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Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - November 10, 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

I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "Look! God's dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God." Revelation 21:3

Throughout scripture, God repeats this phrase so often that Biblical Scholars have called it, "The Covenant Formula." Here at the end of the Bible in a vision of God's dream for the world, we hear it repeated again, "They will be my people, and I will be their God." This is the hope of our faith in both life and death. It's not about golden streets and heavenly rewards but about belonging to the One in whom we live, move, and have our being. As we celebrated All Saints Day this past Sunday, my heart was full of gratitude for those who have gone before us, and for a God who promises to dwell with us in both life, death, and beyond. I love verse 3 of "For All the Saints:"

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

We already have communion with those who have died. While we struggle, they shine, and in Christ we are all one. As you remember your loved ones who have died and when the time comes to face your own mortality, may the promise of the Covenant Formula assure your heart. You belong to God.

Forum Class: Welcoming the Stranger

This Sunday, The Rev. Dr. Nathan A. Esala will continue teaching his class, "Welcoming the Stranger: Genesis 18 and Today." Nathan introduced Contextual Bible Study this past week and spurred a rich discussion. 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. If you missed the first week, you can jump in this week 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!

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

THANKSGIVING and CHRISTMAS Giving Opportunities

THANKSGIVING FOOD BOX ASSISTANCE WITH MWA* - Turkey or Pumpkin Pie Ingredients by Tuesday morning, **November 23**. Mid-Ohio Workers Association (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>

CHRISTMAS GIFT BOXES FOR KIDS FROM MWA* - The Mid-Ohio Workers Association* creates gift boxes for the children within their member families. You can help in any of these ways:

- provide a gift for a child, or
- join the Toy Sort with other MWA* volunteers in Fellowship Hall when we sort donated gifts into boxes for each family on **Thursday, 12/16 from 5-8pm**, or
- help host the party when the Gift Boxes will be given to the families at the MWA* Christmas Party in Covenant's parking lot on **Saturday, 12/18** (setup at noon, party at 2pm, cleanup around 4pm).

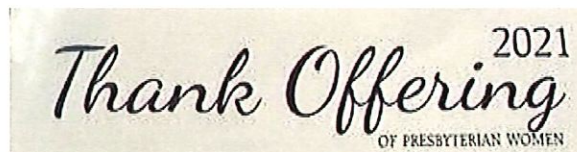
With respect to donating a gift, please choose gifts worth between \$10 and \$35. MWA* needs gifts for all ages, newborn to 17 years of age. Please deliver your donation to one of these locations at Covenant):

- Cathy Levy's home at 3679 Scioto Run Blvd. If she's not home, go ahead and leave it on her front porch. Just leave her a text or voicemail at 614-506-8139 so she'll look for it when she gets home.
- Contact Cathy at 614-506-8139 or cathy.levy@gmail.com to arrange for her to pick up donations from your doorstep if needed before Thursday, December 16.
- During normal business hours or Sunday mornings, drop off your donation to the marked bin within Covenant Presbyterian Church's Donation Center, which is in the coat closet nearest the sanctuary.

Signup to help in any of these ways online here: <https://bit.ly/MWAGiftBoxesCPC> , or after the church service in the lobby, or by contacting Cathy Levy at cathy.levy@gmail.com or 614-506-8139.

**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.*

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 has 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, 9 in the United States and 3 are international. Among the issues they address are child care, food insecurity, health, and education & training.

The 2021 Thank Offering will be received during our service on Nov. 14. Envelopes will be in the bulletins. Checks should be written to Covenant Presbyterian Women with "Thank Offering" on the memo line. Please give generously to this worthy cause.

LIST OF CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

At Covenant Presbyterian Church, we always find ways to share the glory of God's love, especially at Christmas time. On our website, you can download a document that summarizes how to participate in any of these opportunities including deadlines and contact information for each:

<https://covenantpcusa.org/advent-2021>

Or, you can contact the church office, Cathy Levy, or Beth Askue, who will get you a copy, or you can get a printed copy from the table in the church lobby.

Ministries include:

1. Adopt-a-Family from COMPASS (Jim Buchanan)
2. Cap City Helping Hands' Holiday Shop (Susan Imel)
3. Layette Supplies (Sandy St. Martin)
4. Support for FCCS' Holiday Wish (Sandy St. Martin)
5. White Socks for Homeless Men (Betsy Sebastian)
6. Adopt-a-Family from CATCH Court (Barbara Marshall)
7. Cause Cookies (Barbara Marshall)
8. Christmas Luncheon for Survivors (Barbara Marshall)
9. Gift Boxes for Kids from MWA (Cathy Levy)
10. Christmas Joy Offering (Beth Askue)
11. Deacons' Christmas Eve Offering (Terry Kennedy Mancini)

Thank you for considering an opportunity to practice our faith and humanity in service of others in this Holy Season!

SOS FOOD PANTRY - THANKSGIVING FOOD DONATION DRIVE

Our pantry is very low on staples and we hope you will consider making a food donation to our pantry during this Thanksgiving season.

Please place your donation either in the SOS Food Pantry drop off bin inside the north entrance or leave on the table in the main hallway inside the north doors.

Our food drive will take place through Tuesday November 30. Monetary donations sent to Ingrid Smith are greatly appreciated and should be marked "SOS Food Pantry".

