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Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - August 25, 2021
Laurie Johnson, Office Manager & Newsletter Editor



***Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community
sharing the glory of God's love with all.***

From our pastor

"Just say the word and my servant will be healed." Matthew 8:8

Hopefully by now you've heard that beginning on Sunday, September 19, Covenant will have a single worship service at 10am. All ages will be welcomed and present for this service. In addition, we will resume Christian Education opportunities for all ages as well during the 9am hour. The vast majority of you who have given feedback on this change have been supportive. For those of you who are disappointed by the change, I hope you'll give it a try. One parent recently told me that she was initially skeptical about having her young children with her for the outdoor service, but she quickly discovered that she actually enjoys having them there. I hope the same happens for us all as we become accustomed to worshipping together.

Before we gather as one church for worship on September 19, I am inviting you to a special service of healing on September 12 at 7pm. I'm regularly reminded of the pain that many of you experienced during the interim period here at Covenant. In one year, you lost an associate pastor, a transitional pastor, and were separated by the pandemic. I suspect 2020 will be remembered as one of the most difficult years in Covenant's history. I'm also aware that time does not heal all wounds. As a way to address those concerns, you are invited to a special worship service in which you will be invited to ask God for healing. We will have time for reflection, special music, prayer, and some symbolic actions that I hope will allow those of you who are still hurting to find healing. Healing is a process, not a one off activity, but my hope is that by bringing our pain to God in worship, Covenant will take a step toward wholeness.

One Struggle to Love,

Rev. Joel A. Esala

COVENANT'S SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. OUTDOOR, IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE

Please join us for the Sunday 9:00 a.m. outdoor, in-person worship service in the North parking lot. Tune-in to WCOV radio 87.9 FM. If inclement weather, the service will be held indoors.

COVENANT'S SUNDAY 10:45 a.m. INDOOR, IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday Worship Service (indoor, in-person, in church) - Sundays 10:45 a.m.



COVENANT'S SUNDAY 10:45 a.m. VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

FACEBOOK for Sunday, 10:45 a.m.

services: <https://www.facebook.com/covenantpcusa/>

Look for the most current video, labeled "PREMIERE: Current Date".

YOUTUBE for Sunday, 10:45 a.m. services: <https://www.youtube.com/user/covenantpcusa>

Look for the most current video, labeled "PREMIERE: Current Date"

For past services, special music, and other church video content, visit our main YouTube page: [Covenant Service Archive](#).

DONATION OPPORTUNITY

As we watch the situation unfolding in Afghanistan and pray for the men, women and children of that country, please consider donating to **CRIS** (Community Refugee & Immigration Services). It is an independent non-profit organization that serves the refugee and immigrant populations of Central Ohio. CRIS is the Church World Service Ohio affiliate designated to provide refugee resettlement services.

Honoring our "Over-80" Members

Nurture And Outreach has embarked on a new project to honor Covenants "Over-80" members, or as we are calling them "Super Seniors." Elders, Deacons, and members of the Nurture and Outreach Commission will be approaching Super Seniors by phone, email, or in person, and four or five of them will be highlighted each week in the church newsletter. While a long list of questions has been compiled to help draw interesting and perhaps fun information about these seniors, each article will contain maybe four short answers or stories that they would like to let Covenant members know about them. We know that spending time with our Super Seniors can be fun, fascinating, and educational, so we hope they will look forward to being contacted and, as for the church congregation, we hope you will look forward to and enjoy learning about our awesome Super Seniors. Any questions, please contact Nan Davidson by sending an email to lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org.

CENTERING PRAYER

Covenant has reconvened a Centering Prayer practice on Wednesdays at 8:30 am. The first 15 minutes will be an informal gathering with the practice beginning at 8:45 for 20 minutes. Centering prayer is a method of meditation that places a strong emphasis on interior silence. We allow ourselves to be totally open to God, learning how to gently release attention away from our inner thoughts. For more information, please send an email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org and in the subject line type Centering Prayer or contact Pastor Joel.

