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Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - October 27, 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

*Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said, "Teacher, I want to see." Mark 10:51*

Blind Bartimaeus knows what he wants and is not afraid to ask for it. I wonder how often we don't receive the healing we need because we are ashamed to ask for what we want. Some of us have been raised to not voice our needs. We've been taught that asking for help is shameful. We think we are to be in the position of offering help, not needing it. We prefer power to vulnerability, yet the power of God meets us in our vulnerability.

If Jesus were to ask you the question, "What do you want me to do for you?" how would you answer? It's not as easy as it sounds. When it comes to our own needs and hurts, it's hard to know what we really want. Bartimaeus wants to see! Seeing in Mark is not about having one's eyes function properly. It's about recognizing what Jesus is about: mercy, forgiveness, and compassion. Our problem is that we think we can see. Seeing is about aligning our expectations with reality. Seeing is about loving who Jesus loves, loving what's real, what's in front of us. Seeing is about service, not power—love not control. Allowing Jesus to heal our vision means learning to embrace the life and path we've been given and not worrying about everyone else's. This is what Jesus can do for you. Do you want it?

This week in worship, we are blessed to have the Rev. Dr. Linda A. Mercadante as our guest preacher. She is the author of *Belief Without Borders: Inside the Minds of the Spiritual but not Religious*. For more the 30 years, Linda has been helping people grow a healthier spirituality through good theology. She believes bad theology kills, but good theology helps your spirit thrive! In addition to preaching, Linda will also teach the 9am Adult Education Forum in the Lounge on her research into the spiritual but not religious. You can learn more about her work at <https://www.healthybeliefs.org>

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.

## APPLE CIDER & DONUTS - This Sunday

The Nurture & Outreach Commission will be providing apple cider and doughnuts on Sunday, October 31st before and after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Please join us!

## 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. (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 **THIS 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, healthy snacks, or decorations for a car's trunk? Also, feel free to drop off candy or healthy snacks to Covenant on Friday that wasn't used during the beggar's night on Thursday. To sign-up, contact Cathy Levy or use this website: <https://bit.ly/HalloweenCPC>



**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 this website: <https://bit.ly/TDayCPC>

## Habitat for Humanity

Covenant is once again participating in the Habitat NW Partnership Adopt a House by helping to finance and build a house this year. Construction has begun on the house located at 1252 E. 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. in South Linden. Volunteers work on the house on Thursday mornings and Saturdays from 8:30 to 3:00. Lunch on Saturday is provided.

We are in need of men and women volunteers to help with the construction. You can just show up either day at 8:30am and you will be instructed on how to proceed. John Fisher is the House Lead. All equipment you will need is provided. Just wear appropriate clothing and hard soled shoes, or tennis shoes with a thick sole.

For more information please contact either Betsy Sebastian at 219-208-5602 or [grammyseb@gmail.com](mailto:grammyseb@gmail.com), or Charlie Bergmann at 614-572-5059 or [ctbergmann@yahoo.com](mailto:ctbergmann@yahoo.com).

## 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](#) (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.

## FINAL WEEK TO SUPPORT CATHY & JOHN LEVY'S PELOTONIA & PwP FUNDRAISING

Dear Friends and Family,

Three months ago, we did two charity rides for two great causes. With a fundraising deadline looming in one week, we're reaching out to ask for your support at this late date.

The two causes:

1. Cerebral palsy research (through the Pedal with Pete Foundation for worthy projects across the world)
2. Cancer research (through Pelotonia for The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.)

If you already support one or both causes, THANK YOU!!!!

