

Covenant Call

June 2021 Newsletter

WAITING FOR THE SURREAL TO BECOME REAL By Pastor Dan Milford

There were no melting clocks hanging over tree branches like in a Salvador Dalí painting or strangely distorted faces like in one by Pablo Picasso. Still, to enter someone else's home unmasked, enjoy a meal with others, and hug each other farewell was all surreal. As with the work of the artists, the experience seemed to be more connected to a dream than to the reality we've lived over the last fourteen months. And it was glorious—the experience, the food, and the company!

Over the last half-year or so, we've celebrated the development and approval of highly safe and effective vaccines, a successful rollout of those vaccines, and a receptive public welcoming them and rolling up their sleeves to do their part for their own health and the safety of others. We're now finding ourselves in a very different place than we were just a few months ago. And for me, at least, the change is somewhat surreal—dreamlike both in it being something I have long looked forward to and in it being something that could only be experienced in dreams over the long winter of the pandemic.

As our COVID-19 Response Team and our Session met this week to discuss the changes we believe to be warranted at this point, it was clear that as a large community, we have many different perspectives on what feels safe and appropriate to us at this time. People continue to get sick and hospitalized and even die from this disease. Children under twelve are still too young to be vaccinated. We haven't reached "herd immunity" yet. And we hear stories of people long-vaccinated

nevertheless contracting the disease. This novel Coronavirus is not done with us yet.

Still, the infection rates are way down. Our testing capacity remains high, helping us be able to identify and encourage self-quarantining for those who test positive. Those who are vaccinated and yet become infected generally have very mild cases. Unlike with most bacterial and viral infections, children under twelve tend to neither spread the disease nor have serious cases when infected.

Finally, projections for the next three months do not anticipate a significant increase in infections. There's lots of good news on the COVID front!

I suspect many of us find ourselves living into a somewhat surreal, dreamlike, unbelievable time. Can we really be doing this activity or that one? Can we really let our guard down this much and still be responsible? What limits should we still observe and why... and for how long? Each of us will

have to answer those questions for ourselves and our families. Our session will continue to wrestle with those questions as they relate to our common life.

As the surreal becomes more real with each day that passes, I encourage you to join us in putting the "congregate" back in congregation! And as we do so, let us also be mindful and respectful of all those who will need more time and advances (such as reaching "herd immunity" or vaccines being approved as safe and effective for children) before they're ready to take a next step with us.

Grace & Peace, Dan



ADULTING

REVEALED

Sundays at 9:00am
June 6th - August 1st

Adult Summer Sunday School

Adulting Revealed: Navigating the Evolving Challenges of Being an Adult

Sunday Mornings @ 9:00am

June 6th - August 1st

Organized and led by Covenant's Beautiful Minds Coalition

Being an adult and navigating the ever-changing experiences we are presented with can be filled with challenges. Unfortunately, being an adult does not come with an instruction manual that can be referred to when those challenges arise. Covenant's Beautiful Minds Coalition will help reveal some of the common challenges and questions that many adults experience in life. We invite you to join us as we explore some popular topics such as Spiritual Development, Managing Loss, Conflict Management and more. Curious? The class meets at 9am on **Sunday mornings this summer in Mission Hall or online via Zoom**. Adults of all ages from our congregation and community are welcome!

- June 6 "Contemplative Spirituality" presented by Rev. Dan Milford
- June 13 "Spiritual Development" presented by Chad Bosse
- June 27 "Managing Loss"
- July 11 "Mental Health Challenges" presented by Shelly Bosse
- July 18 "Conflict Management" presented by Michael McMains
- July 25 "What does 'being responsible' look like?" presented by Louise Ward
- August 1 "Giving Back"

We invite you to join us for this study on Sunday mornings at 9:00am either in person in Mission Hall OR online via Zoom. To join us via Zoom, please use the following information:

<https://zoom.us/j/91235912696?pwd=MUlvU1JtZW1BWGlncWZlcXpqSTBpdz09>

Meeting ID: 912 3591 2696 Password: 723266



JOIN ★ us at ★ Sunday school



Beginning June 6th, our Adult Sunday School class will shift to a **dual-platform** for each week's lesson. We invite those who are able and willing to meet in person to join us in Mission Hall. Each week's lesson will be led from that space using the tables to spread out in accordance to social distancing guidelines. We will also make use of our audio/visual equipment in that space so that the lessons will be heard and seen. In addition, those that would like to join us remotely via Zoom are welcome to do so! Our goal is to provide an opportunity to engage with each week's lesson for both those wishing to gather online and in person.