Matthew 25 Event: The Death Penalty.

Please put Saturday, September 18th from 10:00 am to 11:30 am on your calendar. The Scioto Valley Presbytery is hosting a discussion of The Death Penalty, race, poverty, and pending legislation in Ohio. Elder Glen Schmidt, community organizer Nate Brown, and Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Executive Director of the Ohio Council of Churches, will help us understand the history of capital punishment in this country, learn what is happening right now in our Ohio legislature, and explore what it means to act with justice. To register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZMlcuChrDouGdY-69kHGCGCGX4W3RqRnUvK>

BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

The Properties Commission is seeking bus drivers to volunteer one Sunday morning a month to pickup and drop-off members for worship service. If interested, please contact Bob Tullett by sending an email to lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org.

SOS FOOD PANTRY MISSION OPPORTUNITY FOOD DONATIONS REQUEST

Our SOS Food Pantry is in great need of the basic items that we provide to our clients residing in the Hilltop, Linden, Campus, and UA/Northwest Columbus communities. Would you kindly consider donating any of the items listed below?

Now that the church building is open, your donations can be placed in the SOS Food Bin located at the north parking lot entrance. They will be put to immediate use!

The SOS Food Pantry Mission Team greatly appreciates your support. If you wish to make a monetary donation for this cause, please note "SOS Pantry" on your donation.

GLOBAL MISSION

Check out the bulletin board near the north entrance of the church. There is information there about our three mission co-workers: Michael and Rachel Ludwig in Niger; Mark Hare and Jenny Bent in Costa Rica; and Elmarie and Scott Parker in Syria and the Middle East. You can find out more about each of these co-workers at [Presbyterian Mission Agency Mission Connections](#) | [Presbyterian Mission Agency](#).

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT & ADULT LEARNING COMMISSION

Wednesday Bible Study 1-2 pm - We will read and discuss 1 Corinthians, beginning with chapter 7:29, this Wednesday, 8/25, 1-2 pm. Please join us. No preparation is required. Ask for a Zoom link from lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org.

Wednesday Evening Book Study 7:00-8:00 p.m. - Our first title for the CPC book group's new program year is [My Grandmother's Hands](#) by Resmaa Menakam. Clicking on the blue title will take you to Amazon for a description and to order. Columbus Metropolitan Library currently has a number of copies available! Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. At this meeting we will discuss whether to continue on Zoom, meet in person, or some combination of the two.

The book group and Spiritual Cinema will be combining efforts this year. The first, second, and third Wednesdays of each month will be book discussions, and the last Wednesday, a movie at church with

discussion of it to follow. September's movie will be 'Just Mercy'.

Please contact the church with questions or to be added to the group email.

The **Covenant Men's Spirituality** Reading Group will resume this Sunday, Aug. 29 via Zoom, 10:00-10:45 a.m., as we embark on Richard Rohr's 'Universal Christ' (Convergent Press, 2019). All are welcome - this is an excellent chance to join us for fun and engaging biweekly discussions of books relating to Christian spirituality and meaning in the modern world. Please reach out to the church office or directly to David Connolly for the zoom invitation.



PRAYER CHAIN

Contact Laurie Johnson (lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org) if you would like to join the members and friends of Covenant who pray for those requesting our prayers. The prayers will be relayed to you via email from Linda Van Aman. It is asked that you include the prayer request in your daily prayers for a week. To submit a prayer chain request, please send an email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org

and in the subject line type Prayer Chain. Note that the person for whom prayers are requested must give permission.

HM3 UPDATE – HOGE'S, MUSIC, MESSAGE, MEAL

Good News! Leadership at Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church decided that, starting in July, the Saturday evening HM3 ministry goes back inside to their fellowship hall! They'll provide the more structured worship (Music and Message) and churches like ours will provide the Meal through the kitchen windows that open up to the fellowship hall. Gratefully, we'll have the opportunity to provide HOT MEALS again rather than the sacked meals! Praise God! Dinner numbers will remain around 65.

