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Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - September 29, 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

"Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all." Ephesians 4:2-6

This Sunday, October 3 is World Communion Sunday. This Presbyterian tradition began at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in 1933 as a witness to the interconnectedness of the Body of Christ. Since that time, churches in many denominations across the world have joined the celebration. You can read about the history and meaning [here](#). Though we may not see or feel it, we are bound together by the peace of Christ to siblings in faith across both time and space. Unity is not something we achieve. It's a living reality to which we awaken as we learn to accept each other in love. As part of our awakening, we are taking the Peace and Global Witness Offering this week, a special offering of the PC(USA). Covenant will retain 25% of the offering and give it to [CRIS—Community Refugee and Immigration Services](#) here in Columbus. Since 2014, CRIS has resettled over 100 people from Afghanistan, and they expect to resettle hundreds more in the months to come. Witnessing the tragic US withdrawal from Afghanistan last month left me despondent. How do we fix what's broken in our world? Supporting CRIS is a good place to start as we seek to accept our new neighbors in love.

This Sunday is Week 3 of **Presbyterian 101**. We will consider what it means to name Jesus as our Lord and Savior. You can view Lessons 1 and 2 at [Theoacademy](#) and download the study guide. I hope to see you this Sunday at 9am in the Lounge.

Finally, I hope you'll stick around after church for some food as the food trucks are coming.

One Struggle to Love,

Rev. Joel A. Esala

**COVENANT'S SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. INDOOR, IN-PERSON
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.



COVENANT'S SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

FACEBOOK for Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

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

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

YOUTUBE for Sunday, 10:00 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](#).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES!

Christian Education will resume Sunday, Sept. 19th at 9:00 a.m. For adults, there will be one class called Presbyterian 101. This will be a 6-week introductory class in the Lounge to what it means to be Presbyterian.

Blood Drive Announcement

The Red Cross blood drive will take place in Fellowship Hall at Covenant, Monday, October 4, from 2:00 to 7:00. There is still a critical need for blood donation. Please consider this opportunity for service.



Nurture & Outreach Food Truck Fest, Sunday, October 3, 11am-1pm

You are invited to join our Food Truck Fest after church in the parking lot. We will be having "Taquitos" and "Hot Mess" food trucks as well as dessert from "The Little Ice Cream Shoppe". There will be pumpkins, stickers, bubbles, and chalk for the kids! Please come and join us for food, music, and festivities!

Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church Fall Sale October 8th & 9th

The Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church located at 2930 W. Broad Street is having their annual "Fall Sale". This sale is a type of "Flea Market" selling clothing, books, toys, jewelry, and baked goods!

PRESBYTERY EVENT

Matthew 25 Zoom Event: Church and Politics - October 16

Join us as Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, the Associate Director for Advocacy in the PC(USA), leads us in a reflection on the challenging relationships between worship, justice, politics, partisanship and the body of Christ. Saturday, October 16th from 10:00am to 11:30am. To register:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUkd-2sqD8jGdwiMF4kDyLSJ0p3sprw2CSg>

MEN'S STUDY BREAKFAST

To All Covenant men – We are going to restart the Saturday Men's Study Breakfast. Steve St. Martin has volunteered to lead the group for the first study. The first meeting will be the study of a DVD series called *Eclipsing Empire: Paul, Rome and the Kingdom of God*, by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Call Steve to get the title of the study by sending an email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org. The group will meet on the first Saturday of the month at Covenant in the Lounge at 8:00AM starting October 2nd and bring a breakfast food item.

On the third Saturday of the month, The Men's Study Breakfast will be held at First Watch in Kingsdale Shopping Center at 8:00AM starting October 16th.

I have had many inquiries about this group meeting. See you in October. If you have any questions, please contact the church office and I will contact you.

Allan Kennedy

HELP WANTED!!!



The Children's Center is blessed to have one hundred children enrolled in our programs this school year! We are also fortunate to have 12 loving, dedicated, creative, brilliant staff members who have been with us for many years.

