



Covenant Baptist Church

Reformed and Refreshing

December 1st, 2019

Welcome to Covenant Baptist Church. We are a Reformed church committed to three things:

- **The Exaltation of God**

We desire that the people at Covenant truly understand who God is and His rightful place in their lives as their Lord and sovereign Savior.

- **The Edification of the Saints**

We consider it extremely important to correctly teach the Bible, verse by verse, so we can properly have the Holy Spirit apply it to our lives.

- **The Evangelization of the Sinner**

We understand that God has given us the responsibility to be stewards of the Gospel and that means sharing it exactly like God gave it to us with those who need Jesus.

<https://covenantbaptistsc.org>

Covenant Baptist Church Schedule

Bible Education Hour (Systematic Theology)
~ 9:30 A.M.

Sunday Worship ~ 10:30 A.M.

Wednesday Prayer Service ~ 7:00 P.M.

*(We are not interested in traditional worship
or contemporary worship. We are only
interested in true worship.)*

~

Order of Worship
(December 1st, 2019)

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee—23

Prayer and Scripture Reading:
Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25

I Sing the Mighty Power of God—26

How Deep the Father's Love for Us—80

Message: The Fruit of Regeneration
—Luke 17:11-19

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: Behold Our God—126

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Upcoming cleaning volunteers:

November 30: Kyzer (D/P & K/R)
December 7: Shaffer
December 14: Crapps/McSween

Deacon on-call list:

November 24: Colonel Rogers
December 1: Burt Lanier
December 8: James Campbell

Church Bookstore:

Purchases (cash only) can be made by seeing Annsley or Cristan Smoak, or following the instructions left near the bookstore entrance.

Announcements—December 1st, 2019

No Greek class tonight

—
We will observe the Lord's Table on December 8th. Please pray and prepare your heart for this important time of worship.

—
Our 2nd Sunday dinner will be held next Sunday, the 8th. This will also be the church Christmas dinner. Please plan to bring a dish to share, and stay for the fellowship.

—
On December 15, immediately after the service, we will celebrate baptism. Please plan to stay for this important part of our service.

—
Please contact Chris Waddell if you can help with cleaning the church between now and the end of the year. We have a few openings. Also let Chris know if you could like to be added to the cleaning list for the coming year.

—
Moms and kids (any age!): there will be a cookie exchange and gingerbread decorating activity on Friday, Dec 13 at 10:30 AM here at the church. If you would like to participate, please RSVP to Kerri Olds. You will need to bring cookies for the exchange, and your own gingerbread house. If you want to have pizza for lunch, plan to contribute \$5 and let Kerri know so she can order accordingly.

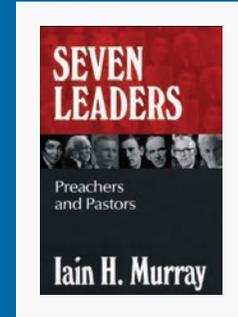
—
This year we again plan to help with the Kenya orphan ministry by providing the funds needed to purchase clothes and uniforms for Christmas. We will accept donations through December 8. The uniforms are much-needed items for the children. If you would like to give toward this project, just earmark your check or envelope "Kenya Orphans Christmas".

Boys:	Girls:	Boys and Girls:
- Sweater: \$19.45	- Jacket: Large-\$19.35,	- Underwear: \$4.84
- Uniform (shirt + trousers): \$30.96	Small-\$17.41	- Shoes: Large-\$27.09
- Socks: \$1.74	- Sweater: \$17.41	Small/medium-\$17.41
	- Uniform: \$27.09	
	- Socks: \$2.42	

Book of the Week:

Seven Leaders: Pastors and Teachers

Iain Murray



Spiritual leaders lead people to heaven. These are accounts of seven such men, together with the distinctive features of their lives--in John Elias, the necessity of the power of the Holy Spirit; in Andrew Bonar, the reality of communion with Christ; in Archie Brown, the irresistibility of love; in Kenneth MacRae, the need for faithfulness to death; in Martyn Lloyd-Jones, theology and doctrine; in W.J. Grier, passing on the 'sacred deposit'; and in John MacArthur, the governing authority of the word of God. Hardcover.

