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Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - October 6, 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

*"Allow the children to come to me. Don't forbid them, because God's kingdom belongs to people like these children." Mark 10:14*

We are a few weeks into our new worship schedule, and for such a significant change, the transition has been nearly seamless. One of our goals was to take the energy of the outdoor service and bring it into the sanctuary. Incredibly, that's exactly what's happened. To see our children not only physically present but actively participating in worship has warmed my heart to no end. How can we expect to welcome our friends and neighbors to worship if we are unwilling to welcome our own children? By making space and allowances for our young ones, I believe we are becoming a more welcoming community overall. Truly welcoming communities are rare in our isolated and polarized world. Any way we can welcome those who have been left out is a worthwhile project. The experiment of intergenerational worship will continue at Covenant, and we welcome your feedback on what's working and not working. But I believe Jesus is smiling on our efforts, because in the upside-down kingdom of God, children are VIP's.

This Sunday is Week 4 of **Presbyterian 101, "Update Your Faith System."** We will consider how to study the Bible faithfully. You can view all lessons at [Theoacademy](#) and download the study guides. I hope to see you this Sunday at 9am in the Lounge.

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.

## 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](mailto:covenant@covenantpcusa.org). The group will meet on the first Saturday of the month at Covenant in the Lounge at 8:00AM starting October 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup>.

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-5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:childcenter@covenantpcusa.org) or 614-451-6677 x23**



## HAVE AN EXTRA COAT IN YOUR CLOSET?

Beginning in October, Cap City Helping Hands (CCHH)—formerly Westside Urban Ministry-- is collecting new or gently used clean, reusable coats, hats and mittens for school children ages 5 - 17. Coats are distributed to schools throughout Columbus. No applications, no waiting, just given to a kid who is shivering.

During October, coats can be deposited in a crate in the hallway marked "CCHH Coat Collection." Coats of all sizes are needed and also hats, mittens, and scarves are welcomed. In 2020, WUM delivered over 700 coats. With your help, we can do more in 2021 Questions: contact Susan Imel by sending an email to [covenantpcusa.org](mailto:covenantpcusa.org). CCHH is a ministry of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley.

*"He answers and said to them, He that has two coats, let him impart to him that has none; and he that has meat, let him do likewise."*

◀ Luke 3:11 ▶

## 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](https://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](mailto: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](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 14<sup>th</sup> and priced for the sale on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto:covenant@covenantpcusa.org) and in the subject line type Centering Prayer or contact Pastor Joel.

## 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: Wednesday Bible Study** - October 6 we will practice Lectio Divina, a spirit-guided prayer and response to scripture. Wednesday, October 13, we will continue the study of 1 Corinthians, beginning with chapter 14. Please join us. No preparation is required. We read and share together. Ask for a Zoom link from [lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org](mailto:lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org).

**Wednesday Evening Book Study 7:00-8:00 p.m.** - The CPC Book Group will meet on Wednesday night to continue our study of *My Grandmother's Hands*. We discussed the first section on 9/15 and 9/22, and then on 9/29 joined Spiritual Cinema in viewing the movie 'Just Mercy'. This week we will focus on the second section of the book, chapters 10-17. Please contact the church for the link.

The Covenant **Men's Spirituality** Reading Group will meet this Sunday, October 10, in person for the first time in 18 months, in Room 120, 9:00-9:45 a.m. We are always interested in new members, and this is a good time to join as we are reading Richard Rohr's 'Universal Christ'. We meet every other Sunday, so next meetings will be Oct. 24, Nov. 7, etc. Reach out to David Connolly if you have any questions!

## PRAYER CHAIN



Contact Laurie Johnson ([lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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:

- 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 Nancy Davidson

For more information about CPW circles and activities, contact Sandy St. Martin, CPW moderator, [covenant@covenantpcusa.org](mailto:covenant@covenantpcusa.org) with CPW/Sandy St. Martin, the Circle leader's name or name of the 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 15th meeting, discussion will continue with Chapter 15 through the end of the book, "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](mailto: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.](#)



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