

Monday, November 9 - "I called on Your name, O Lord, from the lowest pit. You have heard my voice: 'Do not hide Your ear from my sighing, from my cry for help.' You drew near on the day I called on You, and said, 'do not fear!'" (Lam. 3:55-57). Most biblical scholars believe Lamentations was written by the prophet Jeremiah. The book contains five poems of lamenting over the destruction of Jerusalem, of which Jeremiah witnessed firsthand. Jeremiah could certainly relate to being in a pit. **"They lowered Jeremiah by ropes into the cistern; it had no water in it, only mud, and Jeremiah sank down into the mud"** (Jer. 38:6, NIV). What was Jeremiah's crime? He was telling the people what God told him to say: speaking of the impending demise of Jerusalem at the hands of the Babylonians. Joseph too was thrown into a cistern by his jealous brothers, and his crime was sharing the dream God had given him. Both of these men were obedient to God, yet each of them ended up in the pit. At some point in your life, you too will find yourself in the pit, sinking down in the muck and mire and wondering if there is any way out. Perhaps you are there today. When you find yourself in the pit, the first thing to do is to call upon the name of the Lord. God tells us, **"It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear"** (Isa. 65:24). In Jeremiah's case, the king sent thirty men to pull him out. I can tell you with all certainty that the King of kings wants to help lift you out of your pit. He will draw near to you the day you call out to Him, and He will tell you: "Do not fear." David said, **"I waited patiently for the Lord; He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand"** (Ps. 40:1-2, NIV). If you are in the pit now, cry out to the Lord and then look up. You'll recognize Jesus; He will be the One with His arms stretched out towards you waiting to lift you out and get you on firm ground.

Tuesday, November 10 - "He will cover you with his feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday" (Ps. 91:4-6 NIV). The psalmist here gives us the best reason ever not to live in fear. **"You will not fear" is a declarative statement. How can he make such a bold statement? Because he trusts in the Lord and who He is. "I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust'"** (Ps. 91:2, NIV). Is the Lord your refuge, your fortress, someone you can trust? I can assure you that is what He wants to be. **"If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the Lord, who is my refuge—then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent"** (Ps. 91:9-10, NIV). God has given you the same opportunity to declare what you believe. **"You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; so light will shine on your ways"** (Job 22:28). Your tongue can declare your future and that of your family. God has given us a free will, and we can speak life or death into any situation. Solomon tells us, **"The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit"** (Prov. 18:21, NIV). What have you to fear today? Why not declare life over your situation today? God has given us a great promise at the end of Psalm 91:15-16 (NIV) (emphasis added), **"He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."** God has made this promise very personal, three times saying, "I will." The question now becomes, will you? When you feel trouble coming on, will you call upon the Lord? As He promises, He will be with you! **"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear"** (Ps. 46:1-2, NIV).

Wednesday, November 11 - "My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight; they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck. Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble; when you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet" (Prov. 3:21-24, NIV). The key to not being afraid, according to Solomon, is sound judgment and discernment. How does one get and retain these treasures? A good place to start is the controlling of your tongue. Solomon tells us, **"When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise"** (Prov. 10:19, NIV). A phrase coined during World War II was "loose lips might sink ships." This slogan was used by the US Office of War Information in an effort to limit useful information from falling into the enemy's hands. That phrase is still relevant today because you face an enemy who loves to use your words against you. Discernment is knowing when to speak and when to be quiet. Don't ever rush to judgment, and always collect your thoughts before you let the tongue loose. If we are contestants on a game show, then speed may be required, but for most everything else we should exercise extreme control over our mouths. Solomon also tells us, **"Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few"** (Eccles. 5:2, NIV). Jesus's half-brother James tells us, **"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry"** (James 1:19, NIV). The other great advice from James is concerning wisdom and how to get it: **"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you"** (James 1:5, NIV). God knows exactly what obstacles you are going to face today, so why not ask Him for wisdom in how to approach each and every day? Jesus told us, **"How much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"** (Matt. 7:11, NIV). One area where speaking continually is not only permitted but encouraged is when you are speaking to your Heavenly Father. He loves a chatter box!

Thursday, November 12 - "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27, NIV). There are very few things in the world that you cannot put a price on, but the peace Jesus speaks of here is one of them. The good news for believers is that peace, like salvation, is a free gift. Those who have received it in unsettling situations realize how valuable it is; but for most of the world, they have no idea what they are missing. Satan plays on your fears, but one drop of peace will totally diffuse any fear. **"And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly"** (Rom. 16:20). Just as light trumps darkness, blessings trump curses, so peace trumps fear. "The Lord said to Moses, **Tell Aaron and his sons, this is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace"** (Num. 6:22-26, NIV). Of all the things God could give the Israelites, He gave them peace. This should speak volumes to us as to exactly how precious peace is. So how does one acquire peace? Fortunately, Paul tells us exactly how we obtain it: **"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). Webster defines petition as "a solemn, earnest plea or request to a superior or to those in authority." So we are to take everything (big and small) to God in prayer via a petition. Once you present your requests to God, you set them down at His feet. Then you are to thank the Lord. The net result of this (transaction, if you will) is the peace of God will fill your heart if you can leave that request at His feet and not go back and pick it up. Do not be afraid of the challenges you face today, but take them all to the Lord in prayer.

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

THE COVENANT HAPPENINGS

WORSHIP AT COVENANT

11.08.20

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.

CONTACT US

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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 *Only one week left 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

Instagram: 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

Instagram: 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 George & Debbie Furqueron on the death of her mother, *Luverne Skipper*.

Recent Prayer Concerns

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.