Read more and purchase at: <https://www.amazon.com/Seven-Leaders-Teachers-Iain-Murray/dp/1848717393>

Reserve Your Seat | G3 2020 2 Months...

“Worship Matters!

“We are only two months away from the 2020 G3! Take time to register for your seat and save the date for a big weekend focused on spiritual renewal and growth through God’s Word.

“As we make our plans for the upcoming G3 Conference, we are excited! Not only will we have three days of fellowship, ministry connections, and free resources available to us—but of most importance will be our opportunity to focus for three days on the theme of worship and to engage in the worship of God.

“Make your plans now to be in Atlanta for this extremely important conference for the local church.”

Read more at: g3conference.com

Reserve your seat at:
<https://g3conference.com/events/>

True worship must worship God as He exists, not as we wish Him to be. The essence of idolatry is the making of images of God. ... If we make an image of God in our mind that is not in accord with God’s revelation of Himself, then we are not worshipping in truth.

@DrOakley1689

Covenant Baptist Church Events

Greek Class:

No Greek class tonight.



2nd Sunday Fellowship/Christmas Dinner:

December 8th is our next second Sunday fellowship meal. This will also be the church Christmas dinner. Please plan to bring a dish and join us after the service! Also remember that we usually have visitors who stay for the meal, and you are encouraged to bring more than a small side dish so that there is plenty to go around.

The Lord’s Table:

We will observe the Lord’s Table on December 8th. Please pray and prepare your heart for this important time of worship.



What Is Thanksgiving? —by Jeremy Ham

We are losing our focus on the original reason for Thanksgiving as the spiritual state of America continues to decline. Many people may ask, “What is Thanksgiving?”

Today many Americans are celebrating Thanksgiving. Sadly we are losing our focus on the original reason for Thanksgiving as the spiritual state of America continues to decline. Many people in America, or even across the world, may ask, “What is Thanksgiving?” This is an important question and it is even more important to acquire a correct answer. As families gather together to celebrate Thanksgiving, are we reminding our children what Thanksgiving means? While some may describe this day as just an “annual harvest festival,” Thanksgiving was originally established as a reminder to Christians that we should thank God for His many blessings.

The Original Thanksgiving—What is Thanksgiving?

This tradition is widely recognized in the United States as beginning in 1621 with the Pilgrims and Native Americans at Plymouth. Following a deadly first winter in the “New World,” the Pilgrims had a good harvest, and they celebrated with a harvest festival, thanking God for His blessings. On December 11, 1621, Edward Winslow wrote the following description of the festival (text has been modernized):

Our corn did prove well, and God be praised, we had a good increase of Indian corn, and our barley indifferent good, but our peas not worth the gathering, for we feared they were too late sown, they came up very well, and blossomed, but the sun parched them in the blossom.

Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after ... a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week, at which time amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest King Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain, and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.



What Is Thanksgiving? –by Jeremy Ham (cont.)

Although the original Thanksgiving was basically a harvest festival and not yet an official holiday, Edward Winslow clearly gave glory to God and attributed to Him the blessings they enjoyed. Even though the Pilgrims worked very hard and were thankful to the Indians who helped them in the New World, they recognized that “every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning” (James 1:17). Despite how hard we work or how many blessings we receive from others, we must realize where all blessings ultimately come from—God our Provider.

Thanksgiving Made a National Event

Thanksgiving was made a national event when President George Washington made the following proclamation on October 3, 1789:

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God . . .

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be . . .

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions.

President Washington recognized the need to praise God for His many blessings given to us and therefore he set up a national reminder to everyone that we should give thanks to God. In an attempt to minimize or remove Christianity’s influences on this nation, some have declared that President Washington was a deist (someone who believes in a god who does not interfere with the affairs of mankind), but from reading his proclamation it is clear that he was not a deist.

