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Covenant Presbyterian Church

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Lent

By Pastor Jay

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
— Psalm 22:1

Dear Friends:

Lent begins this year on February 22. It's a Wednesday. Ash Wednesday we call it. At 5:30 p.m. we will join together for our annual Ash Wednesday soup supper followed by a special Ash Wednesday worship service at 6:30. There is a lot to like about the Season of Lent. Do you suppose we could get Andy Williams or Johnny Mathis or Celine Dion to sing a song about Lent... *It's the most...* For one thing the name "Lent" comes from the Old English word "lengten" (lengthen). It's the time of year when days are getting noticeably longer. Spring is coming. New life will soon burst forth... *wonderful time...* Traditionally, it was a season when God's people prepared for Easter by reminding themselves of their complete dependence upon God by fasting,

praying and denying themselves various creature comforts (You find out very quickly how much you need and crave foods when you stop eating them!)... *of the year?...*

Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras day), by the way, is a perversion of this season of preparation-through-self-denial idea. It approaches the Season of Lent in a formalistic and legalistic way: "On Wednesday I have to start denying myself things I like, so on Tuesday I'm going to indulge in every attractive sensual self-centered

Continued on Page 2 ►



practice I can imagine. I'll spend all of Lent paying back the debt of sin I'll run up during Mardi Gras." The fallacy is that we can pay our own debt through religious acts. The tragedy is that the goal of an ongoing vital love relationship with our gracious Heavenly Father is traded for the illusion of peace with the Almighty and Holy Judge through a balance of moral trade—our self-denying acts of goodness can equal the weight of our self-indulging sins. Nope. Won't happen. Can't happen.

But here is something remarkable to consider... Ash Wednesday, like all of the Season of Lent, is fixed on the calendar according to Easter. It's always a Wednesday because it always comes 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays). You can't figure out when to have an Ash Wednesday Service until you figure out when to celebrate Easter. There is no special time to remember our "dust to dust"

frailty and mortality and utter dependence without the more special time to remember the "He is risen!" strength and immortality and utter faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ who, by grace through faith, shares His eternal life with us. Now that's something to think about for a while.

The reality of God's goodness and grace precedes and transcends the reality of our desperate condition and our total need of Him. God isn't good because we need Him: We need Him because He is good. The very fact that we recognize our need and lament our sinfulness is a testimony to God's glory *before and more than* it is a confession of our brokenness. The universe really is God-centered rather than Man-centered or Me-centered, and that is good news for all of us!

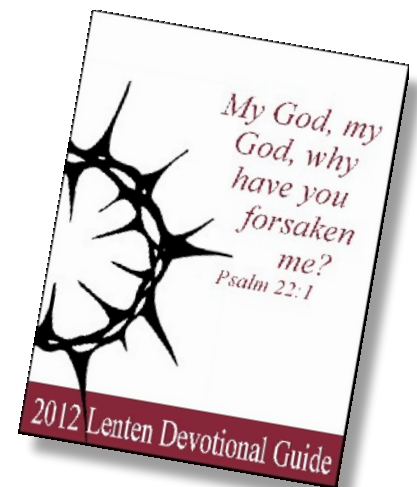
There is a lot to like about the Season of Lent, and this year here at Covenant we are going to add one more thing: Our Worship Ministry Team members are producing a *2012 Lenten Devotional Guide* for us all to use in this wonderful time of preparing for Easter. This guide will feature Old Testament prophecies concerning Jesus, New Testament commentary on the

meaning of His death and resurrection, and the Story of Jesus' Passion told in the four Gospels. Each week, beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing through Easter Sunday, there will be a devotional thought, Bible readings and guides for daily prayer. I encourage you to pick up one of these booklets and use it during the 40 days before Resurrection Sunday.

I'm looking forward to spending another "most wonderful time of the year" with you here at Covenant.

Your Partner in the Cause of Christ,

Pastor Jay



Pick up a copy of the 2012 Lent Devotional from the Narthex or download a copy from our website. Devotionals will come out around Ash Wednesday.

