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Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - November 3, 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

*"We are now in the mountains and they are in us, kindling enthusiasm, making every nerve quiver, filling every pore and cell of us...Precious night, precious day to abide in me forever. Thanks be to God for this immortal gift." John Muir*

What a gift! After 2 years of cancelled vacations, we finally made it to the mountains of Utah. We visited Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon, Snow Canyon and more. While there, I read a chapter of my teacher John Philip Newell's new book, *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul*. Newell is a teacher of Celtic Christianity, an earth-based spirituality that connects what has often been separated by religion: earth and soul, matter and spirit, Christ and the Cosmos. I saved the chapter on John Muir for our trip, and I'm so glad I did. Muir grew up in a strict Scottish Calvinist home, where his father forced him to memorize the scriptures with the threat of corporal punishment. The Christianity he was given was punitive and dismal, where salvation can only be found by leaving this world. As an adult, Muir suffered an accident in a factory in Indianapolis, where he temporarily lost sight in both eyes. Upon recovering his vision, he left the industrial world behind to explore nature. Like the Apostle Paul, Muir was born again to a holistic view of God within nature. For Muir, salvation was to be discovered within this world, in the beauty and holiness of all creation. His work led to the creation of the National Park system that we enjoyed. While hiking the canyons, the mountains, and even a volcano, I felt my nerves quiver in appreciation for the gifts of rock, water, and tree. In our time of mounting ecological collapse, we need to recover a vision of the Christian faith that preaches good news for all creation (Mark 16:15). As the leaves fall in this most beautiful season in Ohio, take time to thank God for the gifts of creation, and let us pray that God ignites in us a holistic understanding of salvation that is as broad as the cosmos.

### New Forum Class: Welcoming the Stranger

Beginning this Sunday, The Rev. Dr. Nathan A. Esala will begin teaching a class at the Adult Education Forum entitled, "Welcoming the Stranger: Genesis 18 and Today." Nathan will be teaching Contextual Bible Study, which was part of his doctoral thesis. Contextual Bible Study encourages people of all ages and all walks of life to read the Bible together and to allow it to shape their understanding of the burning issues of the day. I hope you'll join us at 9am in the Lounge as we discover how old texts can speak freshly to our world today.

One Struggle to Love,

Rev. Joel A. Esala

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## 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!

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.

Children gather in the Multipurpose room (former administrative offices) at 9am before splitting into our classes. We sing, read, learn and dream together. Youth (6th-12th grades) meet in the chapel at 11am for snacks and discussion.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

Calendar change: Nov 11 - Choir rehearsal is back on!  
Rehearsal is Wednesday, Nov 17 at 7 instead of Thursday.

JOIN US AT REHEARSAL! WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW VOICES, AND YOURS IS MISSING!

- 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)



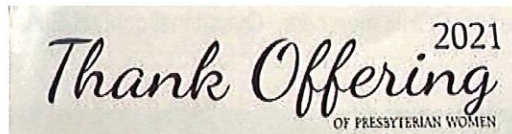
- THURSDAY, November 4 at 7 PM
- **THURSDAY, November 11 at 7 PM**
- **WEDNESDAY, November 17 at 7 PM**
- NO REHEARSAL THANKSGIVING THURSDAY, November 25

## THANKSGIVING and HOLIDAY 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.)

**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>

**HOLIDAY - Adopt a Family** - The Covenant Deacons are proceeding with the Adopt a Family Mission for 2021. We expect to have 5 or 6 families. The process will be the same as 2020. Covenant volunteers buy gifts on a family wish list. One gift per person. Volunteers wrap the gifts and add names. The gifts will be transported to Broad Street Presbyterian for distribution in a drive through event. If any Covenant volunteers are interested in participating in the drive through event, they will be welcome. The transportation to the event will be organized as gifts are ready. Please contact me with any questions. Jim Buchanan (jim.buchanan@juno.com; 614-558-1845)



## THANK OFFERING 2021

The Thank Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the fall each year, it gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. Thank Offering grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. At least 40 percent of the offering funds health ministries.