Thanksgiving Made an Annual Event - What Is Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving was made an annual event during the Civil War on October 3, 1863, by President Lincoln. Much of the credit is attributed to Sarah J. Hale who sent a letter to President Lincoln asking him “to put forth his Proclamation, appointing the last Thursday in November (which falls this year on the 26th) as the National Thanksgiving.” Here is a portion of President Lincoln’s proclamation of Thanksgiving:

What Is Thanksgiving? –by Jeremy Ham (cont.)

I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union.

As can be clearly seen in the above statement, the Christian influences remained strong 74 years after President Washington. Even amidst the Civil War, the president encouraged Americans to thank God and send requests to Him, recognizing that He is our Provider.

Thanking God During Trials and Sufferings

Praising and thanking God is vital even during trials and sufferings, whether they be wars, financial difficulties, loss of loved ones, or other struggles. Even though the Apostle Paul suffered much, he wrote, “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Also consider the following passage from Paul:

“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:11–13).

Rather than blaming God for our problems, we need to recognize that mankind’s sin in Adam is the reason for our present sufferings. But all is not lost: God foretold to Adam and Eve that through the Seed of the woman (Jesus Christ, God’s Son), the deceiving serpent would be conquered (Genesis 3:15). Years later, the Lord Jesus Christ, born of the virgin named Mary, stepped into history to destroy sin and death once and for all. Jesus fulfilled that prophecy in Genesis, so that “whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

As believers, we praise God for this spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus. Furthermore God has provided believers with the Holy Spirit who is our source of strength. God has given us all that we truly need, and that should cause us to worship Him for the abundant riches of grace that He has lovingly bestowed upon us through Jesus Christ. In 2 Corinthians 9:15, Paul states, “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” These truths are the foundation for Thanksgiving. Without this understanding Thanksgiving Day is an empty holiday and there is no reason to give thanks.

What Is Thanksgiving? –by Jeremy Ham (cont.)

Has Commercialism Affected Thanksgiving and Christmas?

You may have noticed that President Lincoln made Thanksgiving Day to be on the last Thursday of November, but we now have Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of the month. What happened? In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt changed it to the fourth Thursday due to the urging of a retail association and out of concern for the economy. The purpose of this change was to extend the shopping days between Thanksgiving and Christmas, with the goal of stimulating the economy as they tried to recover from the Great Depression. It is noteworthy that President Roosevelt also did not neglect the Christian roots of Thanksgiving in his proclamation and reiterated that they should also thank God. However, the date change resulted in confusion across the nation with states coming to different conclusions on when Thanksgiving Day should be held.

This mix-up has since been fixed, and the holiday is now held on the fourth Thursday of November. However the focus of Thanksgiving Day has significantly declined through the years, and this event did nothing to help in that regard. What would the originators of Thanksgiving think if they saw that this day had apparently become an obstacle to remove for the retailers and the economy? Let us be careful not to be influenced in the ways of the world rather than the ways of God. The moral of this story is that we must be wary to not let anyone or anything hinder our attention on God, and we should strive to keep reminders like Thanksgiving Day focused on Him.



The Importance of Reminders

Many businesses, educational resources, and institutions neglect to mention the strong Christian origins of this national holiday. For America to return to its Christian roots, individuals must once again recognize God as the Provider. Thanksgiving Day was instituted as a reminder to give thanks to God for His provisions, but sadly many have forgotten the true meaning of Thanksgiving. Forgetting what God has done for His people is a common theme throughout the Old Testament. For example, God stressed the importance of remembering God's provision when He told Joshua to set up twelve stones as a sign for the people:

That this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, "What do these stones mean to you?" Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever. (Joshua 4:6–7)

What Is Thanksgiving? –by Jeremy Ham (cont.)

But what did happen? The children of Israel eventually forgot. The same thing is happening in America right now. Is there anything we can do to help stop it? Well, it starts with each and every believer. We encourage you to share the real reason to give thanks—the gospel of Jesus Christ—to anyone that may listen and the next time someone asks you, “What is Thanksgiving?” you can also share your testimony and tell them what God has done in your life.

