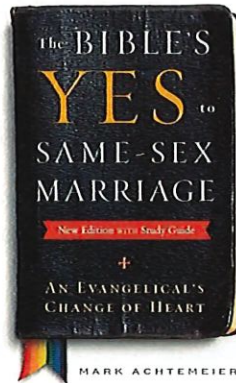


Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - January 5, 2022
Laurie Johnson, Office Manager & Newsletter Editor



***Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community
sharing the glory of God's love with all.***



From our pastor

A new year has begun, and with it, God is inviting us to new opportunities to love and serve one another. This Sunday, we begin a sermon series entitled, "The Big Table." We will witness how Jesus is continually inviting us to expand our understanding of who is welcome at God's table. Also, this Sunday we begin a class on Mark Achtemeier's important book, [The Bible's Yes to Same Sex Marriage](#). As with Mark, my own heart and theology have changed. For many years, I wanted to affirm same-sex relationships, but I didn't see how that without disregarding the Bible. After much study, dialogue, and personal reflection, I've come to believe the Bible supports the full blessing and inclusion of LGBTQ+ people. Perhaps, you have questions about how a Bible-believing Christian can support same-sex marriage—this class is for you! Perhaps, you would like to learn how to better articulate your own theology around marriage to others—this class is for you! This class will not presume that everyone will agree with one another, but I firmly believe we can all learn from each other. We have copies of the book at the church that you can pick up, but even if you don't read the book, you will be able to understand and participate in the class. We will meet at 9am in the Lounge, starting Sunday, January 9. I hope to see you there!

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!

Adult Forum Class - On Sunday, January 9th at 9am in the Lounge we will begin a class on Mark Achtemeier's important book, [*The Bible's Yes to Same Sex Marriage*](#). Please join us!

Children Christian Education - 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.

2022 Per Capita is \$40.00

Each member of Covenant is also a member of the larger church, the Presbyterian Church USA. As such, it is part of our responsibility to support the work of the administrative bodies of the national church – the General Assembly, the Synod, and the Presbytery. We do this by making a per capita payment each year. We invite you to pay your share of the per capita so that this money does not need to come from this year's budget. Your contribution will free up funds for other vital church programs that meet the spiritual needs of our congregation. Per Capita envelopes will be included in your yearend statement of giving.

Your Stewardship & Budget Commission

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.

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.

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

Check out the bulletin board near the north entrance of the church. There is information there about our two mission co-workers: Mark Hare and Jenny Bent in Costa Rica; and Elmarie and Scott Parker in Syria and the Middle East. You can find out more about each of these co-workers at [Presbyterian Mission Agency Mission Connections](#) | [Presbyterian Mission Agency](#).



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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. Circle members look forward to meeting again in January.

January Circles:

- Eunice-Lydia, Wednesday, January 5 at 9:30 a.m., Sandy St. Martin, moderator
- Miriam, Wednesday, January 12 at 1:30 p.m., Gerlinde Lott, moderator
- Deborah, Monday, January 17 at 9:30 a.m. at church, Lynn Elliott, moderator

Other circles:

- Mission Sewing, every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Mission Sewing, Diana Sanders
- Prayer Shawl Circle, January 14 and 28 at 9:30 a.m. in the Lounge, Louise Davidson and Nancy Davidson. New knitters are welcome; yarn is available. Join us!

For more information about CPW circles and activities, contact Sandy St. Martin, CPW moderator, covenant@covenantpcusa.org with CPW/Sandy St. Martin's name in the subject line. Circle leaders may be contacted in the same format.

WOMEN'S THEOLOGY

Members of *Women's Theology* gather on the first and third Friday each month from 9:30 to 11 am. Next meeting is January 7th. The group will discuss chapters 7-9 of Joan Chittister's challenging book, *The Time is Now*. For information, send email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org and in the subject line type Women's Theology/Susan Imel. 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 - On January 5 we will practice Lectio Divina, a spirit-guided prayer and response to scripture. Wednesday, January 12, we will continue the study of the Letter to the Hebrews. Please join us. No preparation is required. We read and share together. Ask for a Zoom link from lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org

Wednesday Evening Book Study 7:00-8:00 p.m. - The CPC Book Group will resume on Wednesday, January 5, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the first four chapters of Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*. Click on this link to read a description and to order from Amazon. The Columbus Metropolitan Libraries currently have 30+ copies available for lending. Please contact the church or Tori Vazquez for a Zoom link.

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.

- 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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