

# Covenant Call – January 2026

## A Letter from Caitlin

Dear Covenant Family,

We celebrated Advent and Christmas together and now the season of Epiphany is upon us. Epiphany is January 6th although we celebrated it in worship on January 4th. This year we decided to start a new tradition (or what I hope will become a tradition!) at Covenant. On January 4th Covenant folks made stars for us. Kent helped them by cutting out words that are gifts of God's Spirit. They glued the words onto the stars to create Covenant's "star words" for 2026. Then each congregant received a "star word" from the offering plate (we'll mail stars to the folks who aren't able to be in-person with us).



When you think about your "star word" for 2026, I'm wondering...

- \*How does your "star word" fit into your call from God at this time in your life?
- \*How does your "star word" inform the outreach work you might do as a part of the Covenant community?
- \*How does your "star word" align with parts of yourself that you've identified as gifts?
- \*If your "star word" is surprising to you, I wonder how God is working through you in new ways.
- \*What intentions might you set to go along with your "star word"? Not to be confused with New Year's Resolutions, a "star word" is a gift of God's Spirit that we hope will help you discover God in new ways. Our "star words" are intended to be part of a spiritual practice for ourselves throughout the year.

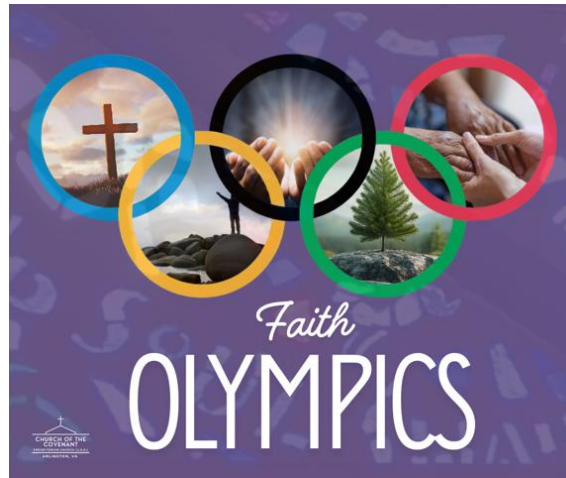
Siblings in Christ, as we move through the Epiphany season, journey through the season after Epiphany, honor the transfiguration of the Lord, enter into the Lenten season, and continue with our church year, may your "star word" focus on gifts that you might not have paid attention to before. May your "star word" enable you to feel God's presence in new ways. May your "star word" be your guide, just like the star that guided the magi to meet the Christ-child.

Peace and Blessings,  
Caitlin

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*Image by Kristen Tyagi*

Join us for a "Faith Olympics" worship series on Sundays January 18th, January 25th, and February 1st. We'll reflect on discipleship, discipline, and living out God's call for our lives. We're excited to worship God through the "Faith Olympics" as we prepare to cheer on the [grandson](#) of one of our very own members and as the world prepares for the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan.



## The Prophet Isaiah Is Calling!

Throughout the Christmas season, we hear the words of Isaiah as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ. Why quote an Old Testament book written centuries before Christ was born? Walter Brueggemann, the noted biblical scholar, calls the Book of Isaiah perhaps the “primary source for Christian nurture and empowerment for wise, courageous, and faithful living in these days.” Why? What could the Prophet Isaiah have to say with any relevance today?

The Book of Isaiah, at 66 chapters, is second only to the Book of Psalms in length. And it originates from three different periods of prophecy spanning more than 200 years from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> Centuries BCE. Quite the challenge for Bible study!

Brave Souls of Covenant, with the help of Brueggemann’s Unwavering Faithfulness: Pivotal Moments in the Book of Isaiah, we will take on the **Prophet Isaiah (via Zoom) at 10 am Tuesday mornings throughout the winter and spring**

**months.** Please join other intrepid travelers on this journey beginning January 6 and continuing most Tuesday mornings through May. All you need is your Bible and a spirit of adventure! For more information and the Zoom link, contact Susan Tarr ([starr4321@aol.com](mailto:starr4321@aol.com) or text at 703-307-1123). The Zoom link is on our website calendar.





**Annual Congregational Meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup>**

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Covenant will hold our Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, in the Fellowship Hall. A Congregational lunch will be included after the meeting adjourns.



