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Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - October 13, 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

*They were shocked even more and said to each other, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them carefully and said, "It's impossible with human beings, but not with God. All things are possible for God." Mark 10:26-27*

With Advent just around the corner, we are nearing the end of the church year. As we finish out with the Gospel of Mark, Jesus continues to overturn our expectations of who belongs and God's Table. Jesus' disciples seem to think if there's one group of people who can presume they belong, it's the wealthy. If wealth is a sign of God's blessing, then surely those with many blessings can assume they have a reserved seat waiting for them. Yet, once again, Jesus turns conventional wisdom up-side down. If we think wealth buys us a ticket to God's Table, then we need to think again. Jesus makes it as clear that the only way any of us find our way to God is by grace, and grace is always God's gift. We can't earn it or purchase it. We can only receive it with open hands. For our hands to be truly open, Jesus invites us to let go of everything else. If we come to God with our wealth or good deeds in-hand expecting to receive grace, then our hands aren't open to receive the impossible gift of God's love. As the great hymn "Rock of Ages" says, "Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling; naked, come to thee for dress, helpless, look to thee for grace." The good news is that when we look to God for grace with open hands, God pours out more than we could ask or expect.

This Sunday is Week 5 of **Presbyterian 101, "Blessed to Be a Blessing."** We will consider the importance of fellowship and mission. 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.

## 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>

## CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL DATES THROUGH NOVEMBER

*Chancel Choir is looking for more singers! Join us for singing, fun and fellowship. Here is our schedule for this fall:*

- THURSDAY, October 14 at 7 PM
- NO REHEARSAL on THURSDAY, October 21
- TUESDAY, October 26 at 7 PM (Different day due to Trick-or-Treat)
- THURSDAY, November 4 at 7 PM
- NO REHEARSAL on THURSDAY, November 11
- THURSDAY, November 18 at 7 PM
- NO REHEARSAL THANKSGIVING THURSDAY, November 25

Cherie Brooks

## HALLOWEEN and THANKSGIVING - Giving Opportunities

The Mid-Ohio Workers Association (MWA) offers ways to celebrate holidays with their members this year! (Members of the MWA are low-paid workers or underemployed workers. They help one another as members of the association through various programs to help lift one another out of poverty. Also, area church members (including Covenant) help as volunteers and givers.)

HALLOWEEN - "Trunk-or-Treat" event on Friday, October 29, 6pm to 8:30pm, at Covenant's parking lot. Help host this event by parking at Covenant, opening your trunk, decorating it a bit for Halloween,



and handing out candy, tailgate style, to costumed trick-or-treaters from MWA. If you can't help host, perhaps you can help provide candy or decorations for a car's trunk?

**THANKSGIVING - Turkey or Pumpkin Pie Ingredients** by Tuesday morning, **November 23**. MWA prepares food boxes for their members for a Thanksgiving dinner. Help out by donating a turkey and/or ingredients for a pumpkin pie. Drop-off location: Either Cathy Levy's home on Monday evening, November 22, or Covenant's parking lot, Tuesday, November 23, 9am to 11am. Or, help out with your labor by joining the MWA volunteer team who sorts all the food, packs up the boxes, and delivers them to member homes between 9am and 5pm on Tuesday, November 23rd from the headquarters at Covenant.

Sign up for these opportunities after church worship in the lobby, by contacting Cathy Levy, or through either of these websites:

<https://bit.ly/HalloweenCPC>

<https://bit.ly/TDayCPC>

## 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

## Covenant Presbyterian Women and Covenant Congregation

We are currently engaged with El' Lesun, a small non-profit organization founded by Jaye Turner, a former foster child, to provide foster youth transitioning from care to independence, with "My Own Home Kits". To assist this transition, we are asking for donations to provide kitchen, bath, toiletry items and laundry detergent in large plastic bins. If you wish to participate, please send a check to Covenant Presbyterian Women Line-item foster home kits to Betsy Sebastian, 3259 Avalon Road, Columbus, OH 43221-1803

Thank you for your compassion and generosity.

If questions, please call or text Ann Teske, 614-302-9609

## 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**

As we watch the situation unfolding in Afghanistan and pray for the men, women and children of that country, please consider donating to [CRIS](http://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.



## CHURCH HOUSE CLEANING YARD SALE - OCTOBER 16TH @ 9:30AM-3PM

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. 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. Help will be needed for this and for breaking down the tents to clear the area for access for Sunday worship. Usable items will be taken to Good Will or another organization that receives usable items. Questions, call Louise Davidson.

## CENTERING PRAYER

Covenant has reconvened a Centering Prayer practice on Thursdays at 8:30am in the Lounge. 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

Effective in 2022, the whole church will use one fund, **General Sending and Support**, to support all of our mission co-workers. Covenant has a close relationship with 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](#). You can make your gift to the one fund "in honor of" [name of person(s)]. This will at long last remove the burden of personal fundraising from each mission co-worker.

## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT & ADULT LEARNING COMMISSION

**Wednesday Bible Study 1-2 pm: Wednesday Bible Study** - October 13, we will continue to read and discuss 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.

## Does the Church belong in Politics?

Join the Presbytery of Scioto Valley zoom this Saturday - October 16, 2021. The Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Associate Director for Advocacy in the PC(USA), will be leading us in a reflection on the challenging relationships between worship, justice, politics, partisanship and the body of Christ, on Saturday, October 16th from 10 am to 11:30 am. To register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/zoom/register/tZUkd-2sqD8jGdwiMF4kDyLSJ0p3sprw2CSg>





## 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/November Circles:

- *Deborah*, October 18 at 9:30 a.m., Lynn Elliott, moderator
- *Elizabeth*, November 1 at 7:30 p.m., Mona Connolly, moderator
- *Eunice-Lydia*, November 3 9:30 a.m., Sandy St. Martin, moderator
- *Miriam*, November 10 at 1:30 p.m., Gerlinde Lott, moderator

### Other circles:

- Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Mission Sewing, Diana Sanders
- October 24 and November 13 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 to [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!**

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