

## WHO WE ARE

### OUR PURPOSE

Christ Covenant Church is a reformed congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America committed to making disciples who worship God, grow in community, love others and serve the world.

### OUR MISSION

Christ Covenant Church seeks to develop disciples of Jesus Christ by helping them move toward spiritual maturity.

#### **Worship God**

We will enable people to encounter the living God in the context of His worshipping community and to hear the proclamation of the Gospel in its full counsel.

#### **Grow in Community**

We will encourage those who have come to saving faith to become members of Christ Covenant Church and enfold them into a class or small group in order to learn and apply God's Word to their lives.

#### **Love Others**

We will equip members for deeper and more practical levels of discipleship as they learn to love Christ and others more deeply and to live out the Gospel in every arena of life.

#### **Serve the World**

We will engage members in the advance of the Kingdom of God, both near and far, by sharing the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit with lost persons and by reflecting the beauty and holiness of Christ to lost cultures.

### INTRODUCTION

Christ Covenant Church is located in Matthews, North Carolina. The worship center forms the core of our 69-acre campus, including a 28-acre athletic field complex, Warner Park.

The campus includes eleven buildings with a sanctuary that seats 2,000. One of our newest buildings is a Community Life Center, including a level for youth with a large meeting space and break-out rooms, a large fellowship hall with a commercial kitchen, and a chapel where more intimate services can be held. We have recently completed a new high school building for our Covenant Day School community, which gives the school much-needed space to grow as well as access to new technology.

Christ Covenant has a current membership of more than 750 families. The congregation is assisted in its ministry by a staff of over 60, including pastors and directors, and supports church planting efforts not only in the Charlotte region, but all over the U.S. and around the world.

Among the church's associated ministries are Campus Outreach and Covenant Day School with an enrollment of more than 840 students in grades TK-12.

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## WORSHIP GOD

*We will enable people to encounter the living God in the context of His worshipping community and to hear the proclamation of the Gospel in its full counsel.*

Worship is the central part of our church life as we gather as an entire congregation to listen to the Word and respond. Each Sunday, we offer a morning and evening service, each following different sermon series. We participate in the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of each month. Worship ministries include:

- **Sanctuary Choir** - The adult choir leads God's people in the singing of hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs and presents anthems that reflect God's nature and work in the lives of believers. The choir also presents a number of special concerts throughout the year as well as supporting events developed for fellowship and outreach.
- **Children's Choir** - Kindergarteners through 5th graders participate in children's choirs and sing in worship throughout the year.
- **The Gathering** – Youth (grades 6-12) who are interested in or gifted for leading as singers or musicians have the opportunity for additional training to get them ready for this responsibility. They also have opportunities to help lead in worship services, both morning and evening.
- **Other worship ministries** include instrumental music, sound and lighting, and worship coordinator. Each person has their own skills and gifts, and there is always a place for you at Christ Covenant.

## GROW IN COMMUNITY

*We will encourage those who have come to saving faith to become members of Christ Covenant Church and enfold them into a class or small group in order to learn and apply God's Word to their lives.*

Community is important at Christ Covenant Church. With such a large congregation, having smaller groups to connect with helps our members feel more like they belong and also gives them more opportunity to learn and grow in their relationship with Christ. Our goal is to create an authentic, multi-generational community which is truly a spiritual family.

- **Welcome and Assimilation Ministry** - This Ministry exists to equip guests and members with information relevant to their journey at Christ Covenant as well as connect them to others in the broader church community. We focus on creating a warm and friendly atmosphere that inspires people to investigate Christ Covenant further, grow in their Christian walk, and serve God with their giftedness.
- **Sunday Bible School (SBS)/Congregational Communities** – Our leadership shepherds our congregation through season-of-life communities, which we call Congregational Communities. There are eight communities for men and women from age 18 through older seniors. Each community has a pastor working with elders, deacons, and mature women who lead the class and shepherd the members of the community.
- **Covenant Groups** – In addition to worship and SBS, we encourage our members to join a Covenant Group, which focuses specifically on Biblical disciple-making, accountability,

encouragement and prayer. Covenant Groups are typically made up of both men and women, whether couples or singles. Each Covenant Group is unique. Some groups are multi-generational. Other groups are primarily made up of folks who are in similar life stages. Typically the groups meet on a regular basis to study Scripture; pray for one another; provide encouragement and support; and, often, serve together.