Continuing June 6th, our Children's Sunday School class will meet online only via Zoom. Parents can access the Zoom link and password by contacting Chad Bosse (chad@covenantcares.org). Please note that children are welcome to accompany parents wishing to join the Adult Sunday School class in Mission Hall. We simply ask that you bring a device and headphones for your child to participate in the Children's Sunday School, while seated next to their parent/guardian. For those who need a device for their child while at the church on Sunday morning, please contact Chad Bosse ahead of time so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

The Christian Education Team asks for your understanding as our community makes the transition to in-person Sunday School for the Summer. Please know that this is a work in progress, and that your patience and grace is greatly appreciated!

Last month the Beautiful Minds Coalition explored several topics during the mental health moments for Mental Health Awareness month. The topics included Codependency, Substance

Use Disorder, Domestic Violence and Child Abuse. These issues directly affect a person's mental health. We hope exploring them helped raise awareness of these issues and how they affect mental health. If you missed them and want to see them they can be found on Covenant's Facebook page. Also our monthly newsletter articles that are on a variety of important topics are now on our wellbeing blog on Covenant's website: <https://www.covenantcares.org/blog/>. Yes, we have a blog! Please visit our blog and feel free to comment. We would love to promote dialogue on such important topics.

This month and next month we will be facilitating 6 weeks of Sunday school lessons called *Adulting Revealed*. We plan to explore different aspects of being an adult such as spiritual development, mental health challenges and conflict management. You can get the dates for these lessons in the Sunday school section of the newsletter. We hope to see you there!

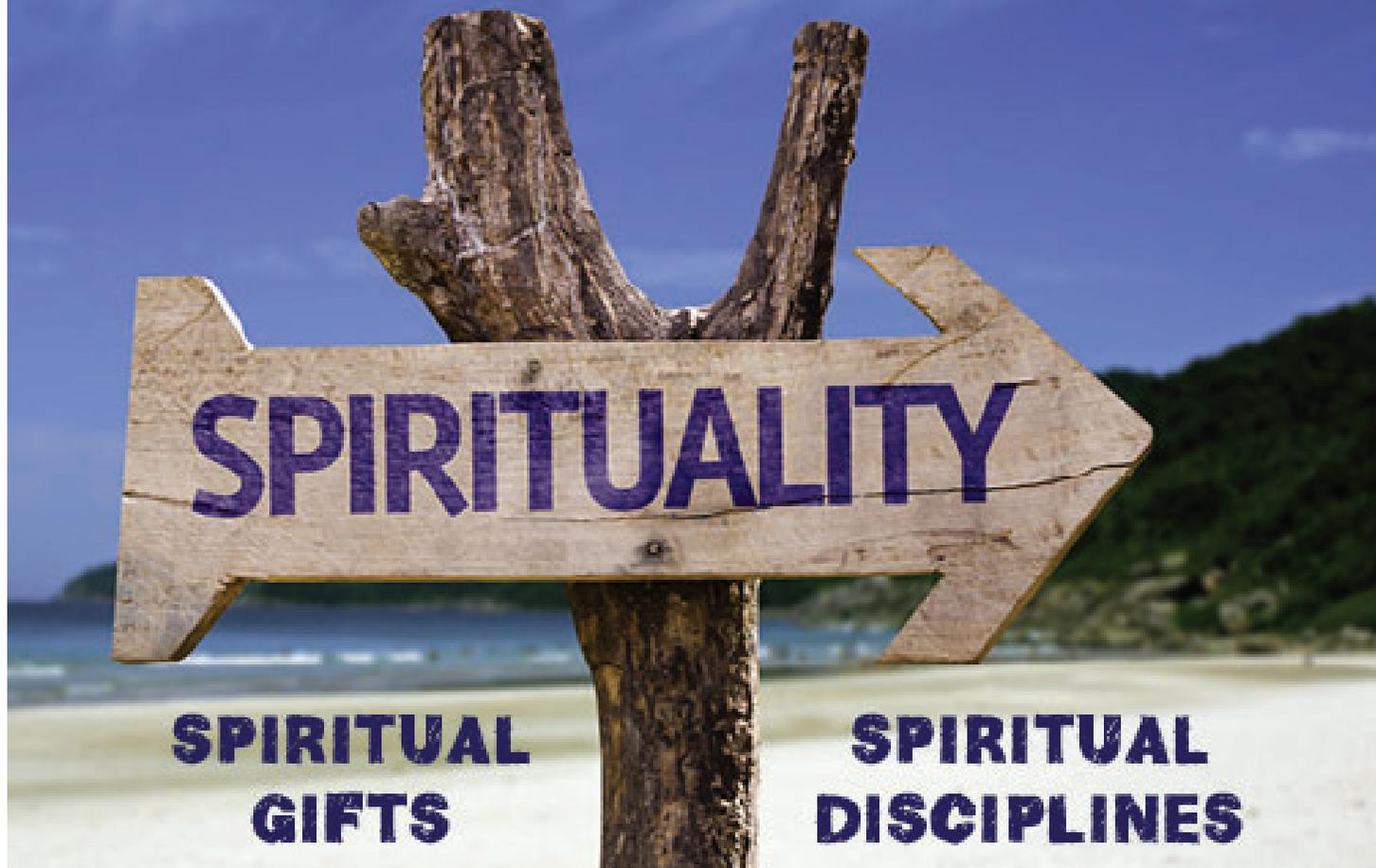
In June, we will also be hosting a feelings booth at Fiesta Castle Hills. It will be on June 19th from 10am to 5pm in the Commons across the street from the elementary school. We will be offering children's crafts that promote social and emotional learning. What is social and emotional learning? It is teaching that promotes social skills like being able to name your feelings and being able to regulate those feelings appropriately. We are excited to be able to offer these activities because talking about our feelings improves mental health. In fact, research shows that social and emotional learning is just as important as academic learning and promotes overall positive mental health.