## **Do You Have a Gift for Listening?**

Seventeen years ago, Covenant began Stephen Ministry with six Stephen Ministers providing confidential one-to-one caring for people in the congregation and in the neighborhood. Stephen Ministry extends the care given by our pastor, who cannot regularly attend to all who are going through a challenging time or who need a friend to walk alongside them for a while. Current Stephen Ministers are Marita Dillery and Pat and Susan Tarr. During the past two years, Covenant's Stephen Ministry program has been limited to grief support. Now it's time to "refresh the ranks" to return to one-to-one caregiving.

*How about you?* Do you have a gift for listening as others work through their challenges or seek a new path? Is this a stage of your life when you can commit time to this special act of friendship? Is God calling you to care for our beloved church family?

If you'd like to learn more, please contact Pastor Caitlin or Susan Tarr (703-527-7816).



## Poverty and the Myth of the American Dream Class, Arlington Presbyterian Church

Dear Friends:

This January, you're invited to explore the economic systems that shape our lives and our neighbors' lives, a chance to gain clarity and agency in a moment when many of us are working to understand what's happening around us and how we can respond.

Anne Vor der Bruegge will lead a five-week course, *Poverty and the Myth of the American Dream*, on Sunday afternoons at Arlington Presbyterian Church.

Anne is a local expert with nearly 40 years of experience working alongside marginalized and vulnerable individuals and families in the DC region, including many years at the Arlington Community Foundation.

Across the five weeks, we'll look at why so many people work hard and still struggle to get by, how policies and narratives keep poverty in place, and how we might make choices rooted in abundance rather than fear.

**arlington**  
Presbyterian  
presents

Anne Vor der Bruegge will lead a five-week course focused on economic disparities both in Arlington and nationwide, examining how the lack of truly affordable housing, childcare and living wages affect the overall health of our community

# Poverty and the Myth of the American Dream

**Sessions meet:**

January 18, 2026	1:00-2:30 pm
January 25, 2026	1:00-2:30 pm
February 1, 2026	1:00-2:30 pm
February 8, 2026	1:00-2:30 pm
February 15, 2026	1:00-2:30 pm

Anne is a local expert with nearly 40 years of experience working alongside marginalized and vulnerable individuals and families in the DC region, including many years at the Arlington Community Foundation

Scan here to register

Questions? Contact [itslizwaterse@gmail.com](mailto:itslizwaterse@gmail.com)

**Arlington Presbyterian Church 918 S Lincoln St #1, Arlington, VA 22204**

## January 2026 - Calendar of Events at Covenant

Sun. Jan 04	9:30 am	Sandwich Making
	9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary
	10:00 am	Godly Play
	11:00 am	Worship: In Person/Zoom
Mon. Jan 05	10:00 am	MM Quarterbacks
Tues. Jan 06	10:00 am	Bible Study: Zoom
	7:30 pm	Worship/Education Team Meeting
Wed. Jan 07	11:00 am	Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary
	12:00 pm	Zoom Devotional

Sun. Jan 11	9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary
	10:00 am	Godly Play
	11:00 am	Worship: Installation of Ruling Elders - Zoom/In Person
Mon. Jan 12	10:00 am	MM Quarterbacks
Tues. Jan 13	10:00 am	Bible Study: Zoom
Wed. Jan 14	11:00 am	Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary
Thur. Jan 15	12:00 pm	Zoom Devotional

Sun. Jan 18	9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary
	10:00 am	Godly Play
	11:00 am	Worship: Zoom/In Person
Mon. Jan 19	10:00 am	MM Quarterbacks <i>*Rev. MLK Jr. Day Staff Off</i>
Tues. Jan 20	10:00 am	Bible Study: Zoom
Wed. Jan 21	11:00 am	Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary
Thur. Jan 22	12:00 pm	Zoom Devotional
Sat. Jan 24	9:00 am	Session Meeting: Library

Sun. Jan 25	8:30 am	Walking Group @ Potomac Overlook Park
	9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary
	10:00 am	Godly Play
	11:00 am	Worship: Zoom/In Person
Mon. Jan 26	10:00 am	MM Quarterbacks
Tues. Jan 27	10:00 am	Bible Study: Zoom
Wed. Jan 28	11:00 am	Choir Rehearsal: Sanctuary
Thur. Jan 29	12:00 pm	Zoom Devotional

Sun. Feb 1	12:00 pm	Annual Congregational Meeting
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### Church zoom link:

<https://cofc.zoom.us/j/86035210161?pwd=dUQ2Y2VwdThDUWVVT3B6VGFZQldGQT09>



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<https://www.covenantchurcharlington.org/>

**\*Office Hours: Tues, Weds, Thurs: 10am-3:00pm**