Chimes Newsletter Submissions

E-mail:

chimes@covenant-reno.org or
julie@covenant-reno.org

Church Office:

Place articles & submissions on
the desk in office

To be a part of the Chimes "Creative
Team" contact [Julie Minedew](#)

Deadline for the March Issue:

February 5th

**"Reason and experience both forbid us to
expect that national morality can prevail
in exclusion of religious principle."**

—George Washington

Family Ministry Update

By Danny Fierro, Director of Family Ministry

Recap-Family New Year's Eve Movie Night

"This was a great way for us to end the year." That is the quote that permeated the church on Saturday night as we came together as a church to have a family potluck and enjoy the movie **Courageous** together. We had over 60 people attend this event with other churches participating with us as well as members of the community.

Following the movie The Covenant Youth rang in the New Year with The Fierro's at our home. Twenty youth group kids enjoyed games, roasting marshmallows and noisemaker fun at midnight!

I believe this will be the start of a Covenant Family Tradition! Thank you to Tony Wildey and our Fellowship Ministry Team for their support in this event. By the way...Covenant now owns a public viewing license for **Courageous** for the entire year! If you would like to show this as a church event to your group, please let me know.

Pioneer Club Pine Car Derby

Pioneer Club is in need of volunteers for our Pine Car Derby. We have three areas in which we are looking for help:

- **Car Design on February 4th**-Mike Blakely will be

opening up his wood shop to our club in order to design cars. I need leaders to provide leadership for the kids in order to make this happen. Please contact me if you would like to be a part of this.

- **Derby Day - March 3rd**-I am seeking the assistance of any church members who have experience with Pine Car Derby. This is my first year and I want to make this a fun experience that the kids will enjoy for years to come. Please contact me if you will offer your assistance.
- **Baked Goods**-We would like to have a bake sale selling snacks that can be eaten while the derby is taking place. Proceeds will go to fund the Pioneer Club.

Acquire the Fire/ Six Flags Youth Event

On **April 12th-14th**, Adam and I will be taking a group of teens down to Sacramento for a day at **Six Flags** and the **Acquire the Fire** youth event. This has been a transformational event for the faith of many teenagers that I know personally. The cost will be \$70 per person. We will partner with the following churches for this event:

The Bridge Church of Reno
First Christian Church of Carson City
Silver Hills Community Church of Carson City

We will also need adult leadership for this event. Please contact me if you are willing to give of your time to lead and connect with our youth.

VBS Planning Committee

Kathy Ludwig and I are currently seeking volunteers for our VBS Planning Committee. With the explosion of our Wednesday night program **Pioneer Club**, we expect a record number of kids this year. This is a great outreach opportunity and we are looking for input from our faith family on how to reach not only the children, but parents as well. Please contact me if you are interested in this worthwhile program for our church.✝



Women's Bible Study

By Kay Blakely

The Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study will be studying the second half of *The Power of a Praying Woman* by Stormie OMartian, and using the supplemental study guide that goes along with it. If you weren't with us for the first half of the book it won't matter. You can jump in with us in studying timeless truths about prayer. We meet at Covenant in the corner classroom at 9:00 am and end by 11:30 am. Women of all ages are welcome. The cost of both books are \$20. For more information please contact Kay Blakely. †

*"I have come to know that
God can smooth my path,
calm the storms, keep me
and all I care about safe,
and even make my way
simple when*

*I ask Him to carry the
complexities of Life for me.
But these things don't just
happen.*

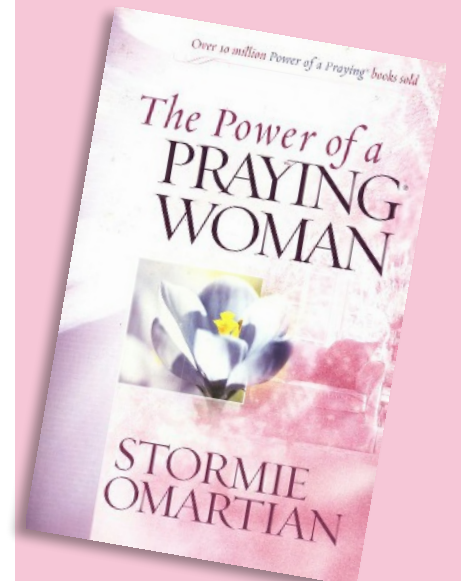
*Not without Prayer."
-Stormie OMartian*

Class Information

Wednesday Mornings
January 11 - April 4, 2012

9:00 am to 11:30 am

Cost: \$20
(book & workbook)



Join Us In Celebrating "The Joy of Cookbooks" at Our Annual Ladies Luncheon

By Connie Benedict

Ladies, save the date March 10 for the annual Ladies Luncheon. The event will begin at noon, and will cost \$6 per person.



