

Weekly Newsletter of Covenant Presbyterian Church - February 16, 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

*Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place...Then he looked up at his disciples and said:
"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God...But woe to you who are rich, for you have
received your consolation." Luke 6:17, 20, 24*

Though similar to Jesus' more famous "Sermon on the Mount," in Luke we hear Jesus' "Sermon on the Plain." On the plain, we are all on the same level, and shockingly, Jesus sits below us. It seems quite natural to us that when we think of God, we think of transcendence. We imagine that God is above us, beyond us, and we mere mortals can expect to discover God in what's above and what is powerful. But in Jesus, we are given a different way to look for God, not in what's above us, but in what's below, not in what's powerful, but in weakness. The God revealed in Jesus Christ is unlike any god we could imagine ourselves, a God of humility whose power is seen in weakness and service. If that's who God is, it should come as no surprise when Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor." Jesus reframes what we find shameful (like poverty), and he honors it. Jesus isn't saying that it's a good thing to be poor. What he is doing is honoring those society dishonors.

Jesus doesn't romanticize poverty, but neither does he shame the wealthy. Instead, Jesus reframes the stories we tell around poverty and wealth, honoring the former and warning the latter, and in doing so he puts us all on the same level. Nobody wants to be poor or hungry. No one wants to grieve or be humiliated. But all of us will know these states in some form or another. When you find yourself in one these places, know this: God honors you, and you are not alone. The God revealed in Jesus Christ is a God who knows all things: poverty, hunger, grief, and humiliation. Jesus knew them well, so when you find yourself there, God is with you, honoring you.

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

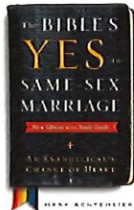


FACEBOOK for Sunday, 10:00 a.m.
services: <https://www.facebook.com/covenantpcusa/>
Look for the most current video, labeled "PREMIERE: Current Date".

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 have an overall discussion of the book 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](#)

ANNUAL LENTEN BREAKFAST - MARCH 5TH

The annual Lenten breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 5th at 9:30 am. There will be a light breakfast served and communion. Our speaker will be Dr. John Ackerman, a child clinical psychologist and suicide prevention coordinator for Nationwide Children's Hospital. Protocols will be in place per Covid recommendations. There is no charge, but reservations should be placed either in the hallway on Sundays or by contacting the office at 614- 451-6677.

NEW 6-WEEK LENTEN STUDY

Starting Sunday March 6th in the lounge from 6:30pm to 7:30pm.

Please contact Lisa Wallace with questions and also if you would like a Study Book by sending an email to covenant@covenantpcusa.org and in the subject line type Lisa Wallace.



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@covenantpcusa.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 \(dispatch.com\)](https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/local/2022/02/01/central-ohio-black-history-month-activities-dispatch-com/7000000001/) [UA Community Celebrates Black History Month – City of Upper Arlington \(upperarlingtonoh.gov\)](https://www.upperarlingtonoh.gov/celebrates-black-history-month)

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.

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.

SPIRITUAL CINEMA

Wednesday, 2/23, we will gather in the Lounge, wearing masks, at 6:30 pm to watch *Nomadland* (2021: a woman in her 60s who, after losing everything in the Great Recession, embarks on a journey through the American West, living as a van-dwelling modern-day nomad. We will stay for a short time after the film to discuss its merits and message. Come join us.



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 21st at 9:30 am, Deborah Circle, Lynn Elliott, moderator
- March 2nd at 9:30 am, Eunice-Lydia, Sandy St. Martin, moderator

Other circles:

- Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Mission Sewing, Diana Sanders
- February 25th/11th at 9:30 a.m. in the Lounge, Prayer Shawl Circle(2nd and 4th Fridays,) 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 a.m. Next meetings are February 18th and March 4th. The group will conclude reading Joan Chittister's book, *The Time is Now*. The next book discussed will be Amy Jill Levine's *The Difficult Words of Jesus*. 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 sign in details. New members are always welcome.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT & ADULT LEARNING COMMISSION

Wednesday Bible Study 1-2 pm: Wednesday Bible Study - This Wednesday, February 16, 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 meet this Wednesday, February 16, to conclude our discussion of *This Land Is Our Land: An Immigrant's Manifesto*. We will recess for the season of Lent to allow participants to attend Ash Wednesday services and Preacher from the Pew, which are scheduled for Wednesday nights.

Our next Evening Book Study, which we will discuss on April 20 at 7:00 p.m., will be [My Father's Closet](#) by Karen McClintock. This title came to our attention via Covenant's Inclusivity Task Force. It is the story of a Covenant charter member and his family, who lead a closeted gay life. We hope to have the author join our Zoom. More info is forthcoming. Please contact church or Tori Vazquez for the link.



**13TH ANNUAL OHIO
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
AWARENESS SUMMIT**

HOSTED BY:

Senators	Representatives
Teresa Fedor and Stephanie Kunze	Tavia Galonski and Tracy Richardson
 	 

Registration Is Now Open!

What: 13th Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Summit

When: Friday March 4th, 2022
9AM - 5PM

Where: Zoom

Click [HERE](#) to Register

View Presentation Descriptions [HERE](#)
View List of Speaker Biographies [HERE](#)
View Summit Agenda [HERE](#)

We hope to see you there.

State Senator Teresa Fedor
1 Capitol Square, Columbus, OH 43215
614-466-5204
Senator Fedor's Staff
Chelsea Golterman, Senior Legislative Aide
Anastasia Martinez, Legislative Aide
Karalyn Wright, Legislative Fellow
Trelynn Wilson, Office Page



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, July, August, and December 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. At this late date, we **STILL** need **ONE** or **TWO** people to make a pot-of-stew for 8, and we **STILL** need a Salad for 50 (which can be split between more than one person). 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, September 17, October 15, and November 19**.

• 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.



WEBSITE REQUEST FORM

Does your Commission need something placed on the website? Does a form need updated, or an announcement need to be made? Click below and submit a website request as soon as possible to have information added or changed on the Covenant website.

[WEBSITE REQUEST FORM](#)

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.](#)