We hope that you find opportunities to engage with the work that BMC is doing. It can be through reading our blog, participating in Sunday school or visiting our booth at Fiesta Castle Hills. If you find yourself wanting to more involved in this ministry we would love for you to be a part of our coalition team. To become part of our team please reach out to Shelly Bosse at shelbosse@gmail.com.

Beautiful
Minds
Coalition



Summer Weekly Bible Study Series Begins Week of June 1



June Studies: Spirituality, Spiritual Gifts, and Spiritual Disciplines

This Summer, Covenant's Weekly Bible Study Groups will be exploring the topics of spirituality, spiritual gifts, and spiritual disciplines through various studies from *The Thoughtful Christian*.

- ***Spirituality 101*** by Diane Stephens – This two-session study explores the questions: “What is spirituality?” and “What use it to faithful, thoughtful Christians?”
- ***Appreciating Spiritual Gifts*** by Lynne M. Baab – This two-session study explores what the Bible says about spiritual gifts, common misperceptions, and ways of discovering our spiritual gifts so that we can do a better job of serving one another.
- ***Spiritual Disciplines for Different Personalities*** by Delia Halverson – This study is a one-session study that explores why different Christians are drawn to different types of worship and prayer by looking at different types of personalities.

Each of our groups is an open group, meaning anyone can join at any time. Please note that we offer one Men's Bible Study, and one Young Adult Bible Study. All other groups are open to adult men and women of all ages. **We would love to have you engage in this study with us!** To participate in one of the Weekly Bible Study Groups, please join us via Zoom. If you have any questions, please reach out to Chad Bosse (chad@covenantcares.org).

- **Tuesday evening (7:00 p.m.)**—Dan Milford & Martha Wright: Meeting ID: 876 4294 3211, Password: 696769
- **Young Adult Bible Study - Tuesday evening (7:00 p.m.)**—Chad Bosse: Meeting ID: 961 6414 3935, Password: covenant
- **Thursday evening (7:00 p.m.)**—Sharon Fowler: Meeting ID: 933 6556 7445, Password: 495046
- **Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study (7:30 a.m.)**— Jay Pitcher/Al Kissling: Meeting ID: 998 7565 1984, Password: 659935

SUMMER CHALLENGE

Mission Committee is sponsoring a drive to raise funds for Picnic Table and Bench Sets for the Covenant Community Gardens.

Start talking to your Sunday School Class, your family, your friends, your Scout troop, about purchasing a Picnic Table and Bench Set.

We would love to have 5 sets purchased and installed in time for the fall kick-off weekend!! Mission Committee has pledged to purchase a set to get the ball rolling!

More details to come shortly....

Children's Sunday School Growing in Grace & Gratitude Sundays @ 9:00am

Covenant's Children's Sunday School class features the curriculum, "Growing in Grace & Gratitude", which helps transform the lives of children and those who love them, shaped by grace and gratitude. Each session shares a Bible story that reveals God's grace for us. Through fun, age-appropriate activities, and prayer, children will celebrate the meaning of this grace in their lives as they encounter a living God.



This summer, we'll follow how the Holy Spirit enlivened and emboldened the followers of Jesus to go out and tell his story. We'll begin by looking at those those who were closest to him, those who had walked and talked with him on a daily basis—and how they took their call to spread the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ to whoever they met. We hope your child will join us on Sunday mornings!

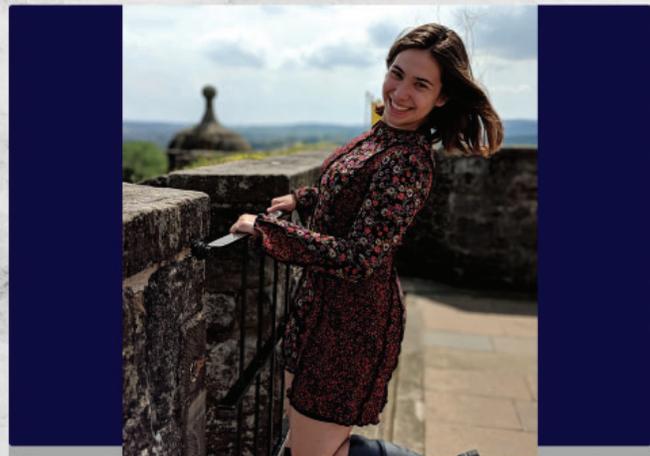
For the Zoom link and password, please contact: chad@covenantcares.org.