Here's how you can help support our efforts:

1. Our profiles for our Pedal with Pete rides have been taken down, but you can support **our July 31 ride of 80 miles** for cerebral palsy research by donating directly to PwP here: [pedalwithpete.org/support/](https://pedalwithpete.org/support/). While there are no official deadlines, **if you donate this week, you will help their board** of directors determine how many seed grants they can award this year to worthy research efforts. You can learn about previous grants here: [pedalwithpete.org/grants/](https://pedalwithpete.org/grants/). As you may know, we volunteered for many years for the Pedal with Pete organization. We are honored to continue to help fund cerebral palsy research. As a result of our service, we made many good friends who live with CP. The research gives them help and hope for their conditions which can impact their lives in differing ways.
2. **Fundraising for Pelotonia 2021 ends in one week, on Sunday, October 31 at midnight.** 100% of participant-raised funds directly support innovative cancer research at the OSUCCC - James. **This year, we rode 100 miles on Sunday, August 8** in support of cancer research. We have a combined **commitment to raise \$4,000** for cancer research. We aren't there yet, by a longshot, because we delayed fundraising until the last minute (typical Levy planning ☺). You can learn more about Pelotonia's lifetime impact at [pelotonia.org/our-impact](https://pelotonia.org/our-impact). We all know people who are currently living with cancer, are survivors, or have died from cancer. This research changes their chances, changes the toxicity of their treatments, and changes the chances of getting cancer in the first place.

To make a donation to help us reach our committed goal, please follow these links to our profile pages:

<https://pelotonia.org/profile/CL0194>

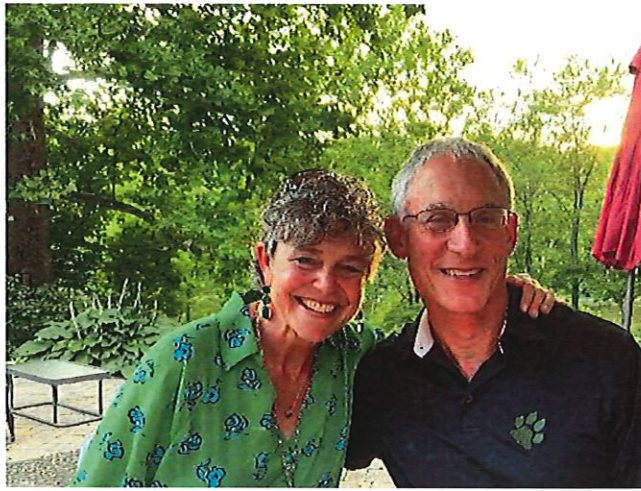
<https://pelotonia.org/profile/DL0150>

Thank you for considering these opportunities to help move forward the science in these critical areas.

Sincerely,  
Cathy and Dave Levy

P.S. We wanted to attach photos of us from each of the rides, but we thought you'd prefer this photo taken a few weeks after the events. We're much cleaner, more rested, and we look better in these clothes, too! Ha!!!





## 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](#).

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For more information please contact Laurie in the church office at [lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org](mailto:lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org) and she will connect you to either Betsy Sebastian or Charlie Bergmann.

## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT & ADULT LEARNING COMMISSION



**Wednesday Bible Study 1-2 pm: Wednesday Bible Study** - This Wednesday, October 27, from 1-2 pm, we will continue to read and discuss 1 Corinthians, beginning with chapter 15, verse 20. 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.

## 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.

Here we share part of a letter of thanks from one of the members of the HM3 community from the October 16th HM3 program. He made several copies and left them on the tables for us to discover, and at the top of the letter, he wrote, "Disseminate widely".

*I want to thank you for all the meals that you've provided for me. I know that all of you put in a lot of work, time, for this donation. I compliment the creative efforts in this endeavor. I thank all of you for the respect that you show me (us) while doing this charity service. You are under no obligation (as far as I know) to give your precious resources of time and effort in this charitable endeavor. Time can't be recovered.... Thank you so much....*



## COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The **CPW Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner** will not be held this year because of concerns many have about the pandemic, groups and food preparation. Traditionally this has been the occasion at which we have received the **Thank Offering**, but as we did last year, the congregation is invited to support the Offering at the November 15<sup>th</sup> worship service. The need is great in all social and mission medical services. This offering, received since 1890 as a Thank Offering to our Lord, supports grants to organizations offering services to people in need across our country and globe. Please watch for information about the services we can support through our gifts.

**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.

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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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!

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**[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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