

Monday, November 16 - "The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.' Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus'" (Luke 1:28-31, NIV). No one knows for sure, but most experts speculate that Mary was around thirteen to fifteen years old when she gave birth to Jesus. Everyone can agree that she was extremely young. So the angel Gabriel shows up and greets Mary, tells her not to be afraid, and oh, by the way, you're going to have a baby. And not just any baby, this baby will be God's Son. In Mary's day, she could have been stoned by Jewish custom for being betrothed and ending up pregnant by another. Or Joseph could have sought a divorce from her. From an earthly perspective, she faced an uncertain future. And how does she respond? **"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered.**

"May it be to me as you have said" (Luke 1:38, NIV). Did God have to run a background check on Mary? He knew exactly who He had selected, and her response was the perfect answer. So what made her the perfect young lady for this assignment? Did Mary have any special training or lots of money? Most likely, Mary was poor, but she was pure and highly favored by God. Most importantly, she was willing to be used by God. Has the Lord asked you to step up and take on something that feels uncomfortable or perhaps monumental? God did not set Mary up for failure, nor is He setting you up for failure either. God's not looking for your ability; He is looking for your availability. Who are you? You **"are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that [you] should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).** **"May He grant you according to your heart's desire, and fulfill all your purpose" (Ps. 20:4).**

Tuesday, November 17 - "If I say, 'My foot slips,' Your mercy, O Lord, will hold me up. In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul" (Ps. 94:18-19). An anxious thought can be harmless enough, but when you dwell on that thought it can quickly turn into worry and eventually worry will turn to fear. That is why Paul told us to **"take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ"** (2 Cor. 10:5, NIV). So how do you deal with your anxieties? The world offers many alternatives, but I don't think any compare to the Lord's prescription. Some people turn to drugs, cigarettes, alcohol, or food to comfort them. Some of the drugs are legitimate and come via a prescription, but you can't medicate your anxious thoughts away. Nor can you eat, drink, or smoke them away. So what is God's prescription for anxiety? Paul tells us, **"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"** (Phil. 4:6-7, NIV). We don't have to be anxious about anything because God takes requests twenty-four hours a day. You can address that request to Jesus, and He will make sure your Heavenly Father get it. **"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you"** (1 Pet. 5:7, NIV). How much of your anxiety does Peter tell us to turn over to the Lord? All of it! Peter tells us don't just set it down politely, but he says to cast it on Him. Webster defines cast as "to throw, fling, or hurl." So why fling it? Because the stuff can become toxic if we hold on to it long enough. If your back is aching because you are carrying a bag of anxious thoughts around all day, the question becomes, why? When your foot slips (and it eventually will), the Lord will hold you up just as He did the psalmist, and His comforts will delight your soul as well. So whatever anxious thought or burden you are carrying around today, cast it on Him because He does care for you.

Wednesday, November 18 - "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me" (Ps. 23:1-4, NIV). Sheep are not known for their intelligence. They are totally dependent upon their shepherd to protect them, to guide them to safety, and to direct them to both food and water. David recognized that the Lord protected, guided, and rescued him just as he did for his sheep. Being a shepherd was not without its own risk. David told King Saul, "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear," so he knew all too well the perils that sheep continually faced. As the Lord protected David, so Jesus will protect you. Jesus said, **"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep"** (John 10:11, NIV). As you know, Jesus did lay down His life for His sheep. Do you need a shepherd today? Do you fear any evil? Peter tells us to **"be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour"** (1 Pet. 5:8, NIV). In many ways fighting an actual lion may be more desirable than dealing with Satan because you can see the lion. Satan, on the other hand, is unseen, cunning, and he doesn't fight fair. Jesus says of Satan, **"the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy"** (John 10:10, NIV). So how does one keep from giving in to fear? First of all, you have to realize the safest place is being next to the Shepherd. The closer you are to the Shepherd, the safer you are. It's when you wander off on your own away from the pack that you are most vulnerable. Don't let the enemy isolate you. There truly is safety in numbers, so you need to surround yourself around a body of believers. You also have to realize that **"the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world"** (1 John 4:4, NIV). Stick close to the Shepherd and follow His voice. He will lead you away from trouble and in the end, your story can end like David's. **"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever"** (Ps. 23:6, NIV).

