



Orchard Covenant Church

95 Berkshire Street
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

The Messenger

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413-543-4204



MESSENGER

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THE PASTOR'S PAGE

10 Qualities of a Healthy Missional Church: How are we doing?

Centrality of the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16)

- We believe that the Bible is the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine and conduct.
- Our preaching and teaching in all settings reflects careful preparation, relevance, and creativity.
- Our people are equipped and growing in their ability to study and apply Biblical truth in ways that lead to a scripturally integrated life.

Life transforming walk with Jesus (John 3:3,30; Phil. 1:6)

- We teach our people how to be attentive to Christ in all circumstances.
- Our people understand the radical nature of the message and mission of Jesus that continually deconstructs and reconstructs a person's life.
- Our people are equipped and growing in their ability to use a variety of spiritual growth resources, experiences, and settings.

Intentional evangelism (Matthew 28:18-20)

- We are burdened for the spiritual condition of those who do not yet know Christ.
- We have identifiable pathways for evangelism to take place in our ministries.
- Our people are equipped and growing in their ability to build spiritual friendships and know how to share their faith as God-birthed opportunities arise.

Transforming communities through active compassion, mercy and justice ministries (Micah 6:8)

- We are burdened for the hurting people in our community and beyond.
- We have identifiable pathways for compassion, mercy and justice ministries to take place.
- Our people are equipped and growing in their ability to see and address the hurts and the causes of hurt in our community and beyond.

Global perspective and engagement (Acts 1:8)

- We raise the sights of our members beyond our congregation and community by developing a Biblical worldview and often pray for and reference global matters.
- We have identifiable pathways to support the cause of Christ globally.
- Our people are equipped and growing in their ability to participate in the global dimensions of our ministry.

Compelling Christian community (Acts 2:42-47)

- We understand that our love for one another is a powerful testimony to the deity of Jesus.
- We love each other as we are, not as we should be.
- We share life together beyond the worship service.

Heartfelt worship (Psalm 138:1a; John 4:23)

- We exalt and celebrate God for who he is, what he has done, what he is doing and what he will do.
- Worship reflects careful preparation to help give voice to many dimensions of response to God such as adoration, praise, contrition, lament, and commitment.
- People leave worship knowing something more about the heart of God and about their own hearts.

Sacrificial and generous living and giving (Romans 12:1-8)

- We help people discover, develop and deploy their spiritual gifts.
- We regularly, graciously, and unapologetically teach on the importance of financial stewardship in the spiritual growth of the Christian.
- We have many examples of lifestyle choices being made on the basis of stewardship and the priority God plays in the lives of our members.

Culture of godly leadership (Hebrews 13:7)

- Our leaders at all levels serve with character, competence, and conviction.
- A spirit of collegiality pervades, with our people trusting our leaders and our leaders trusting our people.
- We continually identify and train godly leaders for all dimensions of our ministry.

Fruitful organizational structures (Exodus 18:13-26, Acts 6:1-7)

- We can articulate a compelling, Christ-honoring vision for our church.
- We embrace evaluation as normal and natural and work through conflict constructively.
- Our organizational structures are designed to be efficient at making decisions while at the same time building congregational ownership for those decisions.

Dear Orchard Covenant, Reading this list encourages and challenges me as your pastor. Let us keep growing in our walk with Jesus and in the ministry we carry on in Jesus' name. See you in church, Pastor Nancy Ebner

JULY BIRTHDAYS AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Toni Wapner	3 Nancy Kenyon
9 Joanne Johnson	5 Andy Johnson
10 Charles Duquette	9 Betty Steadward
18 Emily Hayden	9 Lee Deshais
20 Danusia Pringle	10 Gabrielle Olson
26 Larry Pringle	11 Jean Levesque

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

8 John and Emily Hayden	12 Ward Clark
10 Philip and June Foster	16 Isaac Martinez
11 Jon and Charlene Abrahamson	20 Mark Thomas III
23 Bill and Liz Bromage	22 June Foster
29 Larry and Danusia Pringle	28 Dina Hokanson

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

20 Dick and Sue Warner
23 Alan and Nancy Laraway
24 Ron and Dina Hokanson
29 David and Toni Wapner

[If your date is wrong or your name has been omitted, please contact the editor.]

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 9 – Women’s Salad Supper
July 17 -All Church Picnic at Pilgrim Pines
July 30 – GOD OF THIS CITY - 7:00 p.m.
August 10 – Women’s Salad Supper
August 25 – FMSC
August 27 - EPIC

THANKS

To our faithful teachers:

Mike Foster: for running the Nursery List and to both Jeanne and Mike for organizing and cleaning the nursery.
Sue and Dick Warner: nursery during Sunday School
Ron Hokanson: helper
Linda Howell: music for Sunday School
June Foster: music for Sunday School
Jeanne Foster and Roberta Glassman: preschool
Charlene Abrahamson, Dina Hokanson and Danusia Pringle: 1-3 grade
Alice Nakitare and Evans Jumba: 4-6 grade
Pastor Nancy: confirmation
Phil Foster and Dale Jennings: high school
Wally Ebner and Mike Foster: adult Sunday School

PICNIC AT PILGRIM PINES

After church on July 17 in caravan.