- **Men's Ministry** – Men's Ministry exists to build up men in the truth of God's Word so that they would be servant-leaders in their marriages, homes, neighborhoods, and work places. The ministry regularly offers studies and discussion groups as well as fellowship gatherings for men of all ages.
- **Women's Ministry** – Our Women's Ministries have many components, and the ministries listed here fall under the "Grow in Community" section since they are vibrant with many small groups and events. (See the "Love Others" section for more Women's Ministries areas).
  - **The Anchor** is primarily a small group ministry. The purpose of the The Anchor is to invest in the lives of women by leading them to the deep study of the Word of God and to relationships characterized by life-on-life involvement so that they will develop a deep personal conviction to growing spiritual maturity. Anchor small groups meet weekly. Every Anchor small group follows the same course of study, typically related to the current sermon series or annual vision statement for the church.
  - **T2 (Titus 2)** is a book study ministry for women. T2 groups gather for spiritual training accomplished through the study of a strategically chosen book in the area of character, doctrine, or practical living.
  - **Merea** is a cross-generational ministry where young women are encouraged to grow in their faith as they develop homemaking and hospitality skills under the trained shepherding care of older women.
  - **Events** – Events are planned throughout the year for fellowship among our women, including a monthly casual lunch, dinners with programming, and an annual retreat.
- **Senior Adults** – The seniors are a very active community at Christ Covenant. In addition to Sunday Bible school classes, they also enjoy monthly fellowship luncheons off campus (one for men and one for women) and a monthly lunch for all senior adults, usually held on campus and including a speaker or other program. The seniors also have a weekly prayer meeting and a seniors' choir called the Joy Singers. The seniors also have an annual retreat which includes teaching and prayer throughout the three-day event.
- **Youth** – The youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) have many opportunities to participate in small group and large group activities. In addition to Sunday school and worship, there are also fall retreats for both the middle school and high school. Each spring, the youth program offers a spring prayer retreat (Renovatus) which includes all youth. The youth also participate in a summer mission week called Seek the City. We long to see students grow in their love and knowledge of Christ and love for each other.
  - **Timothy Project** – This is the small group discipleship for middle schoolers. The youth meet together for large group teaching and then break out into smaller groups, which are led by our high school students, for discussion and discipleship.

- **Link** is the small group discipleship for high schoolers. They meet together for large group teaching and then break into small groups for discussion and discipleship. These small groups are led by young adults who love the students and love the Lord.
- **Epic** is our middle school fellowship ministry which includes fun and games as well as a short talk by our middle school staff and small group discussion.
- **Prayer** – The youth ministry has a prayer time with students every Monday and Tuesday morning.
- **Children** – The Children’s Ministry provides Sunday care and teaching as well as fellowship events throughout the year – many of which are outreach programs. The ministry includes newborns through 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The children learn from the teachers and storytellers in a large group setting, and they also have small group leaders and shepherds who love them and build relationships. We regularly incorporate missions times in all of our ministries. Some of the programs that fall under Children’s Ministry include:
  - **Trail Life USA** – This national outdoor scouting-type program offers Christ Covenant the freedom to focus on its service to young men and their families and provide an excellent experience in leadership development and outdoor adventure.
  - **American Heritage Girls** – American Heritage Girls is the premier national character development organization for girls ages 5-18 that embraces Christian values and encourages family involvement.

## LOVE OTHERS

*We will equip members for deeper and more practical levels of discipleship as they learn to love Christ and others more deeply and to live out the Gospel in every arena of life.*

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education department at Christ Covenant Church provides the resources, teaching, and opportunities for our congregation to develop in their walk with Christ, to learn His Word, and to apply it to their lives.

