



## Covenant Baptist Church

*Reformed and Refreshing*

*July 12th, 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.—ON HOLD

Sunday Worship ~ 10:30 A.M.

Wednesday Prayer Service ~ 7:00 P.M.—ON HOLD

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

## Order of Worship

*(July 12th, 2020)*

I Sing the Mighty Power of God—26

Scripture Reading: Psalm 143:1-12

How Deep The Father's Love For Us—80

These Great Things—32

Message:  
Rational Worship  
— Romans 12:1-2

Prayer and Benediction

Closing Hymn: There Is A Redeemer—201

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### On-Call Deacon List:

- July 12: Smoak
- July 19: Kyzer
- July 26: Waddell

### Church Cleaning Schedule:

- July 18: Egan/Fudge
- July 25: Olds/Shealy
- August 1: Wheat

### Church Bookstore:

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

## Announcements

We are aware of the situation with the coronavirus and are asking that everyone take the necessary precautions (i.e. wash hands, use hand sanitizer, etc.) and monitor the church website and the texting service for announcements regarding our services. Things can change overnight as we have seen, so there may be a time when we cancel all services. If you have any questions, you can ask any of the elders or deacons. If anyone needs help knowing how to livestream the service, please see one of the elders or deacons. Also, if you need to stay home for health reasons and need anything brought to you, please let us know. We would be glad to serve you in this way.

—  
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.

—  
We will be starting our 2nd Sunday Fellowship Dinner this Sunday, July 12th. Please plan to bring a dish to share and stay for the fellowship. 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.

## Covenant Baptist Church Events

**Greek Class**—*On hold*

**Biblical Counseling Class**—*On hold*

**Second Sunday Dinner**—*We will be starting our 2nd Sunday Fellowship Dinner this Sunday, July 12th. Please plan to bring a dish to share and stay for the fellowship. 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.*

## Other Events:

**Truth: Answers for Women, March 27-28 2020**—(Williamstown, KY)

*DELAYED UNTIL 2021*

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

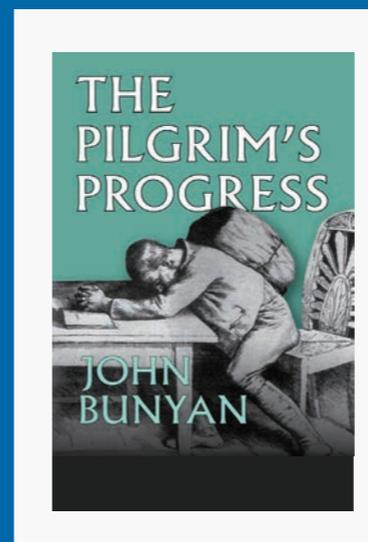
**NCFIC Singles Conference**—*NCFIC is offering a Singles Conference: Holiness to the Lord October 28-29. More details can be found at: <https://ncfic.org/events/216400/overview>*

## Book of the Week: The Pilgrim's Progress by John Calvin

“Although John Bunyan’s Pilgrim emerged in Puritan dress from the Town Prison on Bedford Bridge in 1676, he has remained to this day, in more than 120 languages, an influence which is almost as wide as Christianity itself. Many explanations are offered for the book’s enduring appeal—the masterly allegory which can charm both child and adult; the great humanness of the characters who, after a few rapid strokes, appear in flesh and blood likeness; the plain, vivid English—and yet all these things are secondary.

“Above all, Pilgrim’s Progress is a life story. It depicts the life which Bunyan himself lived and, at the same time, the life with which all Christians can substantially identify themselves. For, as Augustus M. Toplady wrote, the book describes ‘every stage of a Christian’s experience, from conversion to glorification.’ It does so with such abiding relevance because Bunyan’s world of thought is that of the Bible itself.”

<https://banneroftruth.org/us/store/christian-living/pilgrims-progress/>  
(Also available in church bookstore.)





