

Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church • January 12, 2022
Laurie Johnston, Office Manager & Newsletter Editor



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

From our pastor

"Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'" Luke 3:21-22

I never tire preaching about Jesus' baptism. I've preached on it more than any other passage over the years. The story has captured my imagination, for in it we see all three persons of the Trinity in one place, and the result is overflowing tenderness and love. This should not surprise us, for that is who God is. God is tenderness and love, and God wants us all to know how deeply beloved Jesus is. But there's so much more to this passage than that. The more I've studied it, the more convinced I am that God not only speaks these words over Jesus, but over every one of us. The overflowing tenderness and love of God is not reserved for Jesus alone, but for all God's children. Whether you know it or not, whether you feel it or not, you are God's child, and God is pleased with you. This is the fundamental good news upon which the life of faith is built. The entirety of the Christian life is learning to believe that what God says about Jesus in his baptism, God says about you as well. We never graduate from this gospel truth and move on to other things. Instead, the Christian life is about learning to take our belovedness into every stage of growth and development, until we meet God face to face where we will hear these same words with our own ears. This week marks my 1-year anniversary at Covenant. My prayer as we begin this new year is that we discover anew God's love for us as we seek to live out our mission statement: *Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community, sharing the glory of God's love with all!*

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 SERVICE ARCHIVE

Never miss a service!



COVENANTPCUSA



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN



COVENANT'S SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE

FACEBOOK for Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

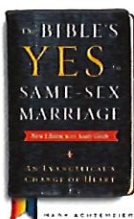
services: <https://www.facebook.com/covenantpcusa/>

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 - I hope you'll join us for week 2 of our class on Mark Achtemeier's book, [The Bible's Yes to Same Sex Marriage](#). We will be discussing chapters 1 and 2 this week, and you can watch last week's class [here](#). I hope you'll join us this Sunday at 9am in the Lounge.

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 clbergmann@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.



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 during this month.

- *Miriam Circle* will meet Wednesday, January 12 at 1:30 p.m., Gerlinde Lott, moderator, can give you details.
- *Deborah Circle* will meet Monday, January 17 at 9:30 a.m. at church, Lynn Elliott is 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 21st. The group will discuss chapters 10-12 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 - This Wednesday, January 12, from 1-2 pm, we will continue our study of the Letter to the Hebrews. 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 discussion 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.

On Sunday, Jan. 16, 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'. (Our 8 a.m. start time will allow us to attend Joel's Forum class at 9 a.m.!) Newcomers are always welcome - please reach out to David Connolly for additional information.



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.

- For this coming Saturday, **January 15**, Cathy Levy is serving **Beef Stew (via crock pot)** and **Salad**. If you would like to make a batch of either dish that Cathy can either pick up from your home or from Covenant before heading to Hoge at 3:45, please let her know!
- Groups have signed up to serve in the months of April and June of 2022... THANK YOU!
- Groups or individuals may still sign up for **February 19, March 19, May 21, July 16**, etc...
- Remember that if you don't want to serve, you can cook at your home to contribute, and if you don't want to cook, you can be a server at Hoge from 4pm to 7pm on a 3rd Saturday. Sign up your group or as an individual to get involved.

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.

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

- In observance of the Martin Luther King holiday, the church administrative offices will be closed on Monday, January 17th.
- 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!

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