30 a.m. for any age group.

Worship will be at our normal time of 10:45 a.m. After the service we will have a special celebration of our Stewardship commitments.
Please join us!

Advent formation classes will begin on Sunday, November 27th at 9:30 a.m. for all ages.



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS THIS SUNDAY



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Blood Pressure Screening this Week

This Sunday there will be blood pressure screenings. Volunteers will be set up in the Lower Commons.

If you are a health care professional, we are looking for volunteers to help with Blood Pressure monitoring next year. We do them once a month and would need your help 3-4 times next year. If you can help, please let Linda Lenser know. Thank you for your help with this ministry.

[Click here to email Linda Lenser](#)

Communion Servers

Would you like to participate in the ministry of serving communion in 2023?

Generally you serve approximately 4 Sundays during the year. If you are interested or would like to learn more about it, [Click here to email Mary Andrews.](#)

[The Lord] has given us a table at which to feast, not an altar on which a victim is to be offered; He has not consecrated priests to make sacrifice, but servants to distribute the sacred feast.

John Calvin





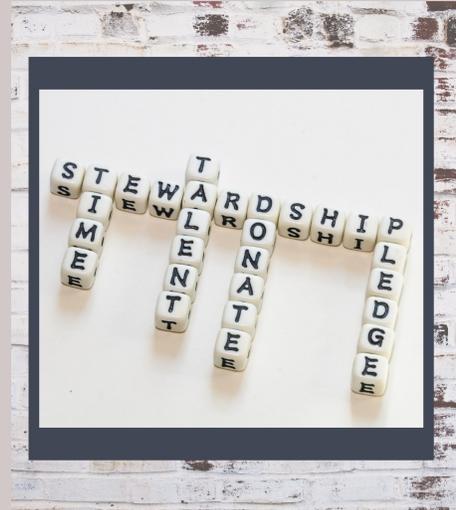
Journey with us
into Advent
this Christmas
Season

Advent Formation

During Advent we will be using the devotional book *Shadow & Light* by Tsh Oxenreider for our formation time. If you would like to purchase a copy you can order one at the [Tsh Oxenreider website](https://www.tshoxenreider.com/). The church will also have a few copies for purchase; they are \$15.00 each.

Stewardship Sunday

As we approach Stewardship Sunday, please prayerfully consider what you will pledge of your time, talents and finances for the upcoming year. We will bring our pledges this **Sunday, November 20th** to present during the service and will have a time of celebration after the service. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of how you will participate in the Life of our church.



Deck the Halls

Deck the Halls...of church!
Join us on Tuesday,
November 29th to decorate
the church for Christmas. We
will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the
Sanctuary.
Come when you can.
All are welcome!!

Global Dinner Experience

Join the Love the World team for dinner at Okra African Grill on December 2nd from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. We will enjoy delicious, slow-cooked African food while enjoying fellowship with one another. We also have the opportunity to hear from Nina about her passion for cooking and sharing her Togolese culture with her neighbors in Omaha. You will choose what to order from the menu.



OWLS - Julbord Potluck & Bingo

(Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors)

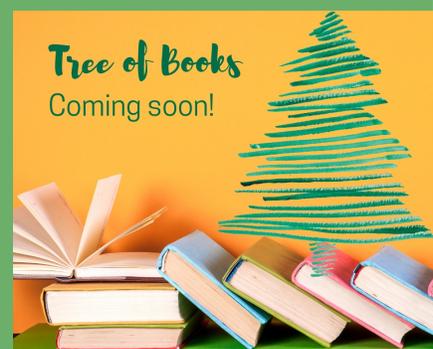
Saturday, December 3rd
4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Join us for a traditional Swedish dinner followed by Bingo games. If you are able, please bring 2 dishes from this selection: Main dish/Side dish/Breads/Dessert. If you have a Swedish dish to share, that would be wonderful but ANY dish is appreciated!

Vi hoppas att du kan komma!
(We hope that you can come!)

Tree of Books

Coming soon! Watch for more information next week.



Scriptures This Week:

Sunday Worship Scriptures:

John 2:1-8

Read the Scripture at the
end of this newsletter



5 Minutes with Tip & Patrick Boonrang

The Companion chats with Covenant global personnel Tip and Patrick Boonrang, regional coordinators in Asia for the Serve Globally mission priority. In this role they provide support and care for global personnel and partners.

Read more of their story at the
end of this newsletter.

Mark Your Calendars!

Nov 18-20 Student Ministries - High School Retreat

**Nov 20 NO Formation Classes at 9:30 a.m.
Stewardship Sunday**

**Nov 27 First Sunday in Advent
Formation Classes at 9:30 a.m.**

Nov 29 Decorate church for Christmas - 6:00 p.m.

Dec 2 Love the World - Global Dinner Experience

Dec 3 OWLS - Julbord Potluck & Bingo - 4:00 p.m.

