

Covenant Call – April 2026

A Letter from Caitlin

**SPRING
ALIVE!**

Dear Covenant Community,

We're "springing alive" in all sorts of ways this April.

Like the prophet Isaiah (whom Susan teaches us about in Tuesday Bible Study) tells us *"The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy."* (Isaiah 35:1-2).

Friends, Covenant is bursting into bloom this Easter season. We're rejoicing in God and shouting for joy. I hope you'll join us in blooming and springing alive this Easter season.

- We'll "spring alive" for our Maundy Thursday "Love Feast" where we'll share a simple meal, share love around tables, wash each other's hands, and remember the night before Jesus was crucified.
 - That's April 2nd at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- We'll "spring alive" on Easter morning for a sunrise service at the Capitol Reflecting Pool.
 - That's April 5th at 6:30am.
- We'll "spring alive" in worship at Covenant to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ who "sprung alive" in order to save all of us.
 - That's April 5th at 11am.
 - Worship will be followed by an Easter egg hunt where our kiddos will be literally "springing!"
- We'll "spring alive" as we review 2025 and look ahead to 2026 during our Annual Congregational Meeting.
 - That's April 12th after worship in the Fellowship Hall.
- We'll "spring alive" for Covenant's "Spring Alive!" event.
 - We'll gather in Covenant's parking lot for games, live pop music provided by EIPC's band, sno-cones, and visits from many of Covenant's outreach partners.
 - That's April 25th from 2pm-4pm.

Siblings in Christ, I'm excited about the ways that Covenant is springing alive. Charles, Charlie, and I are grateful to be a part of Covenant and to experience this new season alongside y'all.

Blessings,
Caitlin

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Spring Alive for Covenant Spring Worship!

Thursday, April 2nd - Maundy Thursday "Love Feast"
Sunday, April 5th - Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 12th - Spring Alive worship series & Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, April 19th - Guest preacher Rev. Todd Sutton
Sunday, April 26th - Spring Alive worship series
Sunday, May 3rd - Older Adult Sunday & Communion Sunday
Sunday, May 10th - Youth & Children Sunday
Sunday, May 17th - Ascension Sunday
Sunday, May 24th - Pentecost Sunday with guest preacher Shani McIlwain
Sunday, May 31st - Trinity Sunday



Easter Brunch

The Worship/Christian Formation Team will be hosting brunch following Easter worship, while we watch the children hunt for Easter eggs in the circle lawn. Please bring a dish to share—one that can be served at room temperature—fruit, deviled eggs, cheese and crackers, veggies, quiche or the like. A carrot cake and beverages will be provided. If you have questions, contact Susan Tarr (starr4321@aol.com or 703-527-7816).



Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 12th, 12:15pm, *Fellowship Hall*

- Lunch will be provided. All are welcome & encouraged to attend
- Agenda items will include: the election of 3 members from the congregation to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2026, highlights from Session Teams, Financial statements, and the 2026 budget
- Rev. Culp will give her first "State of Covenant" Address





All are invited to Church of the Covenant’s Spring Alive! event on Saturday, April 25th from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Food and fun will be on hand, including popcorn and sno-cones, bounce house, kid’s crafts, games, live artwork demonstrations, and live music. Learn more about local service organizations including the Red Cross, Children’s Weekday Program pre-k school, Doorways for Women and Families, Path Forward, and the Arlington County Sheriff’s Office. There is no entrance fee. We look forward to seeing you there!





Update from Othow



**Othow is our sibling in Christ who's ministry we support in South Sudan.*

Displacement and Malnutrition

Renewed fighting in Jonglei State between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and troops aligned with suspended Vice President Riek Machar has displaced around 280,000 people since December, according to the United Nations.

South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011 but quickly descended into civil war between Kiir and Machar, former allies whose rivalry split the country along political and ethnic lines.

Humanitarian officials say about 825,000 people across Jonglei State, Unity State, and Eastern Equatoria State face the risk of acute malnutrition as food shortages and disrupted services worsen conditions.

In the state capital Bor, doctors at the town's hospital are struggling to treat a surge of displaced families while supplies rapidly run out. Acting hospital director David Tor said the facility is barely coping with the influx of patients.

'May lose patients'

"Because of the increase in the number of people who need services, we have run out of almost everything. At a certain point, we may lose patients." Tor tells AFP.

Fangak County's only health facility, serving more than 100,000 people and run by the humanitarian group Médecins Sans Frontières, was destroyed in May when helicopter gunships and drones attacked the compound, destroying its pharmacy and medical supplies.

Local officials say aid is on the way, though hospitals remain under pressure. Jonglei's information minister Nyamar Lony Ngundeng said the hospital in Bor would receive additional supplies. "I would say it's enough until the hospital or the ministry of health says otherwise," she said.



New Covenant Partnership



Covenant has become an Affinity Partner with Cremation Society of Virginia, which means you can receive 10% off of cremation costs when you share that you're part of Church of the Covenant. Pamphlets with more information are in the foyer and one of CSV's Funeral Directors will share a presentation with us later this year. Reach out to Caitlin with questions.



Outreach Corner

On the morning of March 24th, Kent attended an Interfaith Convening on Public Safety at Calloway Methodist Church on Langston Blvd. for a presentation and discussion with Arlington County service departments and various local faith leaders. Represented at the meeting were the Arlington County Sheriff's Department, Police Department, Fire Department, Commonwealth Attorney Offices, and the Department of Public Safety, Communications & Emergency Management. Faith leaders learned about programs that can help their houses of worship and their preparedness ahead of and during emergencies, and made connections for building partnership with public safety staff and leadership. The presentations were informative and well received. It was time well spent!



The Mission & Outreach team works closely with Kent & Caitlin to support programming, plan events, and engage in the ministry of meeting people where they are.

Mission Minute



**Michelle's
Earth
Foundation**

In memory of Michelle Gardner Quinn (1985 - 2006)

The Mission and Outreach committee has designated \$1000 to be donated to Michelle's Earth Foundation (MEF) for 2026. MEF is a non-profit organization that honors the memory and legacy of Michelle Gardner-Quinn, daughter of our own Diane Gardner-Quinn, a young environmentalist from Arlington, Virginia who had traveled to Vermont to further her studies in sustainability. Her life's goal was to build a healthy and sustainable habitat on earth for generations to come—and her motto was "small actions=big change". MEF remembers Michelle by carrying on the work she would have done. MEF's mission is to facilitate the role of the community in creating a healthy, sustainable habitat for humans and nature. Areas of special interest include youth involvement in environmental projects, local activities in Arlington VA, and global initiatives including monitoring of coral reefs. MEF annually presents an award for environmental community engagement to a graduating student from Michelle's high school, H-B Woodlawn.



Immigration and a Faithful Response

Presbyterian Women is hosting a program, "Immigration and a Faithful Response," via Zoom on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 10 a.m. to noon. Go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfRII-8_l1okvW8SHJgUq5qak_im3K2xw2i_otD-zV5ACGbw/viewform to register for this event.



Upcoming Events at Covenant

Maunder Thursday with EIPC: Thursday, April 2nd; 6:00 pm dinner followed by 6:45 pm worship.

Easter Sunday Worship and Egg Hunt: Sunday, April 5th; 6:30 am at the Capitol Reflecting Pool; 11:00 am in the sanctuary w/coffee in the breezeway.

Session In-Person: April 11th; 9:00 am in the Library.

Annual Congregational Meeting: April 12th; Immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall. Lunch provided.

Spring Alive! community outreach event: Saturday, April 25th, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm.