

Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - January 26, 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

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because God has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Luke 4:18-19*

In Jesus' first sermon in the Gospel of Luke, he quotes from the prophet Isaiah. In doing so, he indicates what his ministry will be about: blessing those in need. Jesus' ministry is to the whole person: body and spirit. Jesus is not merely interested in saving souls. He seeks to free those in bondage, both material and spiritual. In fact, if we were to summarize Jesus' mission into a single word, it would be this: liberation. Like Moses before him, Jesus has come to set us free and inaugurate a new Exodus for the people of God. All of this puts Jesus' in line with the prophetic tradition before him, but what is most glaring about his mission is that he says, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." When will this great liberation take place? Today, Jesus says. He's not putting off the party until heaven but instead says the most hopeful and explosive word ever spoken—today. Today is the time to come to the table. Today God is setting people free. Today you can be forgiven. Today you have God's favor. You are favored by God, not because of something you've done, or because of something you believe. You are favored by God because just like Jesus, you are the beloved of God, and God's love knows no limits, which means neither can ours. Jesus' mission of liberation is ongoing. As long as there are people who remain in poverty, captivity, and oppression, the work is not complete. But the good news is that God's favor is on us now, and it knows no limits. May all our efforts to be a part of Jesus' mission be grounded in this blessed assurance.

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.

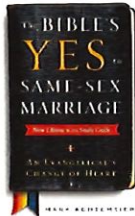
services: <https://www.facebook.com/covenantpcusa/>

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 5-6 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.

Covenant is on FaithLife! Stay Connected

Welcome to [Covenant Presbyterian's online community](#)! Check back often to stay up to date on upcoming events, learn more about opportunities to serve, share prayer requests or praise reports, or to connect with your groups.

Why Faithlife?

Build Relationships, Deepen Word Study & Avoid the Noise

Are you tired of scrolling through cat videos and political rants? Do you want to stay connected with your church family on a deeper level? That is why Covenant has started using Faithlife, and you can, too! This is an app and/or website that you can join for free. It allows you to follow everything church related, from daily verses and weekly sermons to prayer requests and praises from our church members, and SO MUCH MORE.

Get started **today** by visiting faithlife.com or downloading the Faithlife app and joining the [Covenant Presbyterian Church](#) group.

For a detailed overview of ALL you can do with hyperlinks, click here: [Join Covenant on FaithLife](#)

COVENANT TECH TEAM



Do you like technology? Do you enjoy photography or videography? Would you like to help make our worship run smoothly, and learn new things? Join the Covenant Tech Team! See Brian Biller after worship, or at 9:10 AM before worship any Sunday! He will get you started! You can send him an email, too: brianbiller@covenantpcsua.org

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 or contact Steve St. Martin or Betsy Sebastian.



NOTE: Image of tests is only representative.

Place Your Order for Free At-Home COVID-19 Tests

Residential households in the U.S. can order one set of 4 free at-home tests from [USPS.com](https://usps.com). Here's what you need to know about your order:

- Limit of one order per residential address
- One order includes 4 individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests
- Orders will ship free starting in late January

Philippians 2:4

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

4 Free Covid Tests Available from the US Government at this website. Feel free to share!

<https://special.usps.com/testkits>

Do You Know of a Student Seeking Higher Education??

Nurture & Outreach needs your help! If you have a child or a grandchild who is going to College or currently attending higher education classes, we would like to send them a "Box of Treats" from Covenant. Please send their name, shipping address, any dietary restriction, and their spring break dates in an email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org and in the subject line type Nurture & Outreach/Nancy Davidson by February 13.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Board of Deacons would like to supply meals, as needed, to members during recovery from medical treatment or in an emergency, and we are looking for volunteers to help meet this need. Would you like to join a group of Covenant members willing to prepare and deliver a meal for a member in need? It is expected that no one would prepare more than one or two meals per year. If you would like to help please send an email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org and in the subject line type Volunteer. Thank you!

Steve St. Martin & John Harder

ANNUAL WHITE SOCK DRIVE

- Covenant Presbyterian Women (CPW) is again supporting Crazy Faith Ministry for homeless persons in the Greater Columbus area. Rev. Dr. Susan Smith is the pastor of this ministry. All members and friends of the congregation are welcome to join in efforts to provide white socks for men and women, the number one requested item for homeless people. Donations will continue through January until Sunday, February 27th.
- New socks, preferably in sealed plastic bags, can be dropped off in the marked container in the hallway or in a drive-by on Saturday, February 19th from 10 AM to 1 PM on the north side of the church.
- Any questions can be directed to Ann Teske, chair of Involvement and Action Committee for CPW. 614-302-9609 (cell) call or text or email at adteske69@gmail.com
- We are appreciative of all donations where there is such need in our community. Thank you.

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.

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 encounter 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. 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.



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 2nd 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 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 meeting is February 4th. The group will read through chapter 15 of Joan Chittister's challenging book, *The Time is Now*. The next book to read will be Amy Jill Levine's *The Difficult Words of Jesus*. For information and to join the discussion, 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 26, 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 resume on Wednesday, February 2, at 7:00 p.m., to discuss [This Land Is Our Land: An Immigrant Manifesto](#) by Suketo Mehta. The author tells his family's story of immigration from India to Britain and then the U.S. We will focus on Part I for this meeting. Please contact the church or Tori Vazquez for the 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 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

- 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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