Thursday, November 19 - "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall" (Ps. 27:1-2, NIV). Have you ever had to walk at night in total darkness without a flashlight, no moonlight, and no streetlights? It is not only eerie, but it can be a little dangerous if you cannot see where you are going and are not aware of what obstacles are in front of you. Spiritual darkness is even more intimidating; wandering around having no sense of direction in your life. The Lord does not want you wandering in darkness. He knows it is dangerous, and that is why He left us an eternal light—His word. **"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path"** (Ps. 119:105, NIV). So next time you find yourself stumbling around in spiritual darkness, reach for the Light. David said the Lord was not only his light, but also his salvation. To have salvation, you have to have a Savior. God sent us a Savior. **"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost"** (Luke 19:10, NIV). If you find yourself in a helpless or hopeless situation today, there is help and there is hope, and His name is Jesus. Jesus said, **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"** (John 8:12, NIV). There is a theoretical question out there: does darkness exist? The answer is no. The reason is that darkness, in reality, is the absence of light. You measure darkness by the amount of light present. When Jesus shows up, darkness must flee. You do not have to live life in darkness. **"Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light ... He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness"** (Mic. 7:8-9, NIV). David said, **"He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me"** (Ps. 23:3-4, NIV). When you have a Savior, when you have His word, when you have the Lord, whom shall you fear?

For a complete study guide, visit covenantdothan.org/messages/archive/no-fear-november/.

THE COVENANT HAPPENINGS

WORSHIP AT COVENANT

11.15.20

Sundays

CovKids

8:15 | Traditional Service
AM Sanctuary

9:45 | Contemporary Service
AM Sanctuary

11:00 | Contemporary Service
AM Christian Life Center Gym

Wednesdays

6:00 | 1st Wednesday
PM Sanctuary

Sundays at 8:15, 9:45 & 11:00 am

Nursery & Toddlers - Nursery Hall
2 year olds - Preschool - The Treehouse
K - 2nd Grade - Children's Worship Center
3rd - 5th Grade - Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays at 5:30 pm

Nursery & Toddlers - Nursery Hall
2 year olds - Preschool - The Treehouse
K - 5th Grade - Children's Worship Center

CovStudents

Sundays at 5 pm

6th-12th Grade - CLC Gym

Wednesdays

6th-8th Grade - 5:30-6:15 pm
9th-12th Grade - 7:00-7:45 pm

Online Campus

No matter where you are on Sundays, you can join us for worship on our Online Campus. Visit our online campus at covenantdothan.org/locations/ online for more information.

Livestream: covenantdothan.online.church
Facebook Live: [facebook.com/covumcdothan](https://www.facebook.com/covumcdothan)
YouTube: Search Covenant Dothan UMC

Welcome!

We are excited to welcome you back on campus for all worship services! Our online campus will continue as usual. Activities are available for children and students.

Visit us online for worship:

Livestream: covenantdothan.online.church
Facebook Live: [facebook.com/covumcdothan](https://www.facebook.com/covumcdothan)
YouTube: Search Covenant Dothan UMC

Can't join us on Sunday mornings? Worship with us on Sunday & Monday evenings.
Sundays at 6 pm - Traditional, Mondays at 6 pm - Contemporary

A Note From the Finance Office

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11

Giving is a way of opening ourselves to opportunity. When we choose to be God's opportunity of help and love for another person, we place ourselves in God's design for giving and receiving from one another. One of the ways God turns us into more generous, thankful, joyful people is by blessing us so that we can give it back to the kingdom and "result in thanksgiving to God." Will you join us in becoming a thankful people by giving back to the kingdom?

