



Covenant Compass

"To know Christ and to make Him known"

Covenant Presbyterian Church

15002 Blondo Street - Omaha, NE 68116 | 402.498.9000 | covenantomaha.church

Monthly Newsletter

June 2025

Enjoying Scripture: God's Word in History

Andrew Myers, Senior Pastor

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

In recent *Compass* articles, I have been exploring how we can best read and enjoy the Bible. Last month, I highlighted that God has spoken "at many times and in many different ways." Because of that, to understand the Bible, it is helpful to understand the historical context and the literary context of each passage of Scripture. This month, we can consider how historical context plays a role in interpretation.

It's a remarkable truth that the eternal Son of God, the eternal Word, became flesh. He took on our human nature at a particular time and in a particular place in order to reveal God to us. In a way, the incarnation of the Son of God is an escalation of what God has done from the beginning. To his creatures, existing in time and space, God speaks and reveals himself in time and space. Because God speaks within our history, we understand his speech by paying attention to that history.

All human speech is understood best *in context*. If you enter a foreign culture—an unfamiliar context—there is likely to be misunderstanding.

For us, entering the world of the Bible is like entering a foreign culture. Whether we consider the geography of the Bible, or the cultural practices of its times, or the politics that shaped its world, there are endless ways that our understanding of the Bible can be strengthened by understanding the world in which it was written.

When entering a foreign culture, it can also be helpful to have a guide. You may find it useful at times to refer to a trusted Study Bible, a Bible Dictionary, or

Encyclopedia—able to inform you how much a denarius is worth, or able to instruct you about the unique cultures associated with ancient places like Corinth or Philippi.

Ultimately, when entering a foreign culture, the best way to become fluent is through immersion. Some Bible reading habits keep us from ever experiencing immersion because we only ever focus on small portions of Scripture, taken out of context. But immersion in the Bible's own history is what we need to become familiar with the world of the Bible.

Through immersion, we become familiar with the agrarian world of the patriarchs; much later, we encounter the political world of Israel's kings, accompanied by urbanization and the development of various technologies. Eventually, we encounter the sorrow of exile for both Israel and Judah, but also, Judah's eventual return. As a result, with the turn of our Scriptures from the Old to the New Testament, we encounter God's people back in God's land awaiting God's redemption. By immersion in this history, we gain fluency reading the Bible within these contexts.

Learning a culture takes patience and humility. It requires willingness to enter spaces knowing we will make mistakes, knowing we will only half-understand at best at first—but in time, understanding comes.

The most significant reason that we should want to understand the historical context of Scripture is that it helps us to ask the question—what was God saying to his people *then*? What was his purpose when he spoke *at that time* and *in that place*? And it is by understanding the answer to those questions, that we also are able to ask, what then is God saying to me now?

Amen My Brother, Amen *Chuck Tomek, Member*

I started working in a small-town emergency room three years ago. I immediately took a liking to Jeff, a paramedic who worked full time with me. We bonded for many reasons. Most days I worked with three nurses, two technicians, and one registrar. All were females. Don't get me wrong. I love females! I married one, but sometimes a man needs another man to chat with, to relate to, to understand! We bonded because of more than being men. I used to be a paramedic. We could rehash our ambulance days. He used to work at a prison. I was interested in his prison stories. But most importantly, Jeff was a Christian. He recently completed his master's degree in theology, frequently preaches from the pulpit on Sunday mornings, and we could talk of our love for Christ.

Jeff frequently talked about his youngest daughter's pregnancy. She was soon to have a child, and Jeff was so excited about this future grandchild. We often heard about the morning sickness, the preparation of the nursery, the frequent obstetrician visits, and other pregnancy issues as the time drew closer.

She went into labor. The baby was born. And died the same day. I was in Arizona when my nurses texted me the sad news. I didn't know what to say to my Christian brother.

I came home. Deb and I went to a *Mercy Me* concert in Lincoln. *Mercy Me* is one of our favorite Christian bands. We volunteered that night for the band, helping with the Children's International program. We told concert goers of an opportunity to sponsor a child from

one of 12 countries, providing health care, education, food, housing, and job training.

Halfway through the concert I received a text from Jeff. "Are you here at the concert?" he asked. I didn't respond. I didn't know what to say. I wanted to give my condolences in person and not via texting. I found it encouraging he was at the concert and listening to the band pour out their love and dedication to Christ.

