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Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - November 17, 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

"This is but the beginning of the birth pangs." Mark 13:8b

This week is Christ the King Sunday, which is always the last Sunday of the church year. We begin the new year with Advent on November 28. The lectionary always begins and ends the year with apocalyptic passages. This week we heard Jesus warn the disciples to not be led astray by those claiming to be our savior. In times of great uncertainty, Jesus knew charlatans would arise seeking our trust. For those who follow Jesus, our loyalty never belongs to a party or politician. We follow the One whose promises of forgiveness, presence, and power never waver. Jesus also warned of coming conflicts and disasters, but he assures us, "This is but the beginning of the birth pangs." Without implying that God is the cause of suffering or disasters, Jesus assures us that when it appears that the world is falling apart, we can trust that God is bringing forth something new. Birth pangs are painful, but they are not without purpose. Amidst chaos and confusion, Jesus assures us that God is still at work, giving birth to a future that belongs to love. This is the same message the angel told the women at the tomb on Easter Sunday: Christ is going ahead of you, and that's where you will see him (Mark 16:7). Jesus is inviting us to trust that the future belongs to God, so we need not fear what is ahead. This doesn't mean we should be glib about global threats or forsake our responsibility to create a world where we love our neighbors as ourselves. It does mean that despite our foolishness and faithlessness, God is bringing forth new life and possibilities.

Adult Forum Class: Welcoming the Stranger

Last Sunday, Nathan Esala continued teaching his class, "Welcoming the Stranger: Genesis 18 and Today." Another rich discussion took place. He is not with us this week, but I will be facilitating how our observations of Genesis 18 apply to our context. I hope you'll join us this week at 9am in the Lounge.

One Struggle to Love,

Rev. Joel A. Esala

Advent Event

Sunday, Nov. 28 at 11:00 - 11:30am



Everyone's invited to join us after worship in Fellowship Hall for our Advent Event! Pick up your advent devotional (for adults and families) and a bag of crafts to work on at home during the advent season. Help us decorate our Covenant Family Peace Tree and make some ornaments while you are there! Everyone is welcome!

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, the Forum takes place in the Lounge at 9am. This week we will continue our class "Welcoming the Stranger: Genesis 18 and Today."

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

Rehearsal is Wednesday, Nov 17 at 7 instead of Thursday.

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

• **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 this coming 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. We've been asking for 4 Pumpkin Pie ingredients per pie (can of pumpkin, can of evaporated milk, frozen pie crust, frozen whipped topping), and we continue to do so. Some Covenant members suggested that we also include Eggs, Pumpkin Pie Spice, and Sugar (white or light brown). You can now sign up to help with any of those three ingredients; we'll measure out the amount needed per kit on Tuesday. 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. You don't have to volunteer all day; just sign up for the hours you can work. The work switches from packing into delivering at around noon.
- Sign up for any of 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. The gifts will be given to families at Broad Street Presbyterian Church through a drive through event on Saturday, December 18 at 10am. If any Covenant volunteers are interested in participating in the drive through event, they will be welcome. Volunteers who adopt a family will wrap the gifts and put name cards on the gifts. Volunteers may bring the gifts to the 12/18 event at Broad Street Presbyterian at 9:30am. Alternatively, deliver the gifts to Steve St. Martin's (skstmartin@hotmail.com) or Jim Buchanan's homes or have the gifts collected by Steve or Jim by Wednesday, December 15. Please

contact me with any questions and to receive a family description and wish list. Jim Buchanan (jim.buchanan@juno.com; 614-558-1845).

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.

We've updated the list with additional details for #4 and #8 below, we've added a new opportunity (#11), and we've re-ordered the ministries into deadline order.

Ministries include:

1. Layette Supplies (Sandy St. Martin)
2. Support for FCCS' Holiday Wish (Sandy St. Martin)
3. Cap City Helping Hands' Holiday Shop (Susan Imel)
4. Adopt-a-Family from CATCH Court (Barbara Marshall)
5. White Socks for Homeless Men (Betsy Sebastian)
6. Cause Cookies (Barbara Marshall)
7. Christmas Joy Offering (Beth Askue)
8. Covenant Deacons Adopt-a-Family (Jim Buchanan)
9. Christmas Luncheon for Survivors (Barbara Marshall)
10. Gift Boxes for Kids from MWA (Cathy Levy)
11. Christmas Party at HM3 (Mona Connolly)
12. 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!