However, we are stretched thin. Like many childcare centers and preschools, we are facing a shortage of applicants for open positions and could use your help to spread the word about the part-time jobs we have available. Our part-time jobs serve our community and are great for individuals ages 18 and up who

- Want to work 2, 3, or 5 afternoons a week
- Enjoy having weekends, evenings, summers, and school holiday breaks off
- Want to support young families
- Enjoy playing and learning with children
- Like to create, build, play games, solve problems, and use their imaginations
- Would like to bring their elementary school-aged child to work with them after school

Mid-Day Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten Teacher (12:15 – 2:30 pm)

This job involves working with other staff members to teach and care for children ages 3 – 5 years old during lunch time, rest time, and playground time in between morning and afternoon preschool and pre-kindergarten classes. (15 minutes for transition, 30 minutes for lunch from home, 45 minutes for rest, and 45 minutes for play.) Individuals hired for this position must have experience working with young children, pass a background check, and have a minimum of a high school diploma. They must also be able to sit, squat, or kneel on the floor to assist and play with children.

After School Teacher K-5th grade (2:30 – 5:30 pm)

This job involves working with other staff members to teach and care for children in grades K-5 after school. Children transition from school to Covenant from 2:50 – 3:15 pm, have a snack from home, play outdoors or in Fellowship Hall from 3:15 – 4:00, go to their homerooms for quiet/reading/homework time from 4:00 – 4:30, and then participate in teacher or student led play-based learning or recreational activities from 4:30 until they are picked up to go home. Individuals hired for this position must have experience working with children, pass a background check, and have a minimum of a high school diploma. Employees with school aged children or grandchildren may enroll their children in the After School program on days they are working.

One individual could fill both jobs and work 25 – 30 hours per week, or several individuals could share the jobs working 2 – 5 afternoons a week at one or both jobs. **Please ask interested candidates to contact Caroline McGeoch at: childcenter@covenantpcusa.org or 614-451-6677 x23**

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Each year, Covenant has four special offerings. The third is the **Peace & Global Witness Offering**, received this Sunday, **World Communion Sunday, 10/3**. Covenant retains 25% of the Offering to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community. This year, that money will go to **CRIS** (Community Refugee & Immigration Services) which is currently helping to resettle Afghan refugees. Please look for the special envelope in your monthly packet of envelopes or give on-line. To learn more, go to pcusa.org/peace-global.

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.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is mobilized and already delivering immediate aid to those impacted by Hurricane Ida. The needs of those impacted are changing daily because of lack of access to power, refrigeration, water and housing. Please consider donating to: **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** <info@info.pcusa.org>

2021 Church Officer Nominating Committee Nominees

The 2021 Nominees for Church Officers will be presented for approval at our Annual Congregational Election Meeting on October 10, 2021. Photos and Bios will be on display in the hallway at church and will be placed on the new Covenant's website for the congregation to view by clicking the "Connect" menu bar and Nominating Committee or by clicking the link:

https://files.logoscdn.com/v1/files/53159364/assets/12263739/content.pdf?signature=XzObwZ2A7b93bhZb_J8yDnC3jg4

Nominees are: Elder Nominees, Class of 2024: Beth Askue, Jim Buchanan, Susan Imel, Jennifer LuPiba, Jared McCune, and Rusty Miller; Elder Nominee, Class of 2022: Mary Hemmer, replacing Bob Lowery; Deacon Nominees, Class of 2024: Karl Craven, Charlotte Gross, Terry Kennedy Mancini, Tim Scott, Sarah Starr, and Nan Winslow; Youth Deacon, Class of 2022: Jack Dougherty; Church Officer Nominating Committee, Class of 2023: Bryan Dougherty, Amy Kendall, and Pete McGeoch. Nan Davidson, Chair, Nominating Committee

CHURCH HOUSE CLEANING YARD SALE - OCTOBER 16TH

CPW is working with Properties on housecleaning the church. There will be a one-day Church Housecleaning Yard Sale by the North Entry on October 16th. Prior to that all closets, cupboards and storage areas will be examined for items we no longer are using and any unidentified materials for which there seems no owner or use. Items will be assembled in Fellowship Hall on Thursday October 14th and priced for the sale on the 15th.