Conclusion - What Is Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving Day is a good reminder of a biblical principle and a great opportunity for evangelism. No matter what nationality you may be, God’s Word states that we should give “thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:20).

Editor’s note: This article was updated and expanded on November 28, 2013.

From:
<https://answersingenesis.org/holidays/happy-thanksgiving/>

Keith Getty: Modern worship mov't is 'utterly dangerous,' causing 'de-Christianizing of God's people' —by Leah MarieAnn Klett

"In Christ Alone" writer Keith Getty is warning church leaders about the modern worship movement, which he describes as one of "cultural relevance" that is "utterly dangerous" and is contributing to the "de-Christianizing of God's people."

In an interview with The Christian Post, Getty said many modern worship songs focus on emotionalism rather than sound doctrine and Scriptural truths. This, he said, leads to a generation ill-equipped to understand or defend the Christian faith.

"An authentic generation doesn't begin with catharsis; it has to begin with an authentic picture of the God of the Bible," he explained. "Over 75 percent of what are called the great hymns of the faith talk about eternity, Heaven, Hell, and the fact that we have peace with God. Yet, less than 5 percent of modern worship songs talk about eternity."

"Many worship songs are focused on this Earth," Getty said. "I believe that the modern worship movement is a movement for cultural relevance. It's a de-Christianizing of God's people. It's utterly dangerous. I have no quibbles saying, 'Enough is enough.' This can't happen to build an authentic generation."

Keith Getty and his wife, Kristyn, are passionate about fostering a "reformation" in worship music: "Part of our campaign is to get our generation to know the great hymns of the faith," Getty told CP. "It's not about a fascination with the time period; it's about writing music that explains the Gospel and is also beautiful art."

"Beautiful art lasts," he said. "At the end of the day, a song you sing for 50 years is more valuable than one you sing for 50 months. We live in the most exciting generation to be a Christian, but it's also the most challenging generation. This idea that Christianity is cool or easy is not biblical. It's a misnomer for our generation. Through music, we want to build deep believers who know and love Christ."

In October, the Gettys released their latest album, Sing! An Irish Christmas – Live at the Grand Ole Opry House. Recorded live at the iconic Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tennessee, the Gettys brought together a group of world-class guest artists to perform song selections that span across hundreds of years of celebration of Jesus' birth.

"We are promoting songs we want you to sing around your house and in your churches and for years to come," the Northern Irish Christian singer shared.

Keith Getty: Modern worship mov't is 'utterly dangerous,' causing 'de-Christianizing of God's people' —by Leah MarieAnn Klett

“The heart of this album is to get listeners to know and sing the great carols of the faith to themselves and as a family this Christmas.”

In the album, the Gettys present new interpretations on Christmas staples such as “Joy To the World,” “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus,” and “Silent Night.” The songs will be performed live by the Gettys and friends on TBN’s special “Sing! An Irish Christmas” airing this December.

“I look at people at a cold winters night huddled together and singing, ‘Come Thou Long Expected Jesus,’ and I wonder what sadness or disappointments they’ve had this year,” he shared. “What doctor’s news have they had this year; what person is no longer there this Christmas? What aspect of their life needs to know that, dear Christ will enter in?”

Other familiar songs such as “Silent Night” and “God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman” drive home the importance of the Sabbath, Getty said. “People in Manhattan on the 18th of December, for example, don’t understand rest. They’re trying to balance kids and church, family dysfunction and getting ready for Christmas. Sitting in the quiet, singing, ‘Silent Night,’ is so healing,” he stressed.

According to Getty, Sing! An Irish Christmas combines his love of his historic carols and passion for congregational singing.

“In a culture where marriage is in a state of confusion, children are growing up in dysfunction, and we can’t even have a frank discussion about social and political issues, what could be more radical than people gathering together to sing about the Christ-child?” he declared. “What could be more community building and affirming than the Good News of the Gospel?”