Covenant serves around 65 meals at Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church on every third Saturday. We need groups (or individuals) to step forward to serve:

- The third Saturdays of August, September, October, and December are covered! THANK YOU!
- November 20 is OPEN

Please sign up and/or learn more through this tool: <https://bitly.com/CovenantHM3SignUp> or by contacting Cathy Levy (send an email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org and in the subject line type HM3/Levy). By splitting up the work, it's easy, and many of us can help our neighbors with life-giving food offered with open hearts.



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Covenant Presbyterian Women will begin its schedule of circle meetings and luncheons in September. The following circles will meet for fellowship and Bible study:

- September 1 at 9:30 a.m. Eunice Lydia Circle, Sandy St. Martin, moderator
- September 6 at 7:30 p.m. Elizabeth Circle, Mona Connelly, moderator
- September 8 at 1:30 p.m. Miriam Circle, Gerlinde Lott, moderator

Other circles:

- September 2 and every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Mission Sewing, Diana Sanders
- September 10 and 24 Prayer Shawl Circle, Louise Davidson and Nancy Davidson

CPW Circle leaders will have yearbooks and CPW brochures available during Circle meetings, as well as the new **Horizon's Bible** - \$10.

The September luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. September 15th in the Lounge and Courtyard. There is a **brown bag lunch**, so there is no charge. Please make a reservation with Dianne Annis or Grace Feller. The speaker will be Gail Messick. As early retirees, Gail and her husband, Mike, served as Peace Corps volunteers in the southern African country of Eswatini from 2010-2014. They served at a privately run, faith-based HIV/AIDS orphanage, on a dairy farm. Each winter they return to help for 2-3 months. Gail will discuss the changes and challenges the orphanage faces that place new stresses on everyone. Gail, who works for the artisans, will offer beautiful, handcrafted items for sale. Prices are \$5 - \$22 (cash or checks only) and proceeds are sent to the artisans. Mission sewing items will also be available.

For more information about CPW circles, activities, and to make reservations contact Sandy St. Martin, CPW Moderator, covenant@covenantpcusa.org with CPW/Sandy St. Martin's name, Circle leader's names or person you wish to contact in the subject line.

WOMEN'S THEOLOGY

Members of **Women's Theology** gather on the first and third Friday each month from 9:30 to 11 a.m. For the September 3rd meeting, we agreed to finish discussing chapter 12 and read chapters 13 and 14 of "The Days of Awe and Wonder: How to be a Christian in the Twenty-first Century" by Marcus Borg. For information, email covenant@covenantpcusa.org and in the subject line type Women's Theology/Susan Imel for information. The circle usually meets on Zoom, so contact Susan for location or sign in. New members are always welcome.

CHURCH FACILITIES POLICY

Indoor policy due to Franklin County COVID-19

Covenant's Mask Policy will conform with CDC guidelines. If you are or are not fully vaccinated against COVID 19, wearing masks inside our facility is still required at this time. Session will continue to monitor COVID 19 spread in the state of Ohio and adapt our policy as needed.

INFORMATION/MISCELLANEOUS

COVENANT OFFICE HOURS

The Covenant administrative staff are working in the office Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Office Manager works remotely on Fridays and checks voicemail routinely.

Please send any articles for the eNewsletter to Laurie at lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org by the 12:00 noon Monday deadline. The eNewsletters are distributed every Wednesday.

[Click here to check out all Covenant events and news on our website.](#)

Our Mission

Covenant Presbyterian Church is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.

Our Vision

- Covenant will offer worship services that invite diverse expressions of faith and enable all who come to draw closer to God.
- Covenant will become a home through which all can practice their faith and humanity in service of others.

Stay in touch!

[Click here to receive our weekly emails.](#)



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