I went to work the next day and Jeff was there. It was a crazy busy day, and we had little time to chat. Finally at the end of the day I told him how sorry I was for his loss and couldn't begin to understand what he was going through. Jeff smiled. "My daughter and I are OK," he started. "This world is so messed up with crime, political strife, indifference, disinformation, misinformation, and countless other issues. My granddaughter wasn't going to be strong enough to deal with all that and Christ knew this. In His infinite love, He immediately took her home where she would always know peace. Most importantly, she's spending her entire life in the arms of Jesus. That fact was reinforced to me last night at the concert. I can't begin to imagine a more amazing, more beautiful life.

How was I to respond to that? Here was a man who knows more about Jesus and the Bible in one of his pinky fingers than I would ever know. He had just buried his granddaughter, and he was OK because he knew she was with Jesus. I responded in the only way I knew how. "Amen my brother, amen."

Youth Ministry

Tyler Bullie, Youth & Young Adult Ministry Leader

Then the LORD will appear over them; his arrow will flash like lightning. The Sovereign LORD will sound the trumpet; He will march in the storms of the south. (Zechariah 9:14)

Monthly Update



We had a strong finish to our school year and celebrated our one senior student, Emily Maguire, as she graduates from Millard North and will be attending the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Our summer is all planned out and can be found around the church and on the church website!

One event we want to highlight is summer camp! It will be July 7-11 this year and we want every student who wants to go to be able to! Camp is completely free this year and is easy to sign up!

Just email tyler@covenantomaha.church for more information! We look forward to having a great summer this year and are excited for the next school year!

News & Covenant Notes



Wednesday, June 18
12:00 PM

If you are 55+ (Just Older Youth) plan to join us for faith, fellowship and food as JOY group kicks off another year.

**RSVP for the meal to the church office
(402) 498-9000 or e-blast by Monday, June 16.**

The meal will be pulled pork, baked beans, potato salad, watermelon slices.



June 1 - Kevin Boesiger
June 8 - Pastor Stu Kerns
June 15 - Pastor Andrew Myers
Communion
June 22 - Pastor Andrew Myers
June 29 - Pastor Andrew Myers

Congratulations!

Reception honoring
Pastor Andrew Myers, PhD



Sunday, June 22

Cake reception following 9 & 11AM services



Welcome Sherry Guthridge!

We welcome Sherry to Covenant as our new administrative assistant. She began April 28.

Sherry is a native of Detroit, MI and has lived in Omaha 32 years. She comes to Covenant with a background in sales, marketing and insurance.

Sherry is active in the music ministry at her church.

A self-described "foodie" she enjoys cooking, movies, and spending time with her family.

Stop by the office and welcome her to Covenant!

Staff Celebrations

~ **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY** ~

Mike Pollock, *Contemporary Worship & Audio Team Leader*, June 1 (6 years with Covenant)

The end is not the goal for everyday life. The journey is! Where you are today is where God wants you.

Celebration of the Arts 2025

Kevin Boesiger, Director of Music & Outreach

The second annual *Celebration of the Arts* is on the calendar. If you are an artist, or know of an artist here at Covenant and would like to submit your work for the gallery, checkout the guidelines below. This year’s theme is *Seasons: A Time for Everything* based on the passage from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. We had some amazing pieces in the gallery last year, so please consider contributing this year.

The gallery (Room 115) will open on Saturday, July 26 when we kick-off the celebration with a choral concert at 7:00 p.m. The concert will feature the choir from the Covenant Choral Festival that will take place on that same day. The gallery will remain open throughout the next week and following Sunday, August 3. The deadline for submitting artwork in July 10.

Art Gallery Guidelines

1. You may submit more than two works.
2. Maximum – 2-3 pieces of artwork per artist will be selected from those submitted.
3. Complete submission form for each piece of art.
4. Provide a digital photo of the artwork submitted.
5. **SUBMISSION DEADLINE is JULY 10.**
6. Gallery will be set-up on Thursday, July 24.
7. Artwork will be displayed July 26 until August 3.
 - a. Gallery will be in Room 115 and will be locked and secured when the gallery is not official open.
 - b. Selected artwork can be dropped off at the church July 21 through 23 during church office hours or by arrangement

8. All artworks should be created by members of Covenant or have a tie to the church.
9. 2025 Theme is *Seasons: A Time for Everything* (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).

An online form for submission is available by scanning the QR code. Hard copies of the form are available from Kevin or the church office.