## Are Churches “A Major Source of Coronavirus Cases?”

—by Tim Challies

The New York Times recently ran a column headlined “Churches Were Eager to Reopen. Now They Are a Major Source of Coronavirus Cases.” The lede is alarming: “The virus has infiltrated Sunday services, church meetings and youth camps. More than 650 cases have been linked to reopened religious facilities.” Here’s how the story begins:

*Weeks after President Trump demanded that America’s shuttered houses of worship be allowed to reopen, new outbreaks of the coronavirus are surging through churches across the country where services have resumed.*

*The virus has infiltrated Sunday sermons, meetings of ministers and Christian youth camps in Colorado and Missouri. It has struck churches that reopened cautiously with face masks and social distancing in the pews, as well as some that defied lockdowns and refused to heed new limits on numbers of worshipers. ...*

*More than 650 coronavirus cases have been linked to nearly 40 churches and religious events across the United States since the beginning of the pandemic, with many of them erupting over the last month as Americans resumed their pre-pandemic activities, according to a New York Times database.*

The article, which also made its way to the front page of the Drudge Report and various other aggregator sites, employs a lot of evocative language: Outbreaks are surging; the

virus has infiltrated; cases have erupted; and so on. While it affirms that many churches and ministries have created and followed strict guidelines related to masking, social distancing, and other practices, it focuses primarily on churches that “have remained defiant in the face of rising infections.” It tells of Graystone Baptist Church in Ronceverte, West Virginia which made masks optional and saw 51 cases traced back to it; of Lighthouse United Pentecostal Church in Union County, Oregon, which is responsible for “many” of the 356 local cases; of Kanakuk Kamps in Missouri which has had 80 cases traced back to it; and of Calvary Chapel of San Antonio whose pastor inviting his parishioners to begin hugging one another and quickly saw around 50 members get sick.

It all sounds very alarming, but does the Times make its case that churches are a major source of infections? Not even close. Since the early days of the pandemic it has been tracking coronavirus cases in the U.S. and across the world. Its meter, which is currently increasing by around 60,000 per day, has America at “3.0 million+” total cases. A little math shows that, even according to their own numbers, churches represent just the tiniest sliver of that total—roughly .02 percent. It’s hard to know how many churches there are in the U.S., but it could be around 350,000. The 650 cases the Times researched trace back to “nearly 40” of them—only 40 out of 350,000 (or more than 350,000 if we include camps and other ministries, as the article did). So no, the Times does not make the case that churches are a major source of coronavirus cases. If I have \$3,000,000 in the bank and you give me another \$650, you’d hardly be in the position to claim that you had made a major contribution to my wealth. Similarly, adding 650 cases to America’s total caseload of 3 million is no more than a blip that leaves 99.98% attributable to other causes.

Of course churches should still be cautious, especially as infections surge in certain parts of the country. Even if the Times doesn’t make its case that churches are a major contributor, it does prove that reporters are watching churches and eager to report on their failures, no matter how statistically insignificant. And infectious-disease expert Carlos del Rio, quoted in the article, is not wrong when he points out that churches may just represent “an ideal setting for transmission,” because “you have a lot of people in a closed space.” But Christians know this, which is why churches have been taking precautions, and why they are wise to continue them and to learn from congregations that have shared their experiences with outbreaks.

It seems clear to me that the Times has dramatically over-stated the degree to which churches have contributed to this pandemic. Are there any other .02 percent contributors the Times is covering as “major sources” of coronavirus cases? Not likely! And in their melodramatic alarmism they have missed the true story of churches and the coronavirus.

The true story of churches and coronavirus is their willingness to shutter their services for a time; to move online; to create and implement health and safety guidelines; to open with caution; to reduce seating capacity; to modify elements of their services; even to

adhere to guidelines that are stricter for churches than for other sectors or industries. Kristen K. Waggoner of the Alliance Defending Freedom says rightly that “a vast majority of churches meet or exceed federal health guidelines for reopening.” The true story of churches and coronavirus is the willingness of Christians to go above and beyond. Across America and across the world, Christians are doing their utmost to express love to God by worshipping him while also expressing love to their fellow man by taking every reasonable precaution. In that way churches are deserving of commendation, not rebuke.