CAUSE COOKIES

With each \$25 donated to Freedom a la Cart's Cause Cookie campaign, you'll receive a beautifully packaged box of fresh, from-scratch holiday cookies. Each box contains a dozen assortment of chocolate crinkles, pistachio white chocolate cookies, raspberry rugelach, and a traditional Gingersnap holiday favorite. Each donation provides workforce training and wraparound supportive services for survivors of sex trafficking. Order on-line at <https://freedomalacart.org/cause-cookies/> To pick up your order at Covenant on Dec. 11, 11:00-12:30pm, please select Covenant under the "Pick-Up Date" tab. (For more information, Barbara Marshall, bamarshall@aol.com, 614-204-5665)

Sanctuary Flowers

Now that we are worshipping in person again, you may once more sign up for flowers to be placed in the sanctuary for Sunday worship to honor loved ones, a special occasion, or just to the glory of God. The dedication information will be listed in the Sunday bulletin. The arrangements will cost \$40.

To order flowers, please contact the church office by sending an email to lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org by Tuesday of each week that you wish to have flowers in the sanctuary. Let the office know which date you are requesting, your name, contact information and any dedication information. You may request future dates as well. Payment can be in cash or check.

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 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:



Thanksgiving Food Bags

Recently Covenant members went to Freedom a la Cart to fill bags with food for CATCH Court members and Butterflies. The one hundred bags were filled with Thanksgiving favorites, green beans, cream of mushroom soup, crisp onions, and mashed potato and stuffing mixes. Work was followed by a wonderful lunch in the Cafe.



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

Give A Kid
A Coat



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 response 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.

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.

HABITAT NORTHWEST PARTNERSHIP WALL RAISING CEREMONY

The Habitat Northwest Partnership has begun working on their house and is having their Wall Raising Ceremony on Saturday, November 20, at 9:00 am. at the house at 1252 E. 15th Ave. Pastor Joel will be participating. We would love to have many members there to represent Covenant. Questions: call Betsy Sebastian, 219-208-5602.

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.



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Christmas Coffee Invitation - The Coffee will be held on December 1st in Fellowship Hall. A light 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 can register to attend Sundays, November 21 and 28 in the Hallway. In addition to the program, Mission Sewing opportunities 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.

Covenant Presbyterian Women's Circles 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. *Elizabeth Circle will meet*, December 6 at 7:30 p.m., Mona Connolly, moderator. Circles will meet again in January.

Other circles:

- Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Mission Sewing, Diana Sanders
- November 26 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.

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, send 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 17, from 1-2 pm, we will continue to read and discuss 1 Corinthians, beginning with chapter 16. 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. - On Wednesday evening, November 17 at 7:00 p.m., the CPC Book Group will conclude its discussion of *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennet. We will resume on Wednesday, December 1, reading *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Birth*, by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Please contact Tori Vazquez or the church for a Zoom link.

On Sunday, Nov. 21, the **Men's Spirituality Reading Group** will meet at 8 a.m. in Room 120 to continue their discussion of Richard Rohr's 'Universal Christ', with focus on chapters 9-10. Newcomers are always 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....

REQUESTING GIFTS FOR THE GOOD PEOPLE OF HOGE PRESBYTERIAN

Hoge Presbyterian Church serves the needs of a homeless and food scarce community, and is led by minister and longtime Covenant member, Tom Billman. Hoge's Session approved an indoor meal for HM3 (Hoge's Music, Message, and Meal program) starting in the summer, and the Elizabeth Circle of Covenant will serve the meal on Saturday, Dec. 18. We will wear masks and serve. Elizabeth Circle will provide a gift bag of sweet treats, a personal holiday card and Kroger gift card for each person (70). Please help stock a Gift Table where participants (kids through the elderly) from the Hilltop/Franklinton area can pick out gifts for themselves or loved ones. The Hoge Session suggests WARM sweatshirts, long underwear, (a hit with adults!) sizes S, M, L, XL, all sizes of socks, gloves/mittens, a hat and/or scarf. Any gifts not distributed will help stock Hoge's Personal Care Ministry, which complements their active Food ministry assisted by the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. Please take donated items to Covenant and put them in the bin marked Hoge Christmas in front hallway by Friday, December 17, 2021. Bless you and may the Advent season bring you much joy! If you have questions please contact Mona Connolly.

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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