Saturday, July 26. 7PM

Celebration of the Arts

Come experience Covenant Choir’s Carnegie homecoming concert!

Enjoy visual art on display by artists of all ages.



COVENANT CHURCH 15002 BLONDO ST OMAHA, NE
www.covenantomaha.church/events



Finance



	April 2025	April 2025	YTD	YTD
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Operating Revenues	\$58,541	\$85,223	\$305,842	\$340,893
Operating Expenses	\$101,029	\$105,131	\$371,657	\$400,448
Net Change to Operating Activities	(\$42,488)	(\$19,908)	(\$65,815)	(\$59,555)

Children's Ministry

Halee Watson, Children's Ministry Leader

SUMMER Programs

As a reminder, children will remain with their families during worship services starting in June. The nursery will still be an option for children aged three and under. We will be taking a break from Wednesday Night Bible study and regular Sunday School classes for the summer. A large Sunday School group led by Halee will begin on May 25 from 10:00-10:50 a.m. in room 103.

Monthly Update

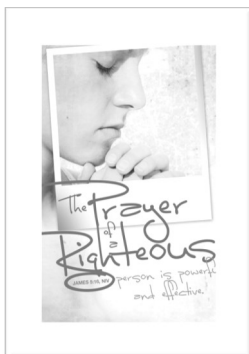
Now in the books of Ruth and 1 Samuel, children are learning that regardless of their sin patterns and disobedience, God continued to see His people and hear their requests and desires. They see God's provision when he gives a kinsman redeemer to Ruth's family, a son with a prophetic calling to Hannah, and freedom and protection for the Israelites from the Philistines. God's plan remained steadfast, despite humanity's brokenness. God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.



Registration will be open until Friday, June 6 at midnight. You can register by scanning the QR code or by going to our website, www.covenantomaha.church.

We will be closing our week-long **Epic Australian Adventure** with a visit from **Wildlife Encounters** on **Thursday, June 12 at noon**. Come enjoy pizza before the program!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



Pray For Our Mission Partners

We at Covenant believe in the power of prayer!
Join us each month in intercessory prayer for three of our mission partners.

**For the month of June
please pray for:**

Local - Nebraska Fellowship of Christian Athletes

National - American Heritage Girls

Global - Gideons International

Christian Calling

Cindy Waldo, Congregational Care Coordinator

A social work student recently contacted me. Her assignment was to interview a social worker and write a paper. This can be a valuable learning experience and can provide insight into the field and career path. I was humbled by her request and took the opportunity to answer her questions honestly and thoughtfully. I wanted to share with her more of why social work is a Christian calling for me. Unless you personally know a social worker, you have only a fuzzy idea of social work as a profession. Most assume social work is primarily employment in public service programs such as child welfare or temporary financial assistance.

1. What led you to pursue a career in social work? I was working in the business field. Then my (late) husband was diagnosed with cancer. Watching my husband being consumed and slowly dying over the year and a half from the cancer, and all the social workers that helped him changed me. I wanted to help people.

2. Where have you worked since obtaining your degree? Director of Congregational Care at Covenant Presbyterian Church.

3. How long have you worked in your current field of practice? 17 years

4. Describe what you do in your current position? Counseling, including dysfunctional families, families with LGBTQ+, anxiety, depression, marriage, self-esteem, and more. Social work includes: Everything from assisting the older church members transition from their home to senior living, to hospice. Helping with Medicare, end of life, estate planning, assist families with hoarders, and connecting various needs to resources. I also do groups.

5. What do you find most rewarding about your job? That every day is different and challenging. I am blessed that people let me into their lives and trust me to share what is going on and let me help them to improve their quality of life.

6. What do you find most challenging about your current job? Because I am part time, the most challenging thing is to balance and prioritize needs with time.

7. What has been most stressful in this job? That social work is a thankless job most people do not understand because it is confidential. Often spending long hours

working, demanding caseloads, and the sometimes emotional toll of helping people with significant challenges. I know I make a difference, but the feeling of being undervalued by others is discouraging.

8. Do you have criticism of the profession and how can the profession improve? None

9. What do you see as the most pressing social problems confronting your clients? I assist church members and people in the community. Most pressing is housing, poverty, living barely paycheck to paycheck, employment, abuse, addictions.

10. What ethical challenges have you had to face in your job? Confidentiality vs. duty to report, mandatory reporting, conflict between morals, self-determination, and religion.