Over the last 33 years, Presbyterian Women (PW) have granted nearly \$27 million to more than 1,600 different projects at home and around the world through the PW Thank Offering.

In 2021, 12 projects were selected for funding, nine in the United States and three internationally. Among the issues they address are child care, food insecurity, health, and education and training.

The 2021 Thank Offering will be received during our service on November 14th. Envelopes will be in the Sunday bulletins. Please give generously to this worthy cause.

## 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).

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## 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



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## DRIVE THROUGH COAT DROP-OFF ON NOVEMBER 6

Cap City Helping Hands (CCHH), a ministry of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, will be collecting coats for Columbus school children on Saturday, November 6 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. New or gently used clean coats of all sizes are needed as well as gloves, mittens, scarves and

hats. Bring items to the parking lot where they will be collected by CCHH members. Questions: contact Susan Imel at [covenantpcusa.org](http://covenantpcusa.org).

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## 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://www.crisohio.org) (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.

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## 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.

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## 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 - November 3.** We will practice Lectio Divina, a spirit-guided prayer and response to scripture. Wednesday, November 10, we will continue the study of 1 Corinthians, beginning with chapter 15, verse 42. 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 resume this Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. to read 'The Vanishing Half' by Brit Bennett. It is the story of identical twin girls who are Black, growing up in a small, southern town. At age sixteen, they run away, and their lives take very different turns. Please call the church for the Zoom link.

On Sunday, Nov. 7, the **Men's Spirituality Reading Group** will meet at 9 a.m. in Room 120 to continue their discussion of Richard Rohr's 'Universal Christ'. Newcomers are welcome - please reach out to David Connolly for additional information.

## 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 during the November 14<sup>th</sup> worship service. This offering, received since 1888 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:

- *Eunice-Lydia*, Today, November 3 at 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
- *Elizabeth*, December 6 at 7:30 p.m., Mona Connolly, moderator

Other circles:

- Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Mission Sewing, Diana Sanders
- November 12 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.

**The Christmas Coffee** will be held on December 1<sup>st</sup> in Fellowship Hall. A light plated breakfast will be served before the program by Cody Miller, artist for the current PW Bible Study. All the women of the church are invited to attend. You will be able to register later in November in the Hallway on Sundays. In addition to the program, Mission Sewing items will be available, the 2021 quilt recipient will be announced, and Gail



Messick will offer items from Eswatini. There will be an ingathering of items for the **Churchwomen United Layette Project** - disposable diapers for babies 8 lbs. and larger, wipes, bottles, bibs, burping cloths, receiving blankets, onesies, socks, sleepers, baby wash, shampoo, towels, and washcloths. Funds for the layette project and funds for **Franklin County Children's Services** are welcome. Please make checks payable to CPW with either CWU or Franklin County Children's Services on the memo 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". The discussion will conclude of the present book by Marcus Borg before starting the new book the 19th. 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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## THANK YOU, Covenant, for Hosting MWA Families for a Friendly Halloween Party

On Friday Covenant helped host families from MWA (Mid-Ohio Workers Association) for a Halloween Party. We had planned a Trunk-or-Treat party in our parking lot, but the rain sent us indoors into our Fellowship Hall. Over 10 groups hosted with decorated tables and overflowing bowls of candy. Another group brought Mexican Hot Chocolate which was served next to the table of healthy snacks. A speaker broadcast a set list of upbeat music (including a favorite... the theme from GHOSTBUSTERS). By far, though, playing the GAMES that MWA volunteers set up in every section of the hall was the best part of the evening! We expected 17 families with kids, but about 6 families came, which was perhaps the Holy Spirit at work, because with the space in Fellowship Hall, the kids could safely play and have enough space to spread out.

Thank you so much, Covenant, for opening our space in this way and sharing the glory of God's love with  
all!





## 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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