Many women find themselves on the receiving end of family cookbooks or old kitchen gadgets, often with great stories and memories attached.

Or with great questions such as, "What in the world was this used for?"

The CPC Fellowship Ministry Team invites ladies to bring their cookbooks or "whatsits" and share the connected story with others at the annual spring luncheon. Ladies who would like to host a table are invited to bring four or eight place settings of dishes, flatware,

cups and saucers, and glassware, as well as a table covering, napkins, and a centerpiece, if desired. If you are sponsoring a four-person table, please also bring a card table. Eight-person tables will be provided and round tablecloths are available if needed.

Reservations are required, especially if you plan to host a table, and pre-payment is requested. Signups will begin February 12. A check-list for hostesses will be available at that time. †

Marriage for the Glory of God at Covenant

By Danny Fierro

Marriage is a gift of God and the image that God gives us for the relationship between Himself and his bride the church. In a cultural context in which marriage is increasingly difficult for many people, it is reassuring that there are many marriages which endure happily and faithfully for the glory of God.

Marriage is valued less than it used to be in our world. This is evidenced by the current rate of marital breakdown and the prevalence of relationships in which couples live together without the commitment necessary for marriage. We should be concerned that our children are often led to believe that marriage is perhaps not the most enjoyable privilege. At Covenant Presbyterian Church we place a high value on marriage and doing whatever is necessary to celebrate, promote, and restore healthy marriage for the glory of God.

It is so important that we take time to focus on our marriages, learn how to fight for our marriages, and celebrate marriages which are

examples of love and commitment to each other, our family, and to God. Indeed it is remarkable that we do not celebrate our marriages more frequently.

Marriage is a private place but it has a public importance, it is so important that we are able to pass a legacy of our belief in marriage to the next generation of believers.

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."

- Ephesians 5:31-33

Marriage Teaching Series

This winter/spring Pastor Jay will be teaching a class on marriage on Wednesday nights following our LifeLine Wednesday dinner. Together we will examine what God's design is for marriage and how we can place a high value on the institution that God has

given us as a special union uniquely designed by God to reflect his relationship with us. This will not only be a great opportunity for growth in our own walk with Christ but will be a great outreach opportunity to those that you know that would like to learn how to build a healthy marriage.

Church Marriage Covenant Renewal Ceremony

In May 2012 Covenant Presbyterian Church will be providing an opportunity for you to make a public testimony of your commitment to marriage as part of our first Church Family Marriage Covenant Renewal Ceremony. This service is an opportunity for rejoicing and thanking God for marriage at Covenant.

Couples will have the opportunity to renew their vows in mass and make a covenant between each other and this church family to honor our marriages together. It should also be an encouragement to our children and grandchildren that marriages really can be a source of God's richest blessing for our lives.

If you would like to make a public expression of your commitment to your marriage this year, please contact me and we will talk about the details.

Danny Fierro, Director of Family Ministry✝

danny@covenant-reno.org

FOR YOUR
MARRIAGE

St. Valentine's Day

St. Valentine was a priest who was executed around 270 A.D. There are many things we don't know about this martyr, but there are numerous, sometimes conflicting, stories about his life and death. One says that he was slain for performing weddings in secret after the Roman Emperor, Claudius II, had outlawed them. Another legend says it was because he helped Christians escape from brutal Roman prisons.

In 498 A.D., just over 200 years after Valentine's execution, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 as St. Valentine's Day. Valentine's love for God and humanity has made him "the patron of love" in the

Roman Catholic Church and for people around the world.

By the mid-1700s it was common practice for friends and sweethearts to exchange trinkets made in the shape of hearts or to send handwritten notes of affection on February 14. It's believed that Valentine himself sent the first "valentine" while imprisoned. He is said to have written a letter to a young girl who visited him in prison just before his death. He signed the letter, "From your Valentine," a sentiment still used today. †



WANTED!!!