## House Dem claims religious liberty is a ‘bogus term,’ ‘pretext for discrimination’

—by Sam Dorman

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, D-N.Y., accused conservatives of using the “bogus” term “religious liberty” in order to hide their desire to discriminate.

“We know that Neil Gorsuch is a supporter of so-called religious liberty, which is a bogus term—it is actually some sort of pretext for discrimination hiding behind the guise of religion,” he said during an interview Monday with MSNBC.

Maloney was referring to the Supreme Court justice who wrote Monday’s majority opinion arguing that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act protected against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Gorsuch argued that both of those were “inextricably” bound up in sex, which the statute 1964 statute protects. He indicated, however, that religious liberty concerns could alter the way Title VII is applied in future cases.

He specifically referred to the Religious Freedom and Restoration Act (RFRA) as a “super statute” that “might supersede Title VII’s commands in appropriate cases.”

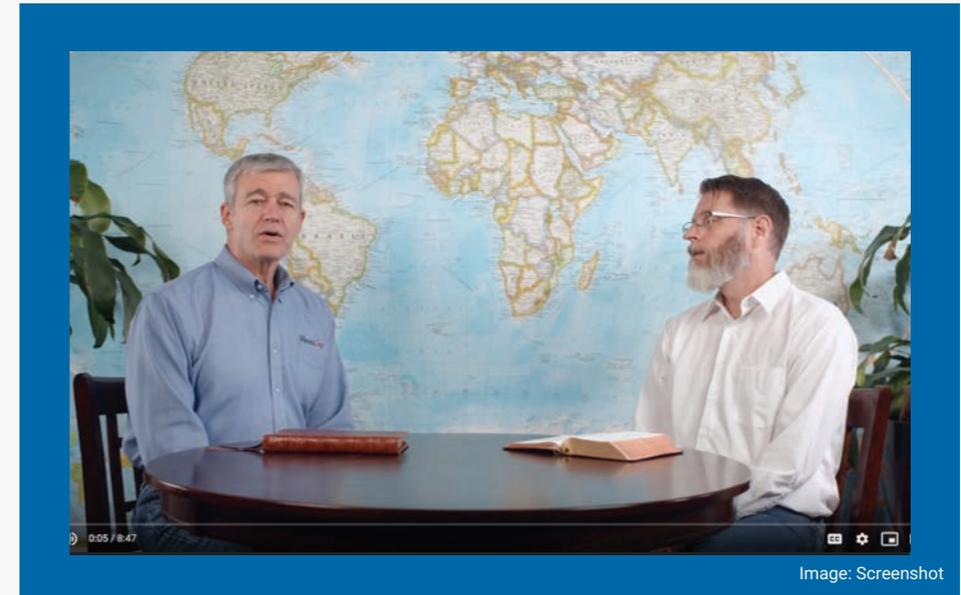
Conservatives have worried that anti-discrimination laws could be interpreted in ways that would conflict with employers' religious convictions. Gorsuch's reasoning, in particular, indicated to many that other regulations surrounding sex and gender would soon fall to a more liberal interpretation.

That included a recently finalized Health and Human Services regulation that said sex, as it was considered in an anti-discrimination provision, related to biological characteristics rather than perceived identity.

Maloney, the first openly gay representative from New York, said the Court's decision was "amazing" and that it would improve "millions of lives."

When asked about his message for young activists, Maloney argued that Congress would be a lot better if it had more high school students.

"Keep it up. If we had more high school kids in Congress, we'd be a better country. I mean, every major progressive movement right now is being led by young people," he said.