We offer many easy options to give and we would love to share more about them with you. Contact Annette Lovrich at (334) 944.6208 for more information on how to give with online, text to give and automatic draft options. Thank you for your continued support and generosity through this Thanksgiving season.

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THE COVENANT APP
Search & download
"Covenant UMC Dothan" on
any phone or tablet device.



November Sermon Series

Fear saturates our society. Everywhere we turn we're faced with a new security threat, informed about a new health risk, or warned about some kind of impending doom. We invite you to join us for our new series "No Fear November" as we unpack the presence of fear in our lives and learn to focus our fear so we can discover the kind of peace God wants for us.

Baptism

We believe baptism is an important step of obedience in our faith journey. It shows that we have personally trusted Jesus for our salvation, and just as Jesus was baptized on earth, we do this to follow his example. Your baptism symbolizes the new life you have found in Christ just as Jesus rose to life again. If you have questions about baptism or would like to be baptized, contact Rev. Kyle Gatlin at kyle@covenantdothan.org.

Fall Gathering

November 17 at 6:30 pm, Christian Life Center Gym The Fall Gathering is a place for the women of Covenant to come together to build deep, Godly relationships with other women through worship and a meaningful message. During our time together we will also pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Help us spread the good news of Jesus out into the world by bringing items to help fill shoeboxes for boys and girls around the world. This event is open to women of all ages, so invite your sisters, mothers, grandmothers and girlfriends. To register or for more information, visit covenantdothan.org/events.

Upcoming Opportunities to Serve

Barbi Nolan, Missions Coordinator - barbi@covenantdothan.org, (334)944-6217

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child *It's not too late to turn in a packed shoebox in person or virtually!* Help us send the good news of Jesus out into the world by packing a shoebox. Each box is an awesome way for a boy or girl to experience the love of God in a tangible way. Grab a shoe box from one of our displays on campus and return your packed shoe box back to the church on or before November 15. If you would like to pack a box virtually, visit covenantdothan.org/events for more information.

Volunteering at the OCC Processing Center Another fun way to be a part of this worldwide ministry is to volunteer at the OCC Processing Center in Atlanta. We will be taking a small team to Atlanta on December 8 to work the 10 am-4 pm (ET) shift. Be prepared for fast paced work and lots of standing! We will leave Dothan at 5 am and return around 8 pm. Please contact Barbi Nolan if you would like to join us.

SARCOA Santa for Seniors 2020 SARCOA Area Agency on Aging will be doing their Santa for Seniors program differently this year. Rather than an open wish list, they will be providing specific items for the Senior Christmas boxes. For the 2020 Request List, visit covenantdothan.org/events. Donations can be dropped off on December 4 & 5 and December 12 between 9 am and 6 pm at the former National Guard Armory, 2755 Choctaw Street, Dothan.

Santa for Seniors Gift Wrapping Volunteers are needed to wrap gift boxes and assemble cleaning buckets on Tuesday, November 17 from 8 am-12 noon and 1:30-4:30 pm at the armory. Please contact Barbi Nolan for more information or to sign up.

Care Ministries

Celebrate Recovery Celebrate Recovery is a Christ centered recovery program for everyone who struggles with a hurt, habit or hang-up. CR will NOT meet in-person during the month of November. We hope you will join us on our Covenant Facebook page for a message or testimony on Thursdays at 6 pm. For more information contact Sherry Koogler at 793-4440 or sherryk@covenantdothan.org.

Grief Support Grief Support is a safe, confidential, loving and Christ-centered environment for sharing one another's burdens. We begin with a short presentation on a topic connected to grief and then break into small groups for discussion and sharing. Grief Support meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month at 6 pm in the Christian Life Center.

Stephen Ministry Stephen Ministry is Christ caring for people through people. If you are going through a difficult time, contact Kyle Gatlin at kyle@covenantdothan.org or (334) 793-4440. The care you'll receive is confidential, free and very helpful.



Stay connected with our CovKids on Facebook & Instagram!