Female Discippler of Teenage Women

High School Youth Group in Need of Volunteer to Provide Female Leadership

Job Duties: sacrificing time, leadership, teaching, modeling a life pursuing holiness, a shoulder to cry on, availability, and in some cases mothering

Job Hazards: Mood swings, stubbornness, overcoming a secular worldview, talking about the tough questions of teenage life, apathy toward you, rejection of what you tell them is best according to God's word, a broken heart, and a high risk of loving these wonderful ladies as much as you would your own children

Pay: Jewels in a crown to be distributed at a later, heavenly, date

For More Information Contact Danny Fierro, Director of Family Ministry

Church Staff

Pastor

Jay Hull

Director of Family Ministry

Danny Fierro

Musical Arts Director

Denell Hull

Children's Ministry Director

Stefany Berry

Youth Director

Adam Hemsley

Office Coordinator

Barbara Mize

Office Assistants

John Kanuch

Julie Minedew

Clerk of Session

Kay Blakely

Chimes Publisher

Julie Minedew

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Evangelism

Kevin Nolen

Tony Wildey

Fellowship

TJ Hill

Mission

Jim Hemsley

Personnel

Martha Aiyuk

Patty Geiger

Worship

Samuel Dueñas

Chris Rhodes

Deacons

Dale & Mary Anderson

Ann Christie

Meg Davis

Jayne Engel

Rick & Sylvia Fields

Roby Monson

Jennifer Oliver

Rita Ringle

Beth Wicks

Lisa Wilson

Per Capita Member Apportionment for 2012

Are you a member of Covenant? If so... each year in mid February, every Presbyterian Church pays a per member assessment fee that is used to support essential administrative expenses by the national organization (General Assembly), regional (Synod), and state (Presbytery of Nevada). The amount per member this year is \$35; \$6.63

is allocated to the national organization and the balance of \$28.37 supports our regional and state organizations. If you use the box set of envelopes, the blue envelope in the front of the set is for this collection. Please write "per capita" on the memo line of your check. Because the per capita fee is due by the church by Feb. 15th, it would be extremely helpful if



you would pay your member apportionment before that date.

Thank you,

The Administration Ministry Team†

Treasurer's Report December 2011		
	MTD	YTD
<u>General Fund</u>		
Revenue	\$32,192	\$350,993
Expense	\$37,312	\$363,894
Net	-\$5,120	-\$12,901
Interest Income	\$1	\$156
Net	\$5,119	-\$12,745
<u>Building Fund</u>		
Revenue	\$585	\$47,598
Expense	\$0	\$1,300
Net	\$585	\$46,298
<u>Parking Lot Loans Paid</u>		
	\$0	\$26,000

A day hemmed in
prayer is less likely to
unravel.
—Unknown

Beatitudes of a Christian Marriage

Author Unknown

♥ **BLESSED** are they who love their mate more than any other person in the world and joyfully fulfill their vows of fidelity and respect for one another.

♥ **BLESSED** are those mates who forgive each other and make their home a place of rest.

♥ **BLESSED** are the husband and wife who continue to be affectionate, considerate and loving years after the wedding bells have ceased ringing.

♥ **BLESSED** are the husband and wife who are as polite and courteous to one another as they are to their friends.

♥ **BLESSED** are the husband and wife who faithfully work together for the Lord.

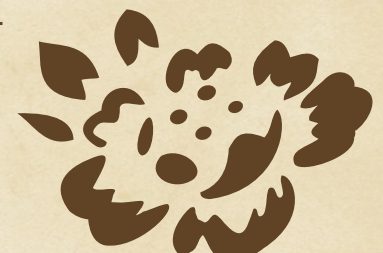
♥ **BLESSED** are those mates who never criticize or speak loudly to one another and who instead quietly discuss their disagreements and work toward solutions.

♥ **BLESSED** is the couple who understands that money is on loan from God to fulfill His purposes.

♥ **BLESSED** are the husband and wife who humbly dedicate their lives and home to Christ by loving all who enter.

♥ **BLESSED** are they who remember to thank God for their food and set aside time each day to read the Bible and pray.