- **Sunday Bible School** – Our leadership shepherds our congregation through their Congregational Communities. Topics range from current event issues to Bible study. The Christian Education department provides oversight to Sunday Bible school leaders and offers assistance and guidance with curriculum and leadership.
- **Small Groups** – There are many small group studies that go on throughout the year at Christ Covenant, some that are “regular” programs like the women’s Anchor studies and some that come to fruition because of a need seen in the congregation or by the leadership. The Christian Ed department equips small groups with books and studies.
- **Children’s Ministry** – The Christian Ed department also works closely with the Children's Ministry to develop the curriculum our covenant children will be learning.

- **Pastor's Reading Club** - Senior Pastor Mike Ross leads a Reading Club which meets throughout the year. Each year, there is a theme to which all of the books relate.
- **Women's Ministry** – Our Women's Ministries have many components, and the following ministries fall under the "Love Others" section since they are more geared toward discipleship.
  - **Women's Bible Studies** (WBS) provide women with the opportunity to participate in classes and discussion groups focused on growth in the knowledge of God and the personal application of His Word. Some of our studies include discussion groups, but the emphasis of the Bible study ministry is on content. Most studies have "homework" for the participants, although each study is unique with regard to topic, routine, and meeting schedule.
  - **Shepherdesses** are godly, seasoned women who assist our pastoral staff and leadership as they come alongside women in the congregation who are in crisis.

### **PASTORAL CARE**

The pastors at Christ Covenant strive to serve others, to live a life of love, and to be stewards, marked by a Christ-like love for our neighbors. We would like to meet you where you are, walk with you as you are, serve you humbly and invite you to Christ, so that you will experience the richness of Kingdom life.

- **Illness and Tragedy** – The pastors offer specialized ministry for those who are going through rough patches in their lives. These ministries include:
  - **Pastor-on-Call** – There is always a Christ Covenant pastor "on call" 24/7 for emergencies. To reach the Pastor-on-Call, dial 704-708-6101.
  - **Hospital and Follow-up Care** – Pastors and volunteers visit those in the hospital.
  - **Shut-in Visitation** – Our pastors and volunteers strive to visit and encourage our members who are homebound.
  - **Kendal Ministry** – We have care teams that offer help and encouragement on a continuing basis.
  - **Caleb Ministries** – This ministry offers help to women and families who have lost a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth, early-infant death, or women who struggle with infertility or who are post-abortive.
- **Counseling and Emotional Care** – Our Pastors are available to talk to congregants one-on-one or refer to outside resources if clinical counseling resources are needed. The church also has a Counseling Advisor who serves as a link to resources within Christ Covenant Church and Charlotte area counseling services. We also have support groups, including:
  - **Pastoral Counseling** – Our pastors consider it a privilege to counsel with members who are struggling in life, to assist them in understanding God's promises, purposes, and provision in such times as well as pointing them toward sources of assistance.
  - **Clinical Counseling Ministry** – In addition to our pastoral counseling commitments, we also have access to competent clinical counseling resources.
  - **Shepherdess Ministry** – Trained, mature, godly women called "Shepherdesses" are available for assignments as advocates to women in various forms of distress. Shepherdesses work with the pastors, elders, and deacons in serving the women of Christ Covenant.