Three years ago, the Gettys — who this year won a Dove Award for Inspirational Album of the Year — launched the Sing! Conference to bring together worship leaders, pastors, and those involved in church music ministry to explore together the connection between music, theology, and artistry.

Now, the Sing! Conference is a global movement. This year, the couple hosted sell-out Sing! conferences at the Belfast arena in their native Northern Ireland, and another at Edinburgh’s Usher Hall, marking the launch of the first Sing! global arena tour.

In August, the Sing! Conference in Nashville featured speakers John Piper, Joni Eareckson Tada, along with musical performances by the Gettys, Ellie

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Holcomb, and Trip Lee, among others. The three-day event saw over 13,000 attendees, nearly half of whom were younger than 40 years old.

“We think, after this year, with the number of universities getting involved, the Sing! Conference will be a majority under 40s conference,” Getty said. “There are 82 church music conferences in America and this is the largest. And this is the only one that doesn’t work with contemporary radio. We don’t use the lights-camera-action stuff of the previous generation. We’ve dumped all of that, yet we’re getting more under 40s of any church music conference.”

The success of the Sing! Conference with millennials, the songwriter noted, indicates younger generations are “less convinced by the seeker-sensitive purpose-driven hype of making Christianity seem cool.”

“They want to know, ‘is this true or not?’” he contended. “People think this conference is conservative and on one level it is, but on another level, the range of denominations attending is pretty broad. They’re all terrified of what the next generation is singing and don’t know what to do.”

“We don’t know all the answers,” Getty added, “but we’re trying to get people to sing doctrine and get hymn writers that are writing high-quality music with artistic merit.”

There is no such thing as blind fate, but there is a providence that guides and governs the world.
“The lot is cast into the lap, but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord” (Prov. 16:33).
—Thomas Watson

A Reminder...

From:
<https://www.christianpost.com/news/keith-getty-modern-worship-movement-is-utterly-dangerous-causing-de-christianizing-of-gods-people.html>



Strategies for Fighting Depression Well—by Jim Newheiser

<https://biblicalcounseling.com/fighting-depression-well/>



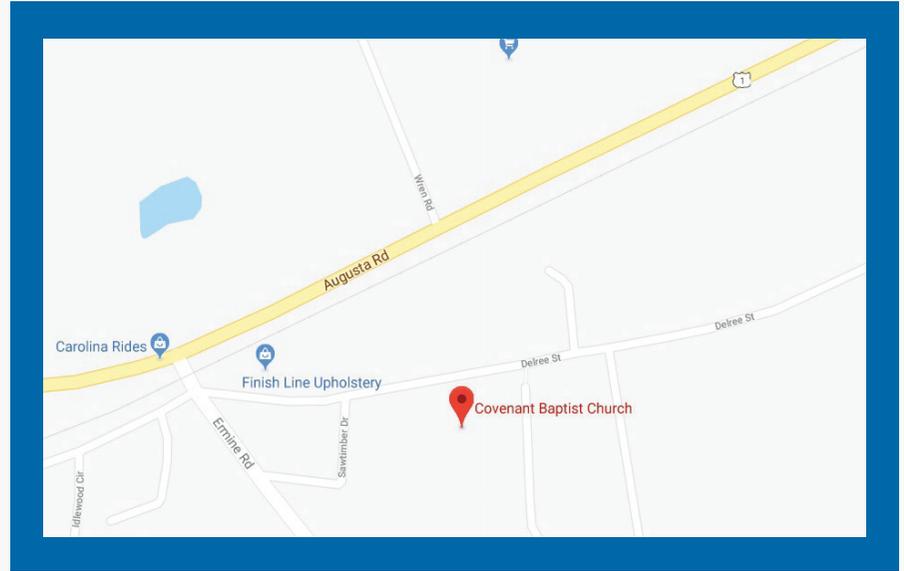
Covenant Baptist Church

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3535 Delree Street

West Columbia, SC 29170

<https://covenantbaptistsc.org>



*If you are interested in joining our church, please speak to one of our elders or deacons.
They will be happy to give you the information you need.*