

Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - February 2, 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

"They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way." Luke 4:29-30

Everybody loves the vision of The Big Table, until someone receives an invite who you don't want to see. At first when Jesus announces that he has come to bless the poor, give sight to the blind, and liberate the oppressed, everyone in his hometown is pleased. We all love to hear that God's favor is upon us, but Jesus then makes it clear that he is going to share God's blessing with people they don't much care for. We see the crowd's violent turn and wonder what's wrong with them, but all of us can become small hearted when we see our "enemies" blessed. But God doesn't belong to one group of people or religion. God's plan is to bless us all and bring us all together around one big table. God is so committed to this plan that no amount of human resistance can stop it. Just as Jesus passed through the crowd that wanted to harm him, God's grace cannot be stopped. Jesus invites us to rejoice when other people are blessed, to see ourselves in them, to see the divine in them, and to see their blessing and our blessing. The vision of the Big Table is scandalous, because it means we will feast with both enemies and friends. If we swallow our pride and join the party, we will discover there is no such thing as an enemy after 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'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".

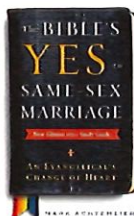
YOUTUBE for Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

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 chapter 7 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

Apply now for Summer Camps AND the 2022-2023 School Year!

Summer Preschool Camp (ages 3 – 5; 3 mornings a week)

Preschool Camp is for children ages 3 – 5 years old who have not yet attended Kindergarten. Preschool Camp meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:30 – 12:30, or 9:30 – 1:30. Each session lasts 2 weeks. Parents may sign up for as many as 4 sessions for a total of 8 weeks.

Preschool Camp activities engage children in playful learning experiences with as much outdoor time as possible. Each week the class explores a new theme such as camping, outer space, dinosaurs, building, or messy science depending upon the interests of the group and teachers. Once a week the class also participates in a cooking or food preparation activity.

Enrollment is limited to 12 children per 2-week session. Sessions begin June 6th and end August 5th. No camp during VBS week (6/20 – 6/24).

Camp Covenant (ages 5 – 9; 2 days a week)

Camp Covenant is for children entering grades 1 – 3 for the 2022 – 2023 school year. Campers attend 2 days a week (Tuesday and Thursday) from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. Campers may sign up for individual weeks or for all 8 weeks.

On Tuesday campers take a deep dive into the topics with hands-on activities, discussions, short lessons and presentations, and arts and crafts. On Thursday campers continue exploration of the topics with a local field trip and a picnic lunch in the middle of the day.

Enrollment is limited to 12 children per week. Sessions begin June 7th and end August 4th. No camp during VBS week (6/20 – 6/24).

2022 – 2023 School Year Programs (ages 18 mos. – 11 years)

Currently enrolled families and church members have priority enrollment until March 1st. Programs include CDO for toddlers, Preschool, Pre-K, and After School (K-5).

Questions? Contact Caroline at childcenter@covenantpcsua.org for applications and more information

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Central Ohio communities are lifting up **Black History Month** with book studies, speakers, children's and youth activities. Please check out the resources listed below, which include library activities and an author talk by Ann Hagedorn (Beyond the River: The Untold Story of the Heroes of the Underground Railroad) sponsored by the UA Historical Society. [Central Ohio Black History Month activities \(dispatch.com\)](#) [UA Community Celebrates Black History Month – City of Upper Arlington \(upperarlingtonoh.gov\)](#)



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. 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.

SOS FOOD PANTRY 2021 REPORT

The SOS Food Pantry Mission Team wants to say "Thank you" to the congregation for all of your support through food and monetary donations plus volunteer hours by members who deliver the food to families in need.

We continue to supply an emergency 3 day supply of food and hygiene supplies that consists of canned fruits and vegetables, breakfast cereal, soups, canned beef stew, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, boxed mac & cheese, tuna fish, frozen meat, margarine, eggs, bread, milk, toothpaste/toothbrushes and bar and dish soap.

In 2021 we made 153 deliveries serving 358 adults and 161 children.

91% of the recipients are age 50+ and 76% are female head of household.

Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Our mission accepts in-date food donations (items mentioned above) and they can be dropped off in our collection box inside the north parking lot door entrance. Monetary donations can be sent to the office marked "SOS Pantry".

Volunteer opportunity: If you can spare one hour per month, our team is in need of drivers to select the food at the church and deliver to families in need.

Please contact Mark Owen by sending an email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org and in the subject line type SOS Food Pantry and he will be happy to answer any questions.

Thank you.

Monthly Service to Provide Lunch through the OPEN SHELTER

Do you want to do hands-on mission once a month or occasionally? We would love to welcome new people to the Open Shelter Lunch Making Team!

Covenant helps out people in need (including the homeless) served by the Open Shelter by providing 175 sack lunches on the **second Friday of every month**. Here are ways to join in:

- Anytime, you could **drop off your take-out containers** (reusable disposable food containers) to the marked box in our church kitchen by the windows. We take them to the Open Shelter to help people take home leftovers from donated restaurant meals. When these meals are donated, people are encouraged to take sack lunches with them to-go as well.
- You could **shop** for supplies (like individual potato chip bags from GFS, and more...) and deliver them to our church kitchen by 4pm on the Thursday before our delivery day.
- You could **make 50 Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches** in your home and deliver them to our church by 4pm on the Thursday before our delivery day.
- You could **help assemble** the lunches and pack them in boxes between 4-6pm in our church kitchen on the Thursday before our delivery day.
- You could **transport** the lunches and other supplies to the Open Shelter on Parsons Ave. by 9:15 on the second Friday of the month. This takes either two drivers or one driver with a minivan.

The costs for these supplies may be reimbursed by submitting your receipts to our Financial Administrator, Ingrid Brooker. By splitting up the work, we can get more people involved sharing the Love of Christ in our community. Join us!

Questions? We would love to answer them! Please contact **Betsy Sebastian** or **Mona Connolly** by sending an email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org and in the subject line type Open Shelter.

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!

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 by sending an email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org and in the subject line type Sock Drive.
- 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 email covenant@covenantpcusa.org and in the subject line type Habitat for Humanity.

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

The *CPW Annual Spaghetti Dinner*, originally scheduled for February 19th, will not be held this year because of concerns many have about the pandemic, groups and food preparation.

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
- February 7th at 7:00 pm, Elizabeth Circle, Mona Connolly, moderator
- February 9th at 1:30 pm, Miriam Circle, Gerlinde Lott, moderator

Other circles:

- Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Mission Sewing, Diana Sanders
- February 11 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 February 4th and February 18th. The group is 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 - February 2. We will practice Lectio Divina, a spirit-guided prayer and response to scripture. Wednesday, February 9, 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, 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!
- For this month, **February 19**, Cathy Levy will again gather volunteers to serve **Beef Stew (via crock pot) and Salad**. This beef stew recipe was a HUGE HIT in January. 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 or individuals may still sign up for **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). Your expenses incurred in cooking may be reimbursed through our Financial Administrator, Ingrid Smith. 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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