- **Marriage Ministry** – We provide premarital counseling as well as marriage enrichment electives and mentoring. Our pastors and trained lay members also provide help to troubled marriages.
- **Divorce Recovery** – We offer support groups for those moving through separation and divorce.
- **Job Transition Ministry** – We provide support and encouragement for the unemployed, underemployed, and those who anticipate a job change.
- **Set Free** – This ministry offers confidential assistance for those struggling with sexual brokenness.
- **Grief Support Ministry** – In addition to stepping in to serve our families during and just after a funeral, we offer a weekly GriefShare support group along with bereavement teams to relieve a family from pressing concerns for a time after the funeral.
- **Counseling Pamphlets** – The pastors have provided very helpful pamphlets offering excellent biblical perspective and practical advice on a host of issues such as marriage, singleness, parenting, and psychological problems to mention just a few. Visit the Information Desk in the main lobby of the worship center to peruse the large inventory of pamphlets.
- **Widows and Single Moms** – Our deacons are assigned to provide ongoing follow-up to those widows and single mothers in the congregation who need assistance with physical/material needs.
- **Prayer and Anointing** – Christ Covenant is committed to praying for the pressing needs of our members as we learn of those needs. You may put prayer requests into the weekly offering or submit your request through our website. Those requests will be prayed over by the staff and church officers in the next days as well as during our monthly day of prayer. At the request of members who have a serious illness, the pastors and elders will also convene and, following James 5:13-18, anoint and pray for the member and family with the illness. You may request prayer and anointing by speaking with any elder or pastor.
- **Mercy Ministries** - Our Deacons place a high value on confidentiality as they minister to people through our Mercy Fund and provide other forms of assistance. In addition to the ability to provide support through our Mercy Fund, we also furnish information or access to resources such as the Matthews HELP Center, job transition ministries, and the outreach of Church on the Street (COTS).
- **Special Needs Ministry**
  - **Kings Kids** - The King's Kids Sunday Bible School provides an opportunity for caring volunteers to demonstrate the love of Jesus to individuals with special learning needs, not including learning disabilities. Team teachers use a curriculum involving the five senses, and activities are varied. Distinctive features of this class include caring buddies who facilitate individualized learning, visible encouragement, and the extensive use of music for worship, Scripture memory and learning fun.
  - **His Abilities** – This ministry seeks to serve individual members and families with special needs including cognitive and physical disabilities. The purpose of the ministry

is to come alongside covenant families with advocacy, resources, and support with the goal of ensuring that Sunday worship services, classes, and church-wide activities are accessible to all members, regardless of disabilities.

- **Pastoral Interns and Seminary Scholarships** – We have a vigorous pastoral internship and seminary scholarship programs to help those pursuing a seminary education for a future call to pastoral ministry and church planting. We are privileged to work with Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte as well as the PCA's Covenant Seminary in St. Louis.

## PRAYER

God's Word is full of His promises to hear and respond to our prayers. He also tells us to share our prayers. Your prayer requests are welcome at Christ Covenant. They are treated with care and confidentiality. God's answers to our requests fill us with praise for His goodness and encourage us to pray with even more confidence.

- **Monthly Prayer Guide** – Christ Covenant prints (and offers an online version) for guide our members in daily prayer each month. It includes scripture, prayer for specific staff and leadership within the church, and daily prayer focuses.
- **Congregational Day of Prayer** - The fourth Monday of each month is set aside for the staff and congregation to come together and pray for the needs of our congregation. The prayer room is open from 7 AM to 9 PM. There is a staff devotion at noon where all are invited. If a member or family seeks anointing or prayer with the Elders, there is opportunity to connect specifically on that day.
- **Weekly Prayer Meetings** – Each week, small groups gather to pray for certain activities or groups or in general. This includes:
  - an early Sunday morning prayer time set aside to pray for the Sunday worship services, sermon, and Sunday schools,
  - an early Sunday morning prayer time to specifically pray for the Children's Ministry,
  - an early Sunday morning prayer time to pray for CCC mission efforts,
  - a Sunday evening prayer time to pray for revival in our city, our nation, and our church; for our families, including our adult children; for our ministries and for the salvation of those we love and those He has brought into our lives as neighbors, co-workers and friends,
  - a Tuesday evening prayer, and
  - a Wednesday evening CCYM (youth ministry) prayer where students are encouraged to come and pray for the ministry.
- **Monthly Prayer Meetings** – In addition to the monthly Congregational Day of Prayer, where our congregation, staff, and pastors come together to pray for the needs of our congregation, we also offer two specific prayer groups that meet monthly:
  - **Missionary Support Prayer Groups** gather to pray for mercy and missions both overseas and locally. There are two groups, one specifically for women that meets on the third Tuesday of the month, and one that meets on the fourth Thursday of the month.

- The **Military Moms Prayer Group** gathers monthly for prayer, support, and fellowship. All moms at Christ Covenant with sons or daughters serving in any branch of the military are invited to participate in this group.