**WORSHIP SERVICE
LIVE STREAM
AVAILABLE**

Join our [Live Stream](#),
Sunday at 10:30 a.m.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Homebound

Bjarne
Charlotte
Dorothy
Jim
June
Lorraine
Marian
Naida
Pat M

Ongoing Needs

Alaina
Barb
Carla
Charlene
Dan
Juergen
Ruth
Sally

5 Minutes with Tip and Patrick Boonrang

Jelani Greenidge
September 26, 2022

The Companion chats with Covenant global personnel Tip and Patrick Boonrang, regional coordinators in Asia for the Serve Globally mission priority. In this role they provide support and care for global personnel and partners. They have participated in more than 60 medical mission trips and also work with differently abled people.



Can you tell us how you came to faith in Jesus?

Patrick: For both of us, our background is Buddhist since we were born. The first time I heard people talking about Jesus was my senior year at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. One of the students was from California, and he asked me, “Do you know Jesus Christ?” I told him, “I don’t know, maybe he studies engineering next door. Maybe you can find him there?” He just started laughing.

I was very deep into Buddhism, I was the president of the Buddhist club at my university. At one point I even decided to stop my studies and become a Buddhist monk. I thought if I could make myself pure and holy that I could go to heaven faster. During that break from school, I tried to keep the 227 laws of a monk. But after awhile I felt like something was wrong, because I was still the same me.

When I returned to my studies, this guy from California started sharing the gospel with me—that God loved me and Jesus died on a cross for me. That was really interesting to me. And I thought, *Okay I have to learn more about that.*

I started going to church, and I eventually met Tip. The pastor there started preaching about forgiveness. All my life I’ve had problems with forgiveness. I was the youngest child growing up, and my parents never apologized to me. So I grew up sort of strong,

and when I did wrong, I could never say I was sorry. And I never knew how to forgive or be forgiven. So when the pastor talked about forgiveness, I started to cry.

The next week I went back, and when the pastor talked about it again, it was like a miracle. I felt like, *This is what I need. This Jesus, maybe he's the real God.* So I prayed to receive Christ at that church. That was the beginning for me.

Eventually I got connected with Campus Crusade for Christ (now known as Cru), I was baptized and joined the staff there.

I left the university and stepped into serving God full-time.

Tip: My family grew up in northeastern Thailand in a poor, farming area. My dad was a construction worker, and we moved around a lot. When I was five, we moved to Bangkok, and my neighbor called me "Laos" all the time, because Laos borders Thailand, and [in that context] it's kind of a derogatory term. Even though I was Thai, I was still segregated from others a lot.

So, to fit in with my friends, I would swear a lot, even though good Buddhists don't swear. But I would lie and swear, just to fit in with the kids in my community. Once I stole something, and I was arrested, and that brought shame to my family. I was scared because the book of Buddha said I would drown in an ocean of vomit for 500 years to pay the penalty. I was only in fifth or sixth grade, and I couldn't even swim yet.

At that point, the only thing I knew about Jesus was from when we studied world religions in school and the teacher told me Christianity was the poorest religion because they had no image of their God to worship—unlike Buddhists who had thousands of idols to worship. All Christians had was their imagination, I was told. That seemed uninteresting to me.

But I met a woman who was a doctor, and she started telling me that Jesus loved me, died for me, and that I could receive Christ and have a new life. She also told me that she grew up poor, just like I did. For two years, I kept coming back to her clinic. Her expression of faith really impressed me, and I thought, *Wow, I want to be like her.* She was my picture of Jesus.



When I first started going to church, I noticed that unlike the Buddhist people, who were really quiet when they went to temple, the Christians would sing and yell and clap their hands. As I learned more, I realized that having a relationship with God was a personal thing. That you could know God and God could know you personally. After a while, I accepted Christ because I wanted to know a real God like that.

How did you get connected with the Covenant?

Patrick: We met Bob and Grace Shim back in 2010 through some missions groups in Bangkok. Because Bob is a doctor, he'd brought some medical teams to Thailand, and they needed interpreters. Shortly before Bob stepped down from his position as regional coordinator to take a job with the State Department, he encouraged us to step into the role because of our experiences and knowing the culture well.



As people who are indigenous to the region, what does it mean to you to be regional coordinators?

Tip: At first, I wasn't that confident. We'd been working here in Thailand for about 30 years, But when Bob mentioned "Serve Globally" I thought, I'm not sure if I can do that!

"Global" is a big word, right?

Tip: Yeah, and we have high standards when it comes to mission work, because we've seen a lot people doing an ineffective job at it. At first, I wanted to tell Bob no, because we've been involved in a lot of big organizations, and we fly here and there and have no time to really make disciples.

But the Covenant folks impressed me. They weren't just coming to do a training and then going on vacation and writing reports. We started sitting in on Zoom meetings, learning about the mission priorities and hearing about what the Covenant is doing to help start and strengthen churches, and we got really excited about doing that, because so many churches in Asia are alone and need support.

One thing churches here in Asia have been trained to do is copy everything in Western churches. That's why there have been missionaries here for 170 years already, but so many of them are ineffective. We both grew up knowing nothing about Jesus, so we want to help contextualize Jesus to our culture.



About the Author - Jelani Greenidge

Jelani Greenidge is the missional storyteller for the Evangelical Covenant Church and ministers in and around Portland, Oregon, as a worship musician, cultural consultant, and stand-up comic.

Sunday Scripture

Nov. 20, 2022

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."