

Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - January 19, 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

*"Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.  
But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Amos 5:23-24*

The prophet Amos tells Israel that the wealthy elite have trampled on the heads of the poor and denied justice to the oppressed for too long. Being God's chosen people will not shield Israel from divine justice. Amos goes so far as to say that when Israel worships God but neglects the poor, God rejects that worship. Within decades of Amos' prophecy, Israel was sent into exile. We reap what we sow. When we sow injustice, we will reap judgment and exile. When we sow justice and righteousness, we will reap blessing and community. That was true for ancient Israel, and it's true for us today. By now you know that I prefer to preach on mercy rather than prophetic calls to justice. But what the prophets understood, and what Dr. King understood, is that love and justice are not opposing forces. They are different expressions of the same will of God for the flourishing of all creation. When we are called to act justly, God is simply calling us back to right relationship with our neighbors. We were made to share in the Beloved Community, where everyone is treated with dignity, and no one is oppressed. Toward that end, Covenant began our "[Let Justice Roll](#)" initiative this week, where every time we sing music of enslaved Africans, we will make a monetary donation to the [King Arts Complex](#) to support youth arts here in Columbus. The artists who created these songs were never paid for their labor. Our hope is that this initiative will bless the community and strengthen our bonds with those who have been denied justice. May this be one small step toward the creation of the Beloved Community.

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.

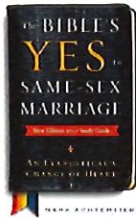
services: <https://www.facebook.com/covenantpcusa/>

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** - I hope you'll join us for week 3 of our class on Mark Achtemeier's book, [The Bible's Yes to Same Sex Marriage](#). We will be discussing chapters 3-5 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 are available on the Welcome Table.

*Your Stewardship & Budget Commission*



## BLOOD DRIVE - MONDAY, JANUARY 31st

The Red Cross reports that the supply of blood available for patients who need it is the lowest in the last 10 years. A blood drive will take place in Fellowship Hall at Covenant, Monday, January 31, from 2:00 to 7:00pm. Please consider this opportunity for service. You can sign up online at [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) or contact Steve St. Martin or Betsy Sebastian.





## 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](mailto: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.

## SPIRITUAL CINEMA

Wednesday, 1/26, we will gather in the Lounge, wearing masks, at 6:30 pm to watch A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood (2019): the movie is based on an actual real-life correspondence between Mr. Rogers (Tom Hanks) and a journalist who is asked to do a puff piece on the beloved television personality. We will stay for a short time after the film to discuss its merits and message. Come join us.

## 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).

## 2022 Covenant Ministry Team Listing

### Deacon Officers

Moderator Bonnie James

Vice Moderator Terry Kennedy Mancini

Secretary Jeannie Auseon

Treasurer Dennis Feller

### Ministry Program Coordinators

Bereavement Betsy Sebastian & Nan Winslow

Blood Drive Steve St. Martin & Betsy Sebastian

Cards/Care Notes Gerlinde Lott

C.A.R.E.S. Betsy Sebastian



Compass John Harder  
Congregation Care Sarah Starr  
Communion Prep Karl Craven, Jeff Smith & Jeanie Auseon  
Crop Walk Karl Craven & Nan Winslow  
Flowers Tim Scott  
Deacon Holiday Giving John Harder & Nan Winslow  
Meals to Members Steve St. Martin & John Harder (Back up)  
Super Seniors Char Rodenfels & Jeanie Auseon  
Prayer Chain Linda Van Aman, Steve St. Martin (Back up)  
Ronald McDonald House Dennis Feller & Char Rodenfels  
Youth Jack Dougherty

#### Liaisons

Nominating Committee Karl Craven  
Nurture & Outreach John Harder  
Session Betsy Sebastian & Terry Kennedy Mancini (Back up)

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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.



## 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.

- February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 am Eunice Lydia Circle, Sandy St. Martin, moderator

Other circles:

- Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Mission Sewing, Diana Sanders
- January 28 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.

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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 January 21<sup>st</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup>. The group is reading Joan Chittister's book, *The Time is Now*. For information, send 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.

## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT & ADULT LEARNING COMMISSION

**Wednesday Bible Study 1-2 pm: Wednesday Bible Study** - This Wednesday, January 19, 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](mailto:lauriejohnson@covenantpcusa.org).

**Wednesday Evening Book Study 7:00-8:00 p.m.** - The CPC Book Group will meet this Wednesday, January 19, at 7:00 to finish our discussion of Barbara Brown Taylor's *Holy Envy*. We will also choose our next book to read, with that discussion beginning on February 2. Please contact Tori Vazquez or the church 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.

- Groups have signed up to serve in the months of April, May, June and July of 2022... THANK YOU!
- Groups or individuals may still sign up for **February 19, March 19, August 20**, 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. Additionally, if your group is lacking servers (which is understandable with Omicron concerns), let Cathy know; she has contacts for volunteers who can cover this role. 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](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.

## 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.



## 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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