ITEMS NEEDED

Canned corn and green beans
Canned fruit
Condensed chicken noodle and tomato soups
Tuna Fish
Baked Beans- large and small sizes
Boxed macaroni and cheese
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Cereal
Spaghetti and spaghetti sauce

On behalf of the SOS Food Pantry Team....Thank you so much!!

SOS FOOD PANTRY- DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS requested.....to transport a few bags of groceries to families in need.

This involves selecting items from our food pantry and delivering to an individual or family. You do not have to shop at a grocery store.

All the groceries and perishable items are in the church. The process of selecting, bagging, and delivering food takes about an hour once a month.

Expert training provided. Please call Mark or Betsy Owen at 614-486-0317 if you have questions or wish to join this important mission. Thank you.

A Fantastic Finale to Covenant Presbyterian Church's Outreach to Provide For Foster Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care



El'lesun was created to Educate, Advocate, and Serve.

Educate our community about foster care, Advocate on the needs of those in foster care, and Serve those affected by foster care.

Our vision is to see our youth walking with confidence towards success.

Through the generosity of Covenant Presbyterian Women and Covenant Presbyterian church members, we were able to collect items and use generous financial support to create 17 My Own Home Kits. With money remaining, we purchased 17- \$50 VISA debit cards (with \$5 processing fee on each by card company for a total of \$934.15.)

Friday, November 5, 2021, we delivered the bins and VISA debit cards to Jaye Turner, Founder and President, at #3 Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority Scholar House at 93 N. 17th Street, Columbus.



Bob Tullett and Doug Teske loading Covenant's bus. Jaye Turner, President (L) and Gabriella (R), Communities Property manager for Scholar Housing.

Scholar House #3 had just received five youth and eight more were coming for a total of 30 former foster youth this building. Youth must be employed and must be in school with a B average for vouchers' to live there. Jaye said that our church is the most generous of their supporters and is beyond grateful. I add that our congregation's heartfelt compassion and generosity for foster youth has touched the hearts of those who need a hand to be successful. To learn more about the scholar house program, go to [Columbus Scholar House for Former Foster Youth - YouTube](#) (click on this and then click on open hyperlink).

Ann Teske, Chair of Involvement and Action, Covenant Presbyterian Women.

A Note From The Finance Office

We have recently launched a new website which includes a new giving platform called **Faithlife Giving**. Our former platform called **Vanco**, will no longer be available for you to use after 11/1/21.

Our new website has information about your online giving options through Faithlife.

Ways to give:

1. **online** through our website <https://covenantpcusa.org/giving>
2. by **text**, simply text the word **Give** with the amount (e.g. **Give 100**) to (614) 568 6077
3. by **scanning** our QR code:

If you have any questions or concerns, please let Ingrid Smith know. ingridsmith@covenantpcusa.org

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. 15th 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, or Charlie Bergmann at 614-572-5059 or 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



SUCCESSFUL COAT COLLECTION

Thanks to the generosity of many, the Cap City Helping Hands (CCHH) coat collection was very successful. CCHH is thankful for all the coats that were donated--they will be put to good use. Last week, when the weather turned cold, CCHH moderator received an email

from a school nurse asking if we were going to be distributing coats again this year; her respond was "yes!" It's not too late to donate coats; the bins will be in the hallway until mid-November.

Thanks again to all who have helped keep Columbus kids warmer this winter. CCHH appreciates your support. Contact Susan Imel with questions.

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.

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 and in the subject line type Centering Prayer or contact Pastor Joel.

GLOBAL MISSION

Michael & Rachel Ludwig, our mission co-workers in Niger, are returning to the United States. They are ending service at the end of December 2021. Please read their farewell letter at [Presbyterian Mission Agency Mission Connections | Presbyterian Mission Agency](#). You can send them a note thanking them for their service at Presbyterian Mission Agency, PC(USA), 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202-1396.

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



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 14th 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:

- *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 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 1st 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.

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 19th and December 3rd. The group will begin reading Joan Chittister's book, *The Time is Now*. For information, email to 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.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT & ADULT LEARNING COMMISSION

Wednesday Bible Study 1-2 pm: Wednesday Bible Study - This Wednesday, November 10, from 1-2 pm, we will continue to read and discuss 1 Corinthians, beginning with chapter 15, verse 42. Please join us. No preparation is required. Ask for a zoom link from lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org

Wednesday Evening Book Study 7:00-8:00 p.m. - The CPC Book Group will continue its discussion of *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett, on Wednesday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m. We will be focusing on the third section and a bit of the fourth. Please contact Tori Vazquez 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.

COVENANT ADVENT DEVOTIONAL 2021

Please consider writing a contribution for the Covenant Advent Devotional 2021. It is such a pleasure to read the thoughts of Covenant members as we move through this important season of the church. The Spiritual Development and Adult Learning commission would like to have your submission by Friday, November 19. Copies will be provided at church on the first day of Advent, and mailed to your home by request. To sign up, please click on the [Sign Up Genius](#) link or contact Tori Vazquez.

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 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....

PRAYER CHAIN



Contact Laurie Johnson (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 and in the subject line type Prayer Chain. Note that the person for whom prayers are requested must give permission.

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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