

Covenant Call – July 2026

A Letter from Caitlin

Beloveds,

During the month of June the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) focuses on the gospel of Matthew's stories of discipleship. We often follow the RCL at Covenant because as a new pastor (yes, I'm still claiming that I'm "new!") I find it helpful to have texts to draw from each week. There's also a plethora of resources available that follow the RCL.

Anyway, because the RCL focused on discipleship in June, we did too. Funnily enough, the colliding of plans and scriptures wasn't intentional but happened organically --- or it happened because God works in mysterious ways, perhaps?

- We began June with Young Disciples Sunday where our kids led us through all parts of worship. They acted out the story of lost sheep that Jesus finds.
- Then we moved to studying discipleship through the lens of outreach. Discipleship is meeting people where they are.
- Kent and Anita from EIPC passed out Bagels & Blessings at the Courthouse Metro station during the morning commute hour.
- On the third Sunday of June we praised God in the park alongside our Episcopalian siblings from St. Mary's.
- To close out the month of June we had Live Music in the Lot and the next morning we met up for Early Bird Fellowship which is our 4th Sunday morning walking group. During worship we focused on Christ's radical hospitality and how we can welcome, be hospitable, and receive folks that they might find a place of belonging with/at Covenant.

Covenant is out in the world meeting people where they are. Covenant is showing up in new places at new times. Covenant is flexing, adapting, and finding new ways to do the work of discipleship — the work of discipleship that has always grounded us.

We don't always know **where** God is calling, or **when** God is calling, or **how** God is calling, but we trust that if we keep showing up, dots will connect. During this month of July I'm eager to see how the seeds we've planted might start to sprout — whether it's with worship visitors or more folks at our walking group or folks talking about us as they eat their bagel on their commute. Covenant is following God's call, discerning who we are right now, and how to continue to do the work of discipleship. I'm grateful to be discipling alongside y'all.

Summer Blessings,
Caitlin

P.S. Take some time to peruse our website and share it with friends and neighbors --- we're aiming to ensure that our Facebook, website, and our church building entrances represent who are are right now.

<https://covenantchurcharlington.org/> | <https://www.facebook.com/CovenantArlington>

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Discipleship Photo Gallery





Covenant 10:00am Summer Worship! *



Sunday, July 5th - Worship w/EIPC led by Shani McIlwain w/EIPC @ 10am in Sanctuary

Sunday, July 12th - Worship @ 10am in Sanctuary

Sunday, July 19th - Praise in the Park around 10:15/10:30am with St. Mary's Episcopal Church @ Zachary Taylor Park --- we'll engage in a new way of doing church on Sunday morning, perhaps giving us an idea of what doing church outreach could look like for Covenant

Sunday, July 26th - Worship @ 10am in Sanctuary

Sunday, August 2nd - Worship w/Communion & EIPC @ 10am in Sanctuary

Sunday, August 9th - Worship led by laity @ 10am in Sanctuary

Sunday, August 16th - Worship led by guest preacher @ 10am in Sanctuary

Sunday, August 23rd - Worship led by Kent Hamaker featuring Spiritual Practices @ 10am in Sanctuary

Sunday, August 30th - Worship led by Music McMahan featuring a Hymn Sing @ 10am in Sanctuary

*** Always on Zoom as well**



Caitlin and Kent on Vacation

Both Caitlin and Kent will be on vacation in July. Caitlin will be out of the office from July 1-July 6. Kent will be out of the office July 2-7.



Summer Book Study

The Covenant Summer Book Study will be 4 weeks of one-hour sessions discussing a book soon TBA. We will meet via Zoom on Tuesday at 10am (normal bible study time) on July 21, 28, August 11, and 18. Three books are on the voting block:

[The Remarkable Ordinary](#), by Fredrick Beuchner

[A is for Alabaster](#), by Anna Carter Florence

[Accidental Saints](#), by Nadia Bolz-Weber (spicy language warning on this one!)

Please let Kent know which book you would like to read (DirectorEducation.Covenant@gmail.com). The one with the most votes wins! Voting ends on Thursday, July 9th.



Karen Collins & The Backroads Band Live in the Lot!



Join us in the parking lot for our summer series concerts and family fun! On Saturday, July 25th at 5pm we welcome Karen Collins & The Backroads Band. Enjoy an hour of authentic, classic bluegrass! Refreshments and games provided for the entire family. There is no cost for these summer concerts; just come and enjoy! If raining, we will be in the Fellowship Hall. See you here!



Red Cross Blood Drive

Covenant is partnering with the Red Cross for a blood drive in October. In order to make that happen we need a critical mass of at least 30 donors ASAP. Please let Kent know if you are interested, and reach out to your friends and neighbors to see if they might be interested as well.



Walking Group

July's Early Bird Fellowship Walking Group is on July 26th at 8:00 am at Potomac Overlook Park. Come and enjoy a relaxing walk in a beautiful Arlington park. Bring a friend as well! We hope to see you on the morning of July 26th.





Outreach Corner



Covenant will be participating in a Back to School Drive for Bridges to Independence (BTI) from August 1st until August 16th. BTI is collecting school supplies so that every Arlington county child walks into their classroom on the first day of school feeling prepared, confident, and excited to learn. BTI will be joining us during worship on July 26th to tell us more about their mission and give us details on the Back to School Drive. Let's help ensure that

Arlington County students have the tools they need to succeed from day one of the 26-27 school year.



We're glad you were born! Covenant sends Happy Birthday wishes to:

July 03 – **Mary Gibson**

August 04 – **Lola Rogers**

July 08 – **Dick Ensor**

August 05 – **Gloria Hurdle**

July 09 – **John Trible**

August 05 – **Nora Tyagi (2017)**

July 18 – **Rob Uemura**

August 07 – **Lea Stec**

July 19 – **Lillian Pinkerton (2021)**

August 09 – **Laura Orvald**

July 20 – **Morgan Reid (2012)**

August 13 – **Paul Vogel**

July 24 – **Kent Hamaker**



Upcoming Events at Covenant



Sandwich Ministry: Sunday, July 5th; 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall.

Staff on Retreat (out of office): Wednesday, July 15th at 10:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Live in the Lot Concert: Karen Collins and the Backroads Band; Saturday, July 25th at 5:00 pm.

Walking Group: Sunday, July 26th; 8:00 am at Potomac Overlook Park.



Connect With Covenant



<https://www.youtube.com/@churchofthecovenantarlingtonva>



<https://www.facebook.com/CovenantArlington>



<https://covenantchurcharlington.org/>

Weekly Zoom Devotional; Thursdays @ 12:00 pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81145588523?pwd=mk9SSHeaz8cApcDQyZpPSkYEJBtRKG.1>

Church Zoom link:

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



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