11. What advice would you have for a new social worker considering going into this field of practice? Stay true to yourself and what you have learned in your social work classes. Others may never understand how vast the role of a social worker is, or how many issues and needs you can help with. They may never see what you did or how you helped change someone's life, but the person you helped knows and will remember how you listened and how you made them feel.

12. What about the NASW (National Association of Social Workers) Code of Ethics excites you, makes you proud of being a social worker? It accurately describes social workers' ethics and values and is a guideline for every day. It also reassures the client of my ethics and principles. This is who I am, this is how I will represent you and make you the priority and reassures the client.

Are Your Affairs in Order?

Tuesday, June 17
2:00-4:00 PM
Fireside Room

A comprehensive workshop
For all adults ages 18 and older

**Living
Planning
Dying
Well**

Contact Cindy Waldo Congregational Care, or the church office to register
402-498-9000

No Man Left Behind Men's Ministry Roy Phillips, Member

Proverbs 27:17 ESV *Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*



Unforeseen Opportunities

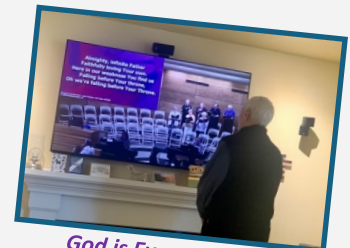
Biblical Thought: "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

-James 2:17, NIV

Summer is arriving sooner than later and I wanted to take a break from everything. But it unexpectedly became an opportunity to think about what to do when church kicks off again in August. My recovery from a fall during Holy Week gave me time to do nothing but think and work out (Physical Therapy). *Like fitness, spiritual formation doesn't happen to us accidentally. We can't just call ourselves Christians or show up at church once a week and expect to see sustainable growth.*¹ My recovery process gave me opportunities to bond with several individuals. People seem to be more open to discussing Christianity once they realize you are a Christian. Try it, it could be therapeutic!

"We need consistency, discipline and action to become the men of God we were created to be."¹

Men's Ministry Model: Building Godly Men: Our struggles shape us into the men we need to be.



God is Everywhere!

Classes:

- **Men's Wednesday Night Class** is taking a vacation until we start again in the fall. We are in for a treat as Pastor Andrew has offered to teach a class. The topic will be announced later.
- **Thursday Morning Bible Study** took May off but starts again June 5 with the book of Romans.
- **Fellowship:**
- **Saturday, June 21** Men's Ministry Breakfast will tie into Patriotic Sunday. Guest speaker is J.R. Richardson, Director of Bellevue University's Military and Veterans Services Center. He has seen the sacrifices made by military men, women and families from the beginning of their service until their last call. God has a plan and a purpose for their lives. Our testimonial speaker will be one of our own veterans



J.R. Richardson

Special Events:

- We are always open to new ideas or reimagining old ones, join the leadership team or just drop a line with an idea. Looking for opportunities to help with church happenings.



Women's Ministry



Building a caring community of women strengthening our church through support and discipleship, and bearing witness to the promises of God's Kingdom.

Women's Circle



Thursday, May 15 was a beautiful day with sunshine, blue skies, and wind. Our May Circle was attended by twenty-five ladies and many were wearing **pink**. Our theme was **Pretty in PINK** and the dining room was decorated in pale pink tablecloths, with large hot pink flowers for centerpieces and a lovely buffet table where our lunch of three different salads was enjoyed.

Thank you to our hostesses for decorating & providing dessert: Karen S. and Jeanne M. Karen S. baked wonderful pink cookies with cherries inside and a Hershey kiss on top. Everything was yummy! **Pink lemonade** was the drink of choice.

Thank you to Sue L. for taking us through the first chapter of the Gospel of John, during our Bible study. We celebrated May birthdays and sang two hymns: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* and *Because He Lives*. Our Circle gathering closed with prayer for God's healing and comfort, and we sang *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* in our circle.

The next Circle will be on Thursday, JUNE 19 at 11:45 a.m. in the dining room. The theme will be **Blue**. The menu for lunch has not yet been determined. Watch the Friday e-blast for more details about our June Circle. Yes, wear blue!

Women's Spring Retreat



On Saturday, May 3, twenty women attended the Covenant Women's Spring Retreat at Camp Rivercrest. Our theme was "God Given Gifts". Our two speakers, Debarra Prentice and Ginny McBlain shared how they have used their God given gifts in their lives. Debarra spoke about her time as a missionary in different parts of Africa. Ginny spoke about her experiences as a published author.

Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study

We held our final spring study on Wednesday, May 7 and are now on break until mid-July. At that time, we will offer a four week study on different topics. There will be no homework or need to sign up. More information will be provided closer to the start date. All women are welcome.

Chat, Knit & Sew is on summer break.

Dinners 8

Enjoy the opportunity to get to know those in your church family over meal & conversation!

Sign up for a convenient date at the welcome desk.

Sponsored by Covenant Connections Ministry

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Covenant's Session calls for a Congregational meeting on **Sunday, June 22, 2025**, at 12:10 p.m. to vote on the nomination of Fred Coffman to the office of Deacon.

JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Contemporary Worship Service 10:00am Adult, Youth, Children's Sunday School 11:00am Blended Worship Service 12:15pm VBS Meeting	2 12:15pm Hebrews Prayer Team 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous - Women to Women	3 6:30pm Fresh Start	4 2:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Contemporary Worship Service Band Rehearsal	5 7:00am Men's Bible Study	6 10:00am Youth Ministry Committee Meeting (Offsite) 2:00pm Emmanuel Community Joy Starts Here (Off Site) 6:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous - Primary Purpose Group	7 9:00am Vacation Bible School Decorating
8 9:00am Contemporary Worship Service 10:00am Adult, Youth, Children's Sunday School 11:00am Blended Worship Service 1:30pm Heritage Pointe Service (Offsite) 1:30pm Remington Heights Service (Offsite)	9 9:00am Vacation Bible School 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous - Women to Women 7:00pm Young Adults' Group 	10 9:00am Vacation Bible School 6:30pm Fresh Start 6:30pm Stephen Ministry Meeting	11 9:00am Vacation Bible School 2:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Contemporary Worship Service Band Rehearsal 6:00pm Youth Group Movie Night	12 7:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Vacation Bible School 10:30am Covenant Connections Meeting 1:00pm Missions Committee Meeting 6:30pm Gideons	13 9:00am Vacation Bible School 2:00pm Emmanuel Community Joy Starts Here (Off Site) 6:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous - Primary Purpose Group	14
15 Communion Sunday 9:00am Contemporary Worship Service 10:00am Adult, Youth, Children's Sunday School 11:00am Blended Worship Service 3:30pm Parsons House Service (Offsite) 	16 1:00pm Volunteer Teams Committee Meeting 3:00pm Throckmorton Small Group 6:30pm Children's Ministry Committee Meeting 6:30pm Deacons' Meeting 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous - Women to Women 7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting	17 2:00pm "Are Your Affairs in Order?" 3:00pm Outreach & Communication Committee Meeting 6:30pm Adult Discipleship Committee Meeting (Offsite) 6:30pm Fresh Start 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	18 12:00pm JOY (Just Older Youth) Group 2:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Contemporary Worship Service Band Rehearsal	19 7:00am Men's Bible Study 11:45am Women's Circle	20 2:00pm Emmanuel Community Joy Starts Here (Off Site) 6:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous - Primary Purpose Group	21 8:00am Men's Ministry Breakfast 
22 9:00am Contemporary Worship Service 10:00am Adult, Youth, Children's Sunday School 10:00am Reception Honoring Pastor Andrew 11:00am Blended Worship Service 12:10pm Congregational Meeting 12:00pm Reception Honoring Pastor Andrew 3:30pm Sunridge Village Service (Offsite)	23 6:30pm The Bookworms 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous - Women to Women 7:00pm Young Adults' Group	24 6:30pm Fresh Start	25 2:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Contemporary Worship Band Rehearsal 6:00pm Youth Group Pool Party (Offsite) 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	26 7:00am Men's Bible Study	27 2:00pm Emmanuel Community Joy Starts Here (Off Site) 6:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous - Primary Purpose Group	28
29 10:00am Adult, Youth, Children's Sunday School 11:00am Blended Worship Service 12:00pm Patriotic Sunday Church Luncheon 3:30pm Parsons House Service (Offsite) 	30 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous - Women to Women					

• Calendar items are updated continuously throughout the month. Please refer to the website, covenantmaha.church for up-to-the-minute changes/additions.



Covenant Presbyterian Church

15002 Blondo Street

Omaha, NE 68116

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"To know Christ and to make Him known."


Covenant

**PATRIOTIC
SUNDAY**

JUNE 29 | 11:00 AM

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

LUNCHEON AT 12:15PM | GYM

The next Compass deadline is June 16.