## SERVE THE WORLD

*We will engage members in the advance of the Kingdom of God, both near and far, by sharing the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit with lost persons and by reflecting the beauty and holiness of Christ to lost cultures.*

Our Outreach and Missions Department is active throughout the year engaging members in the advancement of the Kingdom of God, both near and far, by sharing the Gospel and by reflecting the beauty and holiness of Christ to lost cultures.

- **Local Missions** - Our members are actively involved in many local missions. The Outreach & Missions (O&M) Department equips the members of Christ Covenant to take the Gospel to their spheres of influence through training, coaching and teaching. O&M also facilitates neighborhood communities in their outreach efforts, creates and/or partners with outreach ministries to reach the city, and support local ministries of mercy and outreach. Some of our most vibrant local missions include:
  - **Project SHARE** – Each month, we collect items for local missions such as the Matthews HELP center.
  - **Seek the City** - Christ Covenant's “stay-at-home” summer mission week for middle school and high school youth. The entire congregation gets involved by volunteering in many different ways to enhance the ministry that the youth are leading.
  - **Mecklenburg Jail Ministry** - Opportunities to lead Bible studies in the local jail.
  - **Church on the Street (COTS)** - Cooperative ministry working with Charlotte’s homeless.
  - **Changed Choices** - Organization providing support to female inmates while incarcerated and after they are released.
  - **Lois' Lodge** - Resources and relationships to help young women and their families experiencing an unexpected pregnancy.
- **International Missions** - We seek to equip, encourage and empower national church plants with our long term mission strategies. In addition, we support missionaries who are providing the groundwork for future church planting. Each year, our membership makes a Faith Promise commitment, and the money collected supports international missions.
- **Disaster Response Ministry** – This ministry was established in 2015 to organize and to be better prepared to respond proactively if/when disaster occurs. The goal of the ministry is to have a high level of disaster preparedness and quick response capabilities for CCC by helping our church and families plan in advance for emergencies, become aware of potential disasters in our community, and develop a plan to survive after a disaster as well as minister to others.
- **Short Term Mission Trips** - Our short-term mission focus has expanded to minister with missions beginning in Charlotte and continuing to our International church planting. Family



involvement in short-term missions is increasing as we provide pathways to ministry that are suitable for all life stages.

- **Our Missionaries** - Christ Covenant Church supports more than 100 missionaries in the United States and seventeen different countries around the world. Each week we have “Missionaries of the Week” where we focus on praying for our missionaries.
- **Mission Ministries** – We have two ministries that support our missions program. Both the “Yarn Lovers Ministry” and the “Sewing Circle” support our missions programs by creating items that are recommended or requested by other missions, locally and nationally.
- **Missions Conference** - To educate and encourage involvement, the O&M Department holds an annual Missions Conference, bringing in missionaries and speakers to address the congregation during worship as well as to smaller groups, including students at Covenant Day School.
- **Get Off Our Donkeys** - In 2014, O&M led a series titled “Get Off Our Donkeys” (or G.O.O.D), which focused on seven areas of need in Charlotte: Homelessness, High School Dropouts, Human Trafficking, Refugees, Prisoners, Elderly, and Abortion. In response to this series, Christ Covenant Church is creating better ways for our members to be involved in our local missions. We also focus on one of the areas of need in a fall Justice Sunday.
- **SOAR Sports** - SOAR (Sports Outreach and Recreation) ministers both to the church and community with approximately 2,500 participants each year. Each young person (ages 3-18) involved in SOAR comes under the influence of a coach trained to teach them the essentials of their sport and show them the love of Jesus through action and attitude.

## ASSOCIATE MINISTRY AREAS

### Campus Outreach

Campus Outreach Charlotte now has staff on six college and university campuses in this region and on three campuses in South Africa. Campus Outreach is a global ministry that extends the impact and influences of the Gospel from the Church to college campuses.

### Covenant Day School

Covenant Day School was established by the Session of Christ Covenant Church in 1989 and serves more than 840 students from transitional kindergarten through 12th grade. Covenant Day offers a comprehensive educational program for the children of believers. Covenant Day’s mission is to assist the Christian family by providing an education marked by a biblical worldview, academic excellence, and affordability so that students are equipped to be salt and light for God’s glory.