†



The Covenant Chimes is a
publication of:

Covenant Presbyterian Church

6695 Mae Anne Avenue
Reno, Nevada 89523
www.covenant-reno.org

Sunday Services

8:30 am

Contemporary Worship Service

10:00 am

Sunday School

11:00 am

Traditional Worship Service



5:45 p.m.
Dinner

6:15-7:30 p.m.
Adult Marriage Class

Mothers of Preschoolers
(MOPS)

Jr. High Youth Group

Pioneer Club (Kids
Pre K-5th Grade)

Nursery Care (Kids birth
through 3 years old)



LifeLine Wednesday

Covenant's Mid-Week Program for the Entire Family

Reaching out with the message and love of Christ

Covenant

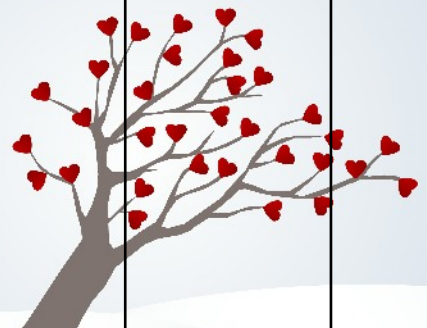
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
We ought not to be weary of doing ♥ little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed. ♥ ♥ -Brother Lawrence (1605-1691) ♥			1 9:00 am Women's B.S. 3:00 pm Pioneer Club 5:45 pm LLW 6:15 pm JH Youth Group 7:45 pm Praise Team	2 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 Love & Respect Seminar in Castro Valley ♥	4 7:45 am Men's Bible Study
5 Chimes Deadline 6:00 pm HS Youth Group	6	7 9:30 am Florence Circle	8 9:00 am Women's B.S. 3:00 pm Pioneer Club 5:45 pm LLW 6:15 pm JH Youth Group MOPS 7:45 pm Praise Team	9 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal ♥	10	11 7:45 am Men's Bible Study
12 6:00 pm HS Youth Group			15 9:00 am Women's B.S. 3:00 pm Pioneer Club 5:45 pm LLW 6:15 pm JH Youth Group 7:45 pm Praise Team	16 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 ♥	18 7:45 am Men's Bible Study
19 6:00 pm HS Youth Group	20 President's Day Holiday Church Office Closed	21 1:00 pm Martha Circle	22 9:00 am Women's B.S. 3:00 pm Pioneer Club 5:45 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Worship Service	23 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 Elder's Retreat ♥	25 7:45 am Men's Bible Study
26 6:00 pm HS Youth Group	27	28 ♥	29 9:00 am Women's B.S. 3:00 pm Pioneer Club 5:45 pm LLW 6:15 pm JH Youth Group 7:45 pm Praise Team			



Celebrate February

Sticky Toffee Pudding

This recipe was given to me by my mother-in-law following her trip to England. The cake-like pudding is just the best smothered with toffee sauce. - Julie

Birthdays

- 3 Reshell Rodriguez
- 4 Sylvia Fields
Shauntel Doyle
- 6 Jacqueline Wicks
- 7 Jessica Gerou
- 8 Jim Gravelyn
George Peters
- 10 JB Thornton
- 14 Stefany Berry
- 17 Joan Lynam
- 18 Ginny Chilton
- 20 Dorothy Mburia
- 21 Mariah Fierro
- 23 Lorrie Ford
- 25 Joanne Dickson
- 27 Nina DeVore
Zelda Forgey

Pudding:

- 1 3/4 cups dates, pitted and chopped
- 1 1/2 cups boiling water to cover dates
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/3 cup butter
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/8 cups flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt

Toffee Sauce:

- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup butter
- 2/3 cup heavy cream or evaporated milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract



1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. In a small bowl combine the dates and baking soda. Pour enough boiling water over the dates to just cover them.
3. In a separate bowl, cream 1/3 cup of butter with the white sugar until light. Beat in the eggs and mix well to combine.
4. Add the flour and date mixture (including water) to the egg mixture and fold to combine. Pour the batter into one 8 inch round baking pan.
5. Bake at 350 degrees F for 30 to 40 minutes. Let cool, slice and serve with warm caramel sauce.
6. To Make Toffee Sauce: In a small saucepan combine the brown sugar, heavy cream or evaporated milk, vanilla and 1/3 cup butter. Cook over medium heat and bring to boil. Turn heat down and simmer for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve immediately.

Servings: 10