If you are a member of a group, committee or organization storing items in the church, please examine these prior to the second week of October. **Please label items you wish to keep as your property and indicate what can be placed in this sale.** If items have no use any longer, please discard them in the dumpster in the parking lot!

Many hands are needed to complete this task: members to move items into FH on Thursday, and to price items on Friday, and on Saturday to carry items into the parking lot to tables and tents. Helpers must arrive by 7:30 a.m. to arrange items so the sale can begin at 9:30 a.m. Members are also needed to circulate and help customers. About three in the afternoon, the sale will end, and usable items will be taken to Good

Will or another organization that receives usable items. Some items will be discarded. Help will be needed for this and for breaking down the tents, etc.

Absolutely NO items will be accepted from the congregation; this is not a garage sale!

Please look for sign-up sheets in the Hallway and at Circle meetings – Many hands make light work!

Questions, call Louise Davidson.

SPIRITUAL CINEMA

Wednesday, 9/29, we will gather in the Lounge, wearing masks, at 6:30 pm to watch Just Mercy, a 2019 biographical legal drama. World-renowned civil rights defense attorney Bryan Stevenson works to free a wrongly condemned death row prisoner. We will stay for a short time after the film to share the experience. Come join us.

CENTERING PRAYER

Covenant has reconvened a Centering Prayer practice on Thursdays 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.



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.

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: This Wednesday, 9/29, from 1-2 pm, we will continue to read and discuss 1 Corinthians, beginning with chapter 13. This chapter starts with that most familiar passage, "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love,..." 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. - The CPC Book Group will meet this week at 7pm to discuss the second section of My Grandmother's Hands. Next Wednesday, 9/29, there will be no book

group meeting because Spiritual Cinema invites the book group to join them in viewing and discussing Just Mercy. The book group will resume in the following Wednesday. Please call the church to be added to the group email, which will have the Zoom link.

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

Hoge Presbyterian Church offers the HM3 program every Saturday for its community in Franklinton including Music, Message, and a Meal. Area churches assist with the Meal, and Covenant creates and serves a hot, home-made meal every 3rd Saturday. Servers and guests are asked to wear masks when not eating.

Current attendance at HM3 leads us to bring enough for 50 meals. We need groups (or individuals) to step forward to serve.

- The third Saturdays for the rest of 2021 are covered! Thank you!
- We're accepting sign-ups for 2022, starting with January 15th, February 19th, and so on.

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's circles will meet for fellowship and discussion of the Horizons Bible Study, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus". Contact Betsy Sebastian if you need the *Horizon's Bible Study*. Copies are available for \$10.

October Circles:

- *Elizabeth*, October 4, 7:30 p.m., Mona Connolly, moderator
- *Eunice-Lydia*, October 6, 9:30 a.m., Sandy St. Martin, moderator
- *Miriam*, October 8 at 1:30 p.m., Gerlinde Lott, moderator
- *Deborah*, October 18 at 9:30 a.m., Lynn Elliott, moderator

Other circles:

- Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Mission Sewing, Diana Sanders

- October 8 and 24 at 9:30 a.m. in the Lounge, Prayer Shawl Circle, Louise Davidson and Nan Davidson

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 am. For the October 1st meeting, discussion will continue of chapter 14. Reading is through chapter 16 of "The Days of Awe and Wonder: How to be a Christian in the Twenty-first Century" by Marcus Borg. The group will next read Joan Chittister's book, "The Time is Now". 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. Wearing a mask inside our facility is recommended for everyone. Session will continue to monitor COVID 19 spread in the state of Ohio and adapt our policy as needed.

INFORMATION/MISCELLANEOUS

[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.](#)



Covenant Presbyterian Church | 2070 Ridgecliff Rd., Columbus, OH 43221

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