Facebook: [facebook.com/CovKids](https://www.facebook.com/CovKids)

Instagram: [instagram.com/covkids_](https://www.instagram.com/covkids_)

Our weekly lessons are available on our website at covenantdothan.org/connect/covkids.



Stay connected with CovStudents!

For the latest news and information for students, visit the CovStudents Facebook or Instagram pages.

Facebook: [facebook.com/CovStudents](https://www.facebook.com/CovStudents)

Instagram: [instagram.com/covstudents](https://www.instagram.com/covstudents)

Small Groups

Wendy Hicks, Small Groups Coordinator - wendy@covenantdothan.org

God created us to be in community with one another and experience life with other people. Small groups exist to bring people together and to make life-changing relationships relevant and accessible to God's people. Covenant offers a number of ways to get connected through small groups. Be on the lookout for our new Small Groups Directory coming soon. Contact Wendy Hicks at 793-4440 for more information.

Covenant News & Happenings

Are you interested in receiving a weekly eNewsletter, Sermon Notes and other Covenant news by email? This is a great way to stay up to date on upcoming events, registration, prayer concerns and more. Email Courtney Hardy at courtney@covenantdothan.org to sign up.

Covenant Concerns

Sympathy

The Pastors and congregation would like to express our deepest sympathy to...

- Effie Rodgers on the death of her husband, *Jimmy Rodgers*.
- Pat & Nancy Andrews on the death of her mother, *Bobbie Rhodes*.

Recent Prayer Concerns Pat & Nancy Andrews, Daphne Willis, Martha Doty, Densie Williams, Thomas Evans, Sandy Lisenby, Sandra Matthews, Jo Peterson, Virginia Hornsby, Dwight Jeffcoat, Gene Kearley, Paul Hall, Lori Lamb Weathington, Sharon Jenkins, Carrie Mathis Allday, Gianna Allday, Steve Morrell, Jennette Gayer, Ava Blackburn, Beth & Tom Sherrer, Ronnie Brannon, Molly Tew, Tom Renshaw Sr., Margaret Wilson, David Cunningham, Linda Griffith, Chris Smith, John Babinski, Tim Koogler, Linda Avera, Carrie Williams, Beverly Youse, Tammy Reese, Family of Patsy Bowling, Johnathan Berry, Carla Lawrence, Wallace Family, JJ Price Family, Alan Tidwell, Terri Daughtry, Lori Burns, Dr. Bill Lies, Lisa Silcox, Natalie Faulk, Christy Goodwin Bullard, Mary Lisenby, George Stokes, Mark Arrington, William Brown, Peter Collins Jr., Jill Walden, Sue Reynolds, Hays McKay, Helon Scott, Jeanne Stringfellow, Dutch Holland, Lucy Cline, Carolyn Benton, David Johnston, Yvonne Reid, Cher Hicks, Happy Fox, Pete Shelley, Lisa Henry, Karen Medley, Gayle Moores, Lamar Spence, Martha Jane Shannon, Jerry Dooling, Tipton Family, Kathy Clark, Wynn Arkle, June Granberry, Evie Riley, Tony Justice, Richard Duncan, Sarah Grantham, Charles Meeks, JoAnn Gamble, Laurie Axtell, Allwyn Nilsson, Trip and Haley Moseley & family, Avery Wells, Jeffrey Bostwick, Scott Berry, Jennie Lawson, Scott Brown, Angie Goodson, Janis Caddell, Shelby Clark, Kendrea White, Kelly Armstrong Smith, Bobby Simmons, Michael Buntin, Bernice White, Beverly White, Audrey Miller, Carolyn Thomley, Bob Drummond, Connie Moore

Currently Deployed Jerrad Anderson

Contact Information Request

Connection and interaction is essential during this time of uncertainty and it is important to stay grounded in God's Word and in community with others. We want to make certain that Covenant has current information so that we may stay connected with you. If you have not already, please visit covenantdothan.org/contact-info to update your information or you can contact us at 793.4440.