



## Covenant Baptist Church

*Reformed and Refreshing*

*March 1st, 2020*

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>

## Service Times:

Bible Education Hour (Puritans)  
~ 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.)*

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## Order of Worship:

*(March 1st, 2020)*

Rejoice, the Lord is King—116

Scripture Reading and Lord's Supper:  
Proverbs 19:1-15

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners—206

Before the Throne of God Above—187

Message:  
Chosen By God, Part 1  
— John 15:16

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: Ancient Words—365

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## Upcoming cleaning volunteers:

March 7: Shumpert/Smoak  
March 14: Egan/Fudge  
March 21: Olds/Shealy

## Deacon on-call list:

March 1: Colonel Rogers  
March 15: Andy Shumpert  
March 22: Wesley Smoak

## Church Bookstore:

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

## Announcements—March 1st, 2020

No Greek class tonight.

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We will have a conference on Evangelism and Apologetics April 5-8. Tommy Waltz with Gospel of God Ministries will be with us. This is a great opportunity for learning how to share faith.

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Women's Fellowship Opportunity: Daybreak Ministry will be offering our ladies (children welcome) a tour of their facility and a presentation on their mission and how we can become involved with Daybreak. We will meet with Linzy Laird, the director of Daybreak, at their facility (1601 St. Julian Place, Columbia) on Friday, March 13th at 10 AM. After our tour, we will meet at Grecian Gardens in West Columbia for lunch. There will be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall this week or you can RSVP to Kerri Olds at 843-819-5080.

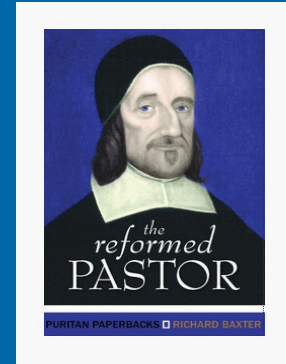
—  
A special time of prayer in the overflow room/fellowship area will begin soon, taking place on Wednesdays at 6:15 PM. In an effort to have more prayer and to improve our Wednesday evening service, we are adding a time and place for men and women to pray for general needs. This is modeled after the men and women gathered together for prayer in the upper room in Acts 1. During the Wednesday evening service at 7 PM, we will have 2 or 3 men lead in a more directed prayer for specific topics or needs. Start date to be announced soon.

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The Biblical Counseling class has been put on hold for a few months as the teacher, Joe Whiting, just underwent emergency heart surgery. He is stabilized and recovering well. Please keep him and his family in prayer during this time.

—  
The Mission Team for India has postponed their trip to June due to the spread and uncertainty of the coronavirus. Meanwhile, they are still preparing for the upcoming trip. The team will consist of Alton Crapps, Pastor Swann, Luke Swann, Spencer Allen, Andy Shumpert, and Andrew Shumpert. Each individual is responsible to raise their own funds for air tickets, hotel room, and meals. If you would like to help in this ministry please earmark checks or label the missions envelope either for the individual you wish to help or if you wish to help with the ministry cost, label checks or envelope India Ministry. Funds are also needed to provide Telegu bibles. Your prayers and your support are much appreciated.

## Book of the Week: *The Reformed Pastor*

*Richard Baxter*



In an introduction to this reprint, Dr. J.I. Packer describes him as ‘the most outstanding pastor, evangelist and writer on practical and devotional themes that Puritanism produced’. His ministry transformed the people of Kidderminster from ‘an ignorant, rude and revelling people’ to a godly, worshipping community. These pages...deal with the means by which such changes are ever to be accomplished. In his fervent plea for the discharge of the spiritual obligations of the ministry, Baxter, in the words of his contemporary, Thomas Manton, ‘came nearer the apostolic writings than any man in the age’.

<https://banneroftruth.org/us/store/church-ministry/the-reformed-pastor/>

# Truth: Answers for Women 2020 Williamstown, KY

“But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”

– 2 Corinthians 11:3

## Uncovering the Lies We Believe

Fake news stories, deceptions, and cover-ups blow up our news feeds every day. The lies seem obvious and blatant. Yet when it comes to the Christian faith, it can be more difficult to recognize untruths....