Congratulations!

Covenant Presbyterian Church would like to congratulate the class of 2021 on their latest accomplishment! As you enter the next phase of your life, know that we continue to lift you up in prayer as we give God thanks for who you have become. May you continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit and live in ways that proclaims God's grace and love to all you meet. Amen!



CLASS OF
2021



ALEXIS MILFORD-ROSALES

THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA
BACHELOR OF ARTS MUSIC
MINOR IN PSYCHOLOGY

FUTURE PLANS: WILL BEGIN A SUMMER INTERNSHIP WITH FPC TULSA
THEN WILL SEEK A POSITION IN EDUCATION, TRANSLATION, OR SALES ENGINEER



CLASS OF
2021



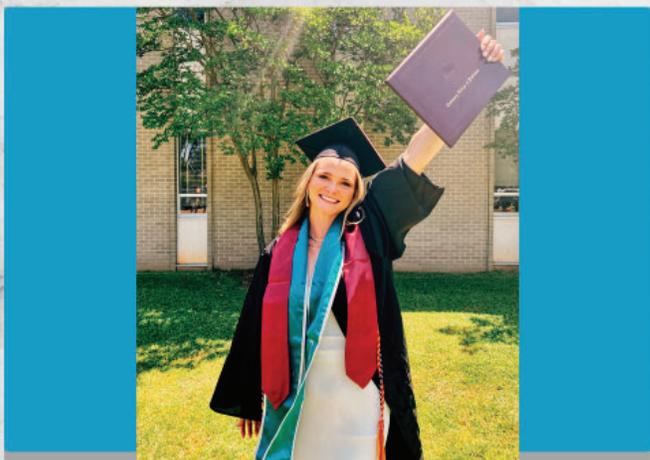
ABIGAIL WORDEN

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE BIOLOGY
MINOR IN CHEMISTRY

FUTURE PLANS: WILL BEGIN WORKING AS A CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT
THEN WILL GO TO NURSING SCHOOL



CLASS OF
2021



MAGGIE PITCHER

CENTENARY COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA
BACHELOR OF ARTS BIOLOGY

FUTURE PLANS:
WILL BEGIN WORKING AT AN ORTHODONTIC CLINIC
THEN WILL GO TO NURSING SCHOOL



CLASS OF
2021



CLASS OF
2021



CONNER HAYS

THE CITADEL
BACHELOR OF ARTS POLITICAL SCIENCE
MINOR IN LEADERSHIP STUDIES
FUTURE PLANS: HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED INTO THE ARMY AS A
2ND LIEUTENANT AND WILL SERVE IN THE MILITARY POLICE BRANCH



JOSHUA MILFORD-ROSALES

THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE BACHELOR OF ARTS FINANCE
MINORS IN ACCOUNTING & HISTORY
FUTURE PLANS: WILL BEGIN WORKING FOR VERIZON
AS A COLLECTIONS ANALYST FOR CORPORATE ACCOUNTS



Cub Pack 537 Blue & Gold Banquet

Cub Pack 537 held its Blue & Gold Banquet on May 26 at McGimsey Park in Castle Hills. This has been a remarkable year for the pack, as the leaders and families showed remarkable resilience and received the following awards: the Pack National Summertime Award, the Journey to Excellence (Gold unit), and the Baden Powell Award (given to units that go above and beyond in achieving excellence in Scouting, an average of only 1 in 20 units receive this award, and our Pack was the only Cub Pack to receive the award.) As other packs have struggled and Pack 537 has thrived, our pack has begun to grow dramatically and is expected to continue to do so in the coming year. Additionally, the leaders of Pack 537 have been reaching out to deepen their relationship with our congregation. As part of that, they have added "Covenant Presbyterian" to both their pack flag and their pack patch (both pictured here). We are looking forward to deepened connections as we emerge from the pandemic and go through the coming year.

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Return service requested



GET CONNECTED

- **Church News by Email** – We send an email several times a month to inform members and friends on church news and events. Email **office@covenantcares.org** to have your email added to the list.
- **Website:** www.covenantcares.org - See recorded sermon videos, weekly devotionals, access to event calendar, and links to Zoom Bible Studies.
- **Watch Live Worship Services on Facebook**
<https://www.facebook.com/covenant.satx/>
- **Prayer Chain** – send an email to covenantprayerchain211@gmail.com