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Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - October 20, 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

*So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant." Mark 10:42-43*

Every time I read this passage in Mark 10, I think of Henri Nouwen (January 24, 1932 – September 21, 1996). If you don't know of [Henri Nouwen](#), do yourself a favor and introduce yourself to his work. A Catholic Priest from the Netherlands, Henri taught pastoral theology at some of the most prestigious religious institutions in America including Notre Dame, Yale, and Harvard. Despite being a successful author of many books and a highly sought speaker, Henri was burning out in the highly competitive environment of academia. He described this period of his life as a spiritual death. At this time, Henri met Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche, an international movement of communities that welcome people with disabilities. After meeting Jean, Henri heard God say to him, "Go and live among the poor, and they will heal you." For the last 10 years of his life, Henri spent his days amongst people who had no idea that he was the famous Henri Nouwen. Instead, they knew Henri, the kind priest who lived with them, fed them, and served them communion. In his book, *In the Name of Jesus*, Nouwen writes, "The way of the Christian leader is not the way of upward mobility in which our world has invested so much, but the way of downward mobility ending on the cross. This might sound morbid and masochistic, but for those who have heard the voice of the first love and said, 'yes' to it, the downward-moving way of Jesus is the way to the joy and peace of God, a joy and peace that is not of this world" (62-63). May we find new ways to answer Christ's call to serve. Whatever future Covenant has, we can be sure that Jesus is calling us to the joy of service and away from trappings of worldly power. I don't know exactly what that looks like yet, but I am eager to discover it with you.

This Sunday is the final week of **Presbyterian 101**, and we will discuss the distinctives of how Presbyterians handle power. You can view past 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.

## SPIRITUAL CINEMA

Wednesday, October 27, we will gather in the Lounge, wearing masks, at 6:30 pm to watch Legally Blonde. It's been 20 years since Elle (Reese Witherspoon) got into Harvard Law, fended off a professor's advances and came to the legal defense of a sorority alumna. Join us to see if you think this film is more relevant than ever. We will stay for a short time after the film to discuss its merits and message. Come join us.

## 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>

## 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



## 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. The address for sending donations: CRIS-Ohio, 1925 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, OH 43229

## 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, PC(USA) will use one fund, **General Sending and Support E132193**, to support all of our mission co-workers. You can make your gift to the one fund "in honor of" [name of the person]. This will at long last remove the burden of personal fundraising from each mission co-worker. 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 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** - This Wednesday, October 20, from 1-2 pm, we will continue to read and discuss 1 Corinthians, beginning with chapter 14, verse 26. Please join us. No preparation is required. Ask for a Zoom link from [lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org](mailto:lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org)

**Wednesday Evening Book Study 7:00-8:00 p.m.** - No meeting this week.

The **Covenant Men's Spirituality Reading Group** will meet this Sunday, October 24, 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 Nov. 7, Nov. 21, 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/November Circles:

- *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
- *Deborah*, November 15 at 9:30 a.m., Lynn Elliott, 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. Next meetings are November 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. 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.



## House Cleaning Yard Sale Update

CPW is worked with Properties on housecleaning the church and held a one-day Yard Sale by the North Entry on October 16th. It took many hands to complete this task! With the help all last week of a dozen CPW members who cleaned closets, priced, and then displayed

hundreds of items and members of Properties Commission and others who set up, toted furniture and took down the tables, etc., everything was sold, recycled or cleaned up by 4 p.m. Thank you everyone!

## 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

- As a gentle reminder, the church provides disposable face masks but if possible please bring your own face mask for inside the church facilities. Thank you!

[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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