At Answers for Women 2020, we will delve deeply into God’s Word to find out the truth to questions like these. Satan is crafty, and he mixes truth with error making it hard to discern right from wrong. But when we understand and embrace God’s Word, we will know the difference between the truth and the lies and we will not be deceived. We will be able to hold fast to Christ, and we will be equipped to help others live out their faith with a sincere heart.

*Featuring Ken Ham, Justin Peters, Dr. Georgia Purdom, Kay Arthur, Phil Johnson, Erin Benziger, Camille Cates, Amy Spreeman, and Sarah Mally.*

<https://answersingenesis.org/outreach/event/answers-for-women-2020/>

# Covenant Baptist Church Events

Greek Class:

*No Greek class tonight.*



2nd Sunday Fellowship Dinner:

*Next Sunday is our next second Sunday fellowship meal. 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.*

## A former homosexual shares incredible testimony —Generations Radio



Listen to the incredible testimony of how God saved Becket's soul and empowered him to walk away from homosexuality. Plus, learn about whether there is such a thing as a "homosexual Christian", why homosexuals really march in "pride" parades, and how you can reach out to the homosexuals in your life with the love and truth of Jesus Christ. *(Brett McCracken)*

<https://www.generations.org/programs/1627>

### Egypt 2020 Conference—by S. R. (Coordinator for Africa and Middle East)

In partnership with TSF and El Soora, two local Egyptian ministries producing excellent theological resources in Arabic, HeartCry helped sponsor the 2020 conference in Alexandria, Egypt. This year's theme was 'The Blessed Assurance' and focused on the crucial subject of biblical assurance of salvation. The featured speaker this year was Dr. Joel Beeke, pastor, president of Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, director of Reformation Heritage Books, and respected authority on the Puritans.

200 people from Egyptian churches gathered for 3 days to hear messages from Dr. Beeke and 2 local Egyptian preachers on topics such as the ground of our assurance, strengthening our assurance, and restoring lost assurance. Several breakout sessions were also offered, with Dr. Beeke's on family worship being the most popular.

While these larger conferences to the broader church are very beneficial and encouraging, please be in prayer for HeartCry and TSF as we transition to smaller events that intentionally train pastors in sound doctrine and biblical church practice.



<https://heartcrymissionary.com/mission-updates/egypt-2020-conference/>



## Other News:

**The “Oil-Producing Bible” Scam**— <http://www.deliveredbygrace.com/the-oil-producing-bible-scam/>

**Christian father loses wife, 6 children in house fire**— <https://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-father-loses-wife-six-children-in-house-fire.html>

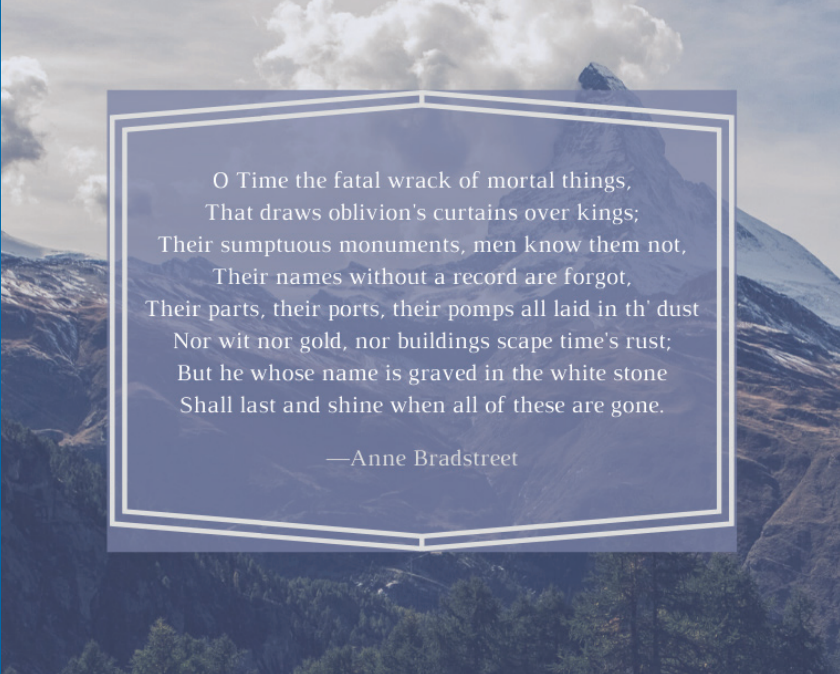
**Boko Haram reportedly responsible for nearly 120,000 orphans, widows in Nigeria**— <https://disrn.com//news/boko-haram-reportedly-responsible-for-tens-of-thousands-of-orphans-widows-in-nigeria>