Fellowship
Food
Swimming
Boating
Horseshoes
A walk around the lake
Tennis
Golf
Baptisms

Please bring your own meat to cook on the grill and a salad, dessert, fruit, or chips to share. Drinks and paper goods will be provided.

For more information, to offer others a ride, or to indicate that you would like a ride, call the church office at 543-4204.

“GOD OF THIS CITY”

Imagine you are given a chance to find a way to serve God in your city. What could you do? After all, you’re only a kid!

Our drama project this summer takes place in a city park, a homeless shelter, and a garden. We have 15 neighborhood youth working together to tell and sing the story in our practices on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. With a little help, they are also making the set. Ellen Ebner is our director this year.

This is the fourth year of having a neighborhood summer drama project in conjunction with our neighbors at Deliverance Center Ministries. “God of this City” is a Musical about Serving and will be staged at our church on Saturday, July 30 at 7:00 pm.

Please come to support the kids who are working hard – and bring friends! This year our expenses are subsidized by a Springfield Cultural Council grant.

CAMP SQUANTO

Thanks to so many of you who helped make it possible for Amanda, Jenny, Ashante, Imani, Lambert, Naftari, Callie, Chris, and Eric to attend Camp Squanto this year.

A REMEMBRANCE

Dana Ham passed away on June 18. Peace be to his memory. Our prayers are with Helen as she grieves his loss.



EPIC – Empowering People, Inspiring Change Three -Church One Day Retreat

Saturday August 27, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at
“The Guest House”
Retreat and Conference Center in Chester,
CT . Facilitator: Alan Forsman

As a part of our participation in the NAVIGATE Journey, our entire congregation has the opportunity to attend an EPIC workshop this summer! This is a joint project with our sister Navigate churches, Cromwell and Haddam Neck, CT.

Every OCC adult is encouraged to attend. Please contact Pastor Nancy to sign up. The denomination, the conference office and the churches will share the cost of the retreat center and the speaker. In addition to our time, all we are individually asked to pay for is the cost of our lunch, which is \$10. Let's plan to meet at church and carpool!

“EPIC is a must for every Covenant Pastor and church leader who longs to experience renewal within their church. Empowering People, Inspiring Change provides the resources, instruction and framework that church leaders need to guide their congregations toward becoming healthy and missional in all they do!”

Testimony from a Covenant Pastor

“I recommend EPIC for any church member who is interested in church vitality. The seminar gives practical help in how to make needed changes in a ‘civil, compassionate, and Christ-honoring manner.’ People should know that EPIC is not just for church leaders, these seminars are so good the whole congregation should attend!”

Testimony from a Covenant Lay Person

FMSC

Bethany Covenant Church in Berlin, CT is sponsoring a **Feed My Starving Children** event on **August 25th**, where hundreds of volunteers, age 7 and up, gather to pack many thousands of nutritious meals that are sent to hunger relief locations around the world to save the lives of starving children. 18,000 people die each day of starvation in our world. The nutritious meals, consisting of rice, grains, vitamins, vegetables and protein, cost only 23 cents each to make. Save your quarters to offset FMSC's costs! We plan to send a team on Thursday, August 25 for a two-hour time slot. Sign up with Pastor Nancy if you are interested! Look for more information at church or online soon, or call the church.

SALAD SUPPERS

Ladies of the Church--

You are Invited to a
Salad Supper at
Pastor Nancy's home, on
Saturday, July 9, at
5:00 p.m., for an evening
of relaxation and



refreshing summer dishes. *Please bring a salad to share!* (Adults only, please.)

There will be a second salad supper on
Wednesday, August 10, at 6:00 p.m.

Let's get together this summer!

THE TORNADO

It happened right here in our own backyard! We see areas of our country and world ravaged by storms of all sorts and know that our response can only be one of prayer and financial support. However, the tornado that struck on June 1st tore through Springfield and surrounding towns with a viciousness unlike anything ever seen here, presenting a challenge to be more actively involved. The storm area was ½ mile wide and 40 miles long and hundreds of homes have been severely damaged, many condemned. Whole neighborhoods are forever changed. The family most affected in our church were the Johnsons on Druid Hill Road. Thanks to several of our men, a way was cleared for them to be able to leave their home and reach their car about a quarter of a mile away. Others were without power and witnessed massive destruction close to them. It is truly amazing how the city has responded and many volunteers have contributed to the clean up and restoration.

Some members of our church family have joined the team of people from our sister church on Plumtree Road, going to people's homes in the area and offering help. ECC was in the path of the storm, although they sustained no damage. They offered their large parking lot as a staging area for all kinds of municipal vehicles, and they fed the workmen and others affected for several days. Some from our congregation volunteered at the Salvation Army where huge amounts of clothing, personal items and food have been donated. The town of Monson suffered much devastation and one of our members prepared food for several days in the First Church of Monson that had its steeple blown off. Members of our church have contributed \$1700.00 to help those in great need. Pastor Nancy has been involved with a group of pastors from the city that are praying together about how to coordinate recovery efforts after FEMA is gone. She has also done counseling at the Mass Mutual Center which has been a shelter to those without a place to live. Recovery efforts will take a very long time so we must continue to pray and see where God may nudge us to get involved.