## Paul Washer: Urgent Request from Asia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5l2LUOxQvUM>

## Other News:

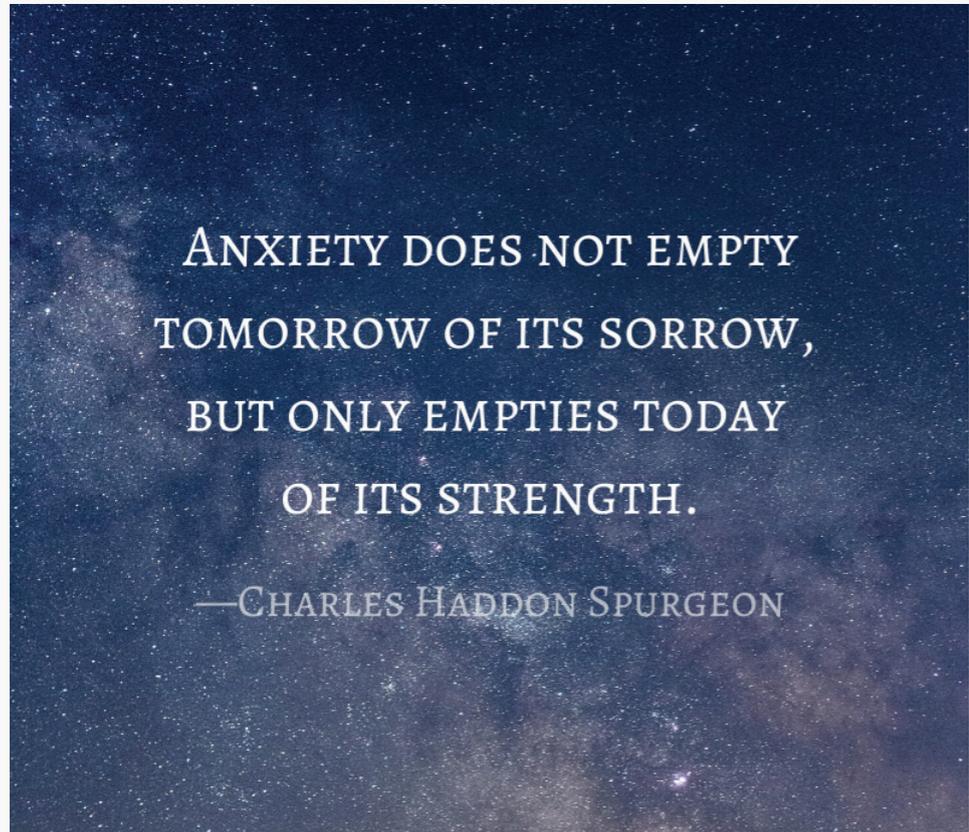
**'Horror Show': Watchdog Reveals FDA Paid for 'Fresh Human Fetal Parts' for 'Humanized Mice' Experiments**— <https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/2020/june/horror-show-watchdog-reveals-fda-paid-for-fresh-human-fetal-parts-for-humanized-mice-experiments>

**List of 269 companies supporting Antifa, Black Lives Matter, the lines have been drawn**— <https://www.naturalnews.com/2020-06-25-269-companies-supporting-antifa-black-lives-matter.html>

**Denver school board votes unanimously to pull police out of schools, citing "systemic racism"**— <https://disrn.com/news/denver-school-board-unanimously-votes-to-withdraw-police-from-public-schools>

**Monkeys steal coronavirus blood samples in India**— <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-india-monkey-idUSKBN2351KV>

## Quote of the Week:



ANXIETY DOES NOT EMPTY  
TOMORROW OF ITS SORROW,  
BUT ONLY EMPTIES TODAY  
OF ITS STRENGTH.

—CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON

## Biblical Counseling Resources

**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/>

**The Pursuit of Peace**—by Sam Stephens  
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/the-pursuit-of-peace/>

**Defeating Despair**—by Tim Pasma  
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/defeating-despair/>

**Gracious Words Amid Sword Thrusts**—by Jim Koerber  
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/gracious-words-amid-sword-thrusts/>

**You Can Please God**—by Kyle Gangel  
<https://biblicalcounseling.com/you-can-please-god/>

### 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.*

Biblical counseling class on hold while teacher recovers from surgery.



## Covenant Baptist Church

*Reformed and Refreshing*

*3535 Delree Street*

*West Columbia, SC 29170*

*<https://covenantbaptistsc.org>*

## Location:



*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.*