**Africa’s Worst Locust Plague in Decades Threatens Millions**— <https://www.wsj.com/articles/africas-worst-locust-plague-in-decades-threatens-millions-11580475600>

**Virginia Senate passes bill removing abortion safety standards; governor expected to sign**— <https://www.christianpost.com/news/virginia-senate-passes-bill-removing-abortion-safety-standards-governor-expected-to-sign.html>

**Fox won’t show abortion survivors’ Super Bowl ad but OKs drag queen commercial**— <https://www.christianpost.com/news/fox-wont-show-abortion-survivors-super-bowl-ad-approves-drag-queen-commercial.html>

## Quote of the Week:



O Time the fatal wrack of mortal things,  
That draws oblivion's curtains over kings;  
Their sumptuous monuments, men know them not,  
Their names without a record are forgot,  
Their parts, their ports, their pomps all laid in th' dust  
Nor wit nor gold, nor buildings scape time's rust;  
But he whose name is graved in the white stone  
Shall last and shine when all of these are gone.

—Anne Bradstreet

# The Pastoral Point—Proclaiming Truth in a World of Uncertainty (Feb. 2020)

—Pastor Charles Swann

## Unspeakable Evil...Why?

*Therefore, hear me, you men of understanding: far be it from God that he should do wickedness, and from the Almighty that he should do wrong.— Job 34:10 (ESV)*

This past week has captured our minds and our hearts with the tragic disappearance and subsequent murder of Faye Swetlik. A beautiful 6-year-old girl who was full of life and smiles. My immediate reaction was that this was such an “unspeakable evil.” I was reminded of another time an unspeakable evil captured the nation’s attention when Susan Smith killed her 2 children by strapping them in the car and deliberately allowing the car to go down the boat ramp into a pond drowning both her boys.

How do we explain such evil? How do we reasonably understand this without going insane? For the unbeliever, there is no hope in finding answers. These events and many like them would be just a meaningless collision of choices that purposeless people make. It is utterly hopeless. And even for the Believer, this can sometimes shake us deeply and we wonder, “How could a loving God allow such evil to take place?”. If He is an all-knowing God and all-powerful, how can He know this evil is happening and have the power to stop it, and yet not act? And since God is the Sovereign Ruler of this universe and rules in the affairs of men, then is this the plan and purpose of God? These are hard questions and many of us find our minds going right here.

So...when unspeakable evil happens, it is natural that we often find ourselves asking lots of questions. How can a beautiful 6-year-old girl be taken from the protection and love of her mother and father and be murdered and discarded as meaningless garbage? We wonder, why God would allow such evil in the world and how is it that His fiery wrath is not dispensed from Heaven with speed to satisfy the Justice of God?

Although it would take much more to explain all that Holy Scripture says





# The Pastoral Point (cont.)

about evil and its allowance and purpose by God, I give you a few points to keep in mind as you navigate through your thoughts about such an unspeakable evil.

## 1. We live in a fallen sin cursed earth.

Sadly, this is the natural result of a fallen and sinful world. We are reminded of this every day with the reality of how fragile life is and how sin and death permeate our world. Not long after the fall of man in the garden, blood was spilt with the murder of Abel. Also by the time we get to Genesis 6 the earth is full of evil and violence to the point that God says he was sorry that he had made man and decides to destroy them all with a flood. The fact that evil happens should not shock us, but sometimes the degree to which man can go with his evil heart does. Because of sin, men are capable of the worse forms of evil as Jeremiah says, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9)

## 2. The Devil is the god of this age.

The Devil works tirelessly to blind people to the truth and lead people into evil as Paul reminded us in I Corinthians: “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded...,” 2 Corinthians 4:3–4 (NKJV). Jesus said he was a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44). And lost people are identified as “children of the Devil” in I John 3:10.

## 3. Evil men are getting worse and worse.

Scripture is clear that as man and society move away from God and His Word, men will manifest more and more evil (Romans 1:18-28); Two things can occur in this situation. First, the grace of God is removed and the restraint that God gave for evil is removed. Second, the evil that is resident in all of our hearts is allowed to express itself with no internal restraint of the conscience and no external restraint due to the collapse of a moral society governed by the principles in the Word of God. (2 Tim 3:1-5)

## 4. God is Sovereign over the worst forms of evil.

The fact that God is Sovereign is not a debatable issue. God is not God if He is not sovereign. The issue is how do we understand God’s rule over evil. Scripture clearly teaches that while God is not the author or efficient cause of evil, He does exercise control over it. He doesn’t in any sense approve of

## The Pastoral Point (cont.)

evil, ratify it, look on it with favor, give it His blessing, or delight in it; but nothing happens outside of His sovereignty. Consider the case of Job—God turned Satan loose for horrendous evil in the life of Job. All the suffering Job endured at the hands of Satan happened under the Lord’s authority; none of it occurred outside the plan and power of God. None of it could have occurred if God had not willingly permitted it. (*The Truth About Evil*, by John MacArthur Tuesday, January 17, 2017)

Hope and comfort can only be found in the fact that God is ultimately in control of the existence and purpose of evil. Consider this... there are only 4 possibilities for who is in control of evil; Man, the devil, chance or God. The only one that brings comfort and hope is God, and that is exactly what the Bible affirms, “I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things.” (Isaiah 45:7). Also the greatest evil ever conceived of in the mind of man was the murder of the Son of God on the cross, yet this is clearly said to have been under the control of God. (Acts 2:23; 4:26-28, Gen.50:20,Rom. 8:28)

### 5. This is gracious reminder of the need for Christ.

The most important thing you can learn from this tragic event is that you need to saturate your family with the gospel of Christ. We will all die...us and our children, so we need to be prepared to meet God. In response to some unspeakable evil and a tragic event Jesus had a important reminder for all of us, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”(Luke 13:2–5) It must be stated that all of the thoughts I offer are an affirmation that the Bible is true, and it is the only means by which we can understand the existence of such evil and most importantly that the Gospel of Christ is our greatest need.



## Strategies for Fighting Depression Well—by Jim Newheiser

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

## Identity Language in Counseling—by Martha Peace

<https://biblicalcounseling.com/identity-language-in-counseling/>



Biblical counseling class on hold while teacher recovers from surgery. See page 2 for more info.

## Covenant Baptist Biblical Counseling Class:

*A Biblical Counseling class started February 13th at 7 PM here at the church. If you would be interested in participating, please let the pastor know. We are going to livestream the class. Just go to the website at <https://covenantbaptistsc.org> and click the livestream button on home page at 7pm Thursdays.*



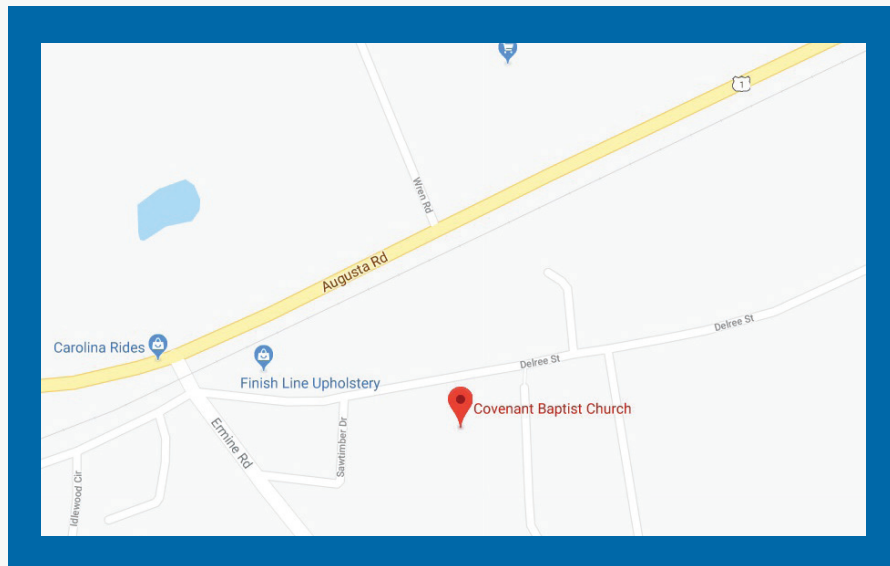
## **Covenant Baptist Church**

*